

## Response to the University Innovation Fund (UIF) priorities - January 2017

### 1. University of St Andrews

As a leading Scottish university, we recognise our role as an engine for societal change and economic growth, and continue to develop and refine our enterprise and engagement activities to facilitate the building of strategic relationships with business, industry, government and 3<sup>rd</sup> sector organisations at regional, national, and international levels. Our investment in supporting knowledge exchange (KE) and business engagement exceeds the matched-funding requirement of the UIF Platform Grant.

### 2. Using the UIF to meet our ambitions and the SFC's national priorities.

The university collaborates to share, exchange and reflect on successful initiatives across the HEI sector and with other Scottish, UK and international partners to increase strategic engagement with business and industry. We will use the limited funding of the UIF Outcome Grant to support a mix of activities in St Andrews and to engage with sector-wide collaborations to enhance HEIs business and community engagement.

In discussion with the Research and Commercialisation Directors' Group (RCDG) and together with the Scottish Funding Council, we have agreed that the best mechanism to enable the sector to deliver the national outcomes is to:

- analyse current activity and identify best practice;
- based on this, where appropriate, devise and execute a pilot programme; and
- if successful, develop/initiate a sector-wide programme.

Each institution has agreed to contribute to certain outcomes, and for the best use of UIF resource (2016–17 Priority Action 9 (PA9)) each institution will be involved with a different combination of work. St Andrews has agreed to lead on Outcome 3.

### 3. Outcome 1 – Increasing the demand for, and quality of, engagement with businesses and the public sector

We will continue to build on St Andrews' recent increased engagement (see table) through improving liaison and information, providing better access to University expertise and equipment, and raising the quality and added-value of our interactions with external organisations (PA6). The University's Knowledge Transfer Centre (KTC) and Business Development Team (RBDC) continue to respond quickly and effectively to enquiries and referrals from Interface, Innovation Centres, Enterprise Agencies, Business Gateway and others.

Activity	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
<b>Project leads &amp; discussions</b>	114	126	120
<b>Zero income formal agreements</b>	78	96	116
<b>Income generating agreements with companies</b>	209	193	220

The SFC Innovation Voucher scheme has helped our existing and developing portfolio of collaborative studentships, Knowledge Transfer Partnerships, Follow-on Vouchers and

H2020 funding bids. The targeted SME business development support we offer through our Business Innovation manager provides each company individual assistance with project bids and ongoing project management support (PA5). We have a 'can-do' culture towards requests from SMEs and aim to develop longer-lasting, strategic relationships with Scottish businesses (PA6).

#### **4. Outcome 2 – Simplifying business access to knowledge and expertise**

We are addressing Outcome 2 priorities through our participation in a range of sector-wide initiatives, which are aimed at simplifying business access to the knowledge and expertise within universities (PA7 & PA8). St Andrews currently:

- contributes to the RCDG Contracts group and the recent UK Intellectual Property Office Lambert Review Group to develop suitably enhanced contract templates;
- observes best practice through implementing the new agreements developed collaboratively;

We will:

- collaborate across the sector to implement appropriate SME post-project referral protocols;
- work with the sector and respond positively to the proposed restructuring of the Scottish innovation ecosystem, which is aimed at building first-class R&D and innovation networks in Scotland to rival the best in Europe and the developed world (PA12).

St Andrews enjoys a long-term strategic relationship with SASOL, the South African based fuels and chemicals giant, which is hugely beneficial to the company and the University, providing industrial research challenges addressed through provision of studentships, long-term research project sponsorship, short-term problem-solving contracts, collaborative project bids to external organisations, consultancy and expert input into the University curriculum. Learning from this and others' experience in the sector, we plan to launch a long-term project directed at finding and building additional strategic relationships with corporates; ideally this will involve Eden Campus at Guardbridge (see Section 8) and provide demonstrable impact and benefits across the Fife and Scottish economy.

#### **5. Outcome 3 – Supporting greater innovation**

We will support innovation within the Scottish economy by using UIF and other funding support to:

- Encourage staff exchanges that allow researchers to work with business. We have:
  - initiated a new sabbatical scheme for academic staff, providing the opportunity for industry secondments or other external placements to develop projects that will lead to additional research impact (PA3);
  - established an innovation fund modelled on the EPSRC Impact Acceleration Account.
- Contribute to regional and national initiatives aimed at enhancing local R&D, translation and enterprise skills (PA4 & 5) involving SMEs through:

- participating in, and collaborating with others to provide, innovation workshops;
- working with Scottish HEIs and other bodies to promote Scotland-wide training opportunities, skills for employability and best-practice;
- ensuring our R&D and enterprise support staff benefit from relevant training from a range of external organisations.

## **6. Outcome 4 – Stimulating entrepreneurship and commercialisation**

The University's Careers Centre, KTC and the wholly-owned Scottish Oceans Institute (SOI) Group of business subsidiaries work together to provide a range of opportunities to students and staff (PA1 & 2), including:

- extra-curricular entrepreneurial training and support activities;
- workshops and training events fostering business planning, enterprise, and employability skills;
- direct support of potential entrepreneurs, new business development and IPR & technology commercialisation;
- access to all of Scotland's business and enterprise competitions through our annual Ideas Explosion competition and Provost's Pit pitching event.

