University Innovation Fund – AY2017-18

This paper outlines the University of Glasgow’s activity plan for AY2017-18 towards delivery of National Outcomes. Our plan is aligned with the University’s new Knowledge Exchange and Innovation Strategy (2017 – 22) with its key theme of engagement. Our strategy focuses upon strengthening and developing further robust and fruitful relationships with external stakeholders – increasing our levels of influence in local, national and international arenas; as well as working with industry and business by growing student and staff commitment to entrepreneurship, innovation and public engagement. Although we provide specific outcomes under each of the seven actions, we recognise that there is a degree of overlap and any one action may contribute to a number of UIF outcomes.

The University will match-fund and utilise the Platform Grant of £250k in order to continue its resourcing of dedicated staff and activities situated both centrally within the Research Strategy and Innovation Office (RSIO) and embedded within the University’s Colleges.

1 Outcome (Demand Stimulation): working with Scotland’s enterprise agencies, Scottish Government, business networks, Interface, and others, Scottish HEIs will have helped to increase the demand and quality of engagement from businesses and the public sector for university services.

The University will build on its AY2016-17 activities to increase demand and quality of engagement with business and public sector. Key activities will comprise:
1. Benchmark engagement activities to inform which areas require investment to stimulate increased demand from business and public sector. To include consideration of (i) best practice at other Scottish/Russell Group Universities; (ii) partnerships with other Scottish Universities to stimulate sector demand; and (iii) participation in BEIS Science & Innovation Audits; (PA5)
2. Develop and launch online tools and a staff development programme to provide skills development opportunities for staff undertaking industry engagement. Activities maybe designed and deployed in collaboration with other Scottish Universities (PA5)
3. Using our assets and research expertise we will deepen our external relationships, to drive dialogue, through seminars and outreach events, on innovation needs within both the public and industry sectors to inform initiatives as well as best practice. This will include working closely with partner companies based in our innovation spaces e.g. at QEUH, QuantIC, GlAZgo Drug Discovery as well as public sector partners such as the NHS. Funding such as RCUK IAA and the QT Hub Partnership Fund will be used to stimulate engagement. (PA5)
4. Refresh the University web pages to improve online access to facilitate business and/or public sector engagement with our researchers and services;
5. Continue to strengthen University engagement with the Scottish Innovation Centres, Interface and Innovate UK funding programs to build collaborative activity through projects and service provision with organisations based in Scotland, the UK and internationally;
6. Build on the significant infrastructure investment adjacent to SMS-IC, at the QEUH, including the new 22,000 sq ft Clinical Innovation Zone for industry, to further engage with business and drive economic development for Scotland around precision medicine. Also use the redevelopment of the newly acquired Western Campus as a catalyst to stimulate business and cultural engagement, through the provision of a new collaboration space within the Research Hub, as well as the development of incubators on the new campus. Working in partnership with (i) The City of Glasgow and Scottish Enterprise we will also explore the potential for establishing Innovation Quarters in Glasgow; and (ii) Glasgow Life in the context of the Kelvin Hall development we will develop a plan for a new Cultural Quarter in the city's West End; (PA5)
7. Colleges to develop and approve an engagement plan in AY2017-18, to increase engagement levels of the University with business and external organizations including the public sector, charities and government (to be executed through 2018-2020). (PA5)

2 Outcome (Simplification/Commercialisation): in partnership with the Enterprise Agencies (EAs) and Interface, Scottish HEIs as a sector will have demonstrably simplified business access to the knowledge and expertise in Scottish universities.

The University will build on its AY2016-17 activities to further simplify business access to the knowledge and expertise at Glasgow as well as the sector in Scotland. Key activities in the University of Glasgow will
comprise:

1. Continue to participate in the Contracts Templates Sub-group of RCDG to develop common, simplified, legal frameworks for SME engagement across Scottish HEIs and their adoption within the University of Glasgow; (PA7)
2. Where not already in place, implement the use of Customer Relationship Management systems and processes to help Colleges coordinate their activities with key external partners; (PA6)
3. Work with Interface to increase the number of enquiries from Scottish SMEs sent to Glasgow – including a process to introduce College Business Development Managers to Interface staff so they can showcase Glasgow’s range of expertise and services to help steer relevant enquiries to best contacts; (PA6)
4. Continue to support the West of Scotland KTP Centre to lobby for the simplification of the contracts and paperwork associated with KTPs to enable greater engagement with Scottish business through this scheme; (PA7)
5. Develop referral protocols with the Innovation Centres – specifically focussing of enhancing our relationship and activities with SMS-IC, DataLab and CENSIS. (PA8)

3 Outcome (Simplification/Greater Innovation): in partnership with the EAs and Interface, Scottish HEIs will, at a national level, have made strategic use of their sectoral knowledge to promote greater innovation in the economy (including beyond non-STEM).

The University will build on its AY2016-17 activities to further develop areas of strategic sectorial strength to promote greater innovation in the economy. Key activities will comprise:

1. Continue to develop industry R&D collaborations via the £29m Quantum Technologies Hub ‘QuantIC’ (includes Strathclyde, Heriot-Watt, Edinburgh) and utilise the SFC supported Innovation space to develop and transfer innovations in this field into Scottish SME’s. (PA3)
2. Utilise our expertise in Urban Big Data analytics, Smart City solutions and Internet of Things (IoT) along with the development of the new Campus as a test-bed for IoT technology solutions to drive industry engagement and innovation; (PA3)
3. Continue to work with Glasgow City Region City Deal to realise the potential of the new £32M Imaging Centre of Excellence (ICE) at the QEUH, adjacent to SMS-IC, which is scheduled to open in March 2017. ICE includes Scotland’s only 7 Tesla MRI scanner and we will engage widely with universities and industry across Scotland to promote its use as a national asset, driving economic growth around precision medicine; (PA3)
4. Grow company engagement with the £55M James Watt Nano-fabrication Centre through the University’s wholly owned subsidiary Kelvin Nanotechnologies Ltd which now employs a team of 15 to support service delivery;
5. Advance discussions with Scottish Enterprise and Glasgow City Council on the Campus development plans and creation of an Innovation Quarter to support new and existing company growth, linking the West of the City, including the Kelvin Hall developments to the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital Campus; (PA6)
6. Launch a programme of activities to stimulate thinking and debate on policy issues using Policy Scotland and the Centre for Cultural Policy Research (CCPR) to co-ordinate events, blogs and a published set of working papers;
7. Respond to the recommendations from phase 2 of the Enterprise and Skills Review by making appropriate amendments to our Knowledge Exchange implementation plans;

4 Outcome (Entrepreneurialism): Scottish HEIs as a sector will have made a significant and positive change in the way entrepreneurial opportunities are promoted and delivered to students, HEI staff, and businesses.

The University will build on its AY2016-17 activities to further enhance entrepreneurship amongst students and staff as well as the promotion of entrepreneurial opportunities to business. We already have good practice we can build on, such as leading the award-winning, industry-led Masters in Stratified Medicine. Key activities will be enabled through new facilities as a consequence of both the new QEUH campus and redevelopment of the Western campus and will comprise:

1. Implement the agreed plans arising from the current review (see UIF 2016-17) for in-curricula and ex-curricula support of student entrepreneurship and enterprise education. This review includes
consideration of options to build on existing areas of collaboration with other Scottish Universities in support delivery e.g. Enterprise Campus; Converge Challenge; (PA1)

2. Grow levels of undergraduate, postgraduate and graduate engagement with enterprise fellowships (e.g. RSE and RAEng Enterprise Fellowships) and competitions e.g. Converge Challenge; Santander Universities Entrepreneurship Awards. (PA2)

3. Secure and deploy grants to de-risk and/or bridge innovation arising from University research to the stage where existing business are prepared to engage in co-development/licensing or to an investor-ready stage. This will include use of (i) RCUK Impact Acceleration Accounts as well as the University Knowledge Exchange Fund to and (ii) increase the portfolio of grants deployed on maturing early-stage innovations to the stage where existing business are prepared to engage in co-development/licensing or to an investor-ready stage. Programs to be targeted include SE HGSP, MRC DPFS, BHF Translational Fund and various Innovate UK programs;