St Andrews adopts and promotes best practice in enterprise and commercialisation. We are active members and enjoy the support of a range of external organisations (Scottish Institute for Enterprise, Enterprise Campus, Converge Challenge, Entrepreneur First, New Entrepreneurs Foundation, Prince's Trust Scotland, Scottish Enterprise and Business Gateway), which foster entrepreneurship, host events, provide signposting to relevant organisations, and offer support and mentoring for ideas and innovation development.

Our students enthusiastically embrace the Enactus UK programme (PA10) and St Andrews is licensed to sponsor Tier 1 Graduate Enterprise Visas (PA11). The interdisciplinary taught module 'Enterprise & Creativity' attracts and engages students across the University. Students who take this module often go on to seek advice and guidance for their own commercial and social enterprises through the Enterprise Officer.

We frequently review institutional incentives, rewards and our internal structures for engaging in enterprise and employability activities, to ensure that - together with external organisations - we provide effective delivery that reflects the needs of our students and staff. Our long-term aims are to:

- instil culture change across all sections of the University community;
- develop individual's entrepreneurial skills; and
- provide support that matches an individual's or enterprise's needs.

Our technology offerings represent very early opportunities requiring substantial development support and investment from external parties. The KTC, SOI Group and a range of external parties work closely together developing appropriate commercial applications, and we subscribe, support and actively use UT.com and offer easy-access intellectual property (IP) offerings through the site.

## **7. Outcome 5 – Promoting Scotland internationally**

With students and staff representing over 145 countries and a third of our student body recruited from outside the EU, we are strikingly diverse and international. The University is a significant export earner for the Scottish economy with exports valued at £110m in 2014/15<sup>1</sup>. As a resolutely outward-looking institution since our foundation over 600 years ago, we believe in the benefits of a diverse student and staff body to stimulate and enrich the academic environment. By attracting, retaining and developing the most gifted staff and students, we are in a key position to compete and lead on a global stage.

University researchers are successful in winning funding internationally, and have supported a range of Scottish SMEs with specific bids for H2020 and other international development funding (PA11). St Andrews is licensed to sponsor Tier 1 Graduate Enterprise Visas, and does so for both our own and other HEI's graduates (PA1). We will work and engage with other HEIs in Outcome Group 5 discussions, pool knowledge and experience as to how best to promote Scotland internationally, and implement appropriate practices using UIF funding to enhance our contribution.

## **8. Outcome 6 – Supporting inclusive growth**

St Andrews generates wealth for Scotland, in addition to our contribution to research and well-trained graduates. A detailed Economic Impact assessment (2014/15) shows our net annual contribution to the Scottish economy is £422m and the University is committed to working with the town and Fife Council to create sustainable growth in the local area.

The University actively engages with policy providers across the breadth of its teaching and research interests (PA11). The University hosts a range of collections, which are displayed in its galleries and museums (MUSA, Gateway, Bell Pettigrew and Library), all of which are open and accessible to the public. The renowned Byre Theatre is under the management of the University, and operates as a theatre, educational resource, general arts venue and music centre. This facility provides a year-round programme of events open to the community, to increase participation and attendances in drama, music, opera, film and visual arts and public engagement with university research. Through the Byre we offer student placements and internships to support the development of a strong local creative sector. We also offer modern apprenticeships through the Byre, Estates and IT Services to help young people into work. In 2017 the University will begin the construction of a new state-of-the-art Music Centre in the heart of St Andrews, complementing the Byre's activities in this field.

St Andrews recently completed the development of a biomass boiler at Eden Campus, and the district heating network to our Science, Medicine and residential buildings on the North Haugh will go live in 2017. In 2018/19, the University will begin to transition some 350 professional support staff from St Andrews into modern offices on Eden Campus. At the new site we also propose to develop the Guardbridge Centre, with space and facilities to act as a business accelerator, and will offer office, workshop and laboratory space with the aim of attracting businesses and skills into the region (PA12).

St Andrews is an active participant in the Edinburgh and South East Scotland Region City and Tay Cities Region Deals, and through these the Eden Campus development is intended to be a catalyst for new project developments in Low Carbon, Advanced Materials and High Performance Computing & Data.

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<sup>1</sup> Report "Economic impact of the University of St Andrews 2015", Biggar Economics, Feb 2016

## **9. Outcome 7 – Ensuring equality & diversity**

St Andrews continues to acknowledge and promote the benefits that diversity of ethnicity, faith gender and orientation brings to the University community. We are working to ensure equal opportunity in all that we do, maintain diversity on committees across the University, remove gender pay gaps, working to redress the gender imbalance at professional level and develop family-friendly policies. We will apply these principles to all aspects of managing UIF funding and will adopt best practice and actions in this area of UIF that emerge from the RCDG's planned cross-sector work on equality and diversity.