4. Continue to support the creation of high growth spin-out venture opportunities through our partnership with IP Group plc, relationship with Epidarex Capital and through a program of increased engagement with other venture capital/angel groups;

5. Increase the number of new innovations disclosed from grant funded research programs through pro-active audit of selected research groups to identify potential opportunities. We will also increase the number of internal seminar programs to educate and increase the awareness of staff on commercialisation;

6. Embed recognition for staff participation in entrepreneurial activity in annual performance and development reviews;

7. Improve the internal and external awareness of our innovation and entrepreneurship through increased PR and media activity in national press as well as relevant trade publications; (PA3)

8. Strengthen our Colleges’ engagement with entrepreneurial Glasgow Alumni to increase their involvement in seminar programs for students and staff as well as involvement as business mentors, investors and commercial champions for specific opportunities. (PA2)

### Outcome (International):

The University is committed to growing its international presence in particular at its campus locations in Singapore and China. Key initiatives for AY2017-18 will include:

1. Continue to provide support for staff to grow grant funded research collaborations with overseas partners e.g. EU H2020 Programs; RCUK Global Challenges; NIH/other funding schemes; (PA11)

2. Build upon our previous positive experience of co-investment and working with SDI in Singapore we will explore further opportunities to leverage our strategic partnerships in China, Hong Kong, North America and Australia; (PA11)

3. Continue to attract international companies to relocate in Glasgow/Scotland – in 2016, we attracted companies from Singapore and Germany to relocate at our new Clinical Innovation Zone, to collaborate with SMS-IC and academic researchers. We will build on this, working with InvestGlasgow, SE and SDI, to attract further companies in 2017/18.

4. Build networks and engagement with Scottish HEI as well as international organisations to seek to secure grants from the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF). Thematic areas to be targeted include food security, inclusive education, health, migration, renewable energies and clean air, water and sanitation;

5. Support and utilization of the Scottish Government Innovation and Investment Hubs to promote development relationships outside of Scotland. (PA11)

### Outcome (Inclusive Growth and Social Impact):

The University will continue to support Scottish Governments ambitions for inclusive growth via:

1. Ensure student entrepreneurship support is available to all on a fair basis e.g. we will continue to seek to increase the number of overseas students holding Tier 1 Visas to enable them to develop their...
2. Develop mechanisms for co-ordinating the University’s portfolio of health, education, social inclusion, equality poverty reduction and immigration research and map our capability onto the Scottish Policy framework for inclusive growth; *(PA1, PA10)*

3. Deepen our partnership with Glasgow Life, Glasgow Centre for Population Health, City of Glasgow, Glasgow Chamber of Commerce and the Scottish Refugee Council in order to identify new initiatives to tackle social and economic inequalities in the region and explore how these can be implemented across Scotland e.g. GRAMNET; *(PA10)*

4. Respond to the themes of SG’s inclusive growth strategy by continuing to pioneer and lead the sector, in Scotland and the UK through our focus on the importance of widening access. *(PA10)*

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### Outcome (equality and diversity): Building on current and good practice HEIs will have ensured positive promotion of equality and diversity in staff and all who are affected by the use of the UIF.

The University will continue to ensure positive promotion of equality and diversity (E&D) through the following activities:

1. Promote E&D in the protected characteristics of staff, students, alumni and invited guests engaged in UIF related activities e.g. Public Engagement, Entrepreneurship;
2. Promote and encourage female entrepreneurship and provide specific events and networking;
3. Promote E&D online internationalisation resources to staff to ensure they are adequately prepared for overseas business;
4. Continue to work towards implementation of Bronze Athena Swan towards submission in 2021 for Silver Athena Swan status;
5. Continue to ensure that all staff complete mandatory online training in E&D essentials;
6. Maintain the internal promotion of the University E&D policy to staff. This policy covers all 9 protected characteristics as well as refugee and asylum seeker status.