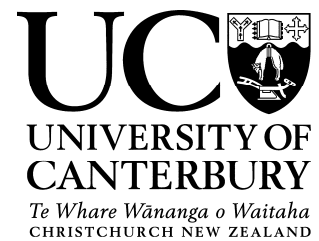


University Plan



# Research Plan 2010-2012

February 2010

## INTRODUCTION

The University's research effort to date is strong, as evidenced by the international reputation of its staff and research students and also by the University's position in the top three New Zealand universities in Performance-Based Research Fund assessment exercises. Our aim is to build on and enhance this by focusing on a set of key strategic objectives related to research and creative work:

1. Research Activity  
*Increase research activity throughout the University*
2. Research Quality  
*Enhance the quality and impact of our research outputs*
3. Research Capability  
*Enhance research capability and productivity through investment in current and future researchers*
4. Research Collaboration  
*Increase research collaboration throughout the University and with external partners*

These objectives are consistent with the strategic emphases in the University's Statement of Strategic Intent, viz., Concentrate, Challenge and Connect. This sets the context for a research plan which emphasises:

- Consolidating and maintaining the University's status as a top research-led university
- Identifying and investing in our research strengths
- Maintaining and strengthening the University's role as a centre for high quality education and research training
- Pursuing and achieving internationally recognised excellence in research and creative work across a broad spectrum of disciplines and fields
- Maintaining a strong and vibrant link between research and teaching
- Enhancing the quality and quantity of research and creative work relevant to Māori and Pacific peoples
- Working closely with external communities to ensure the relevance of our research
- Contributing to economic, social, intellectual and cultural development regionally, nationally and internationally

The plan will be reviewed regularly and progress and achievements will be reported annually to the University's Research Committee. The document is structured in such a way as to provide a suitable foundation for the development of individual College research plans.

Professor Ian Town  
Deputy Vice-Chancellor  
Chair, University Research Committee

February 2010

## Strategic Objective 1

### RESEARCH ACTIVITY

#### Increase research activity throughout the University

##### Strategic Priorities

Over the period of this plan (2010-2012), strategic priority will be given to:

1. Developing a flourishing research culture that will increase, celebrate and reward research activity
2. Creating and supporting a climate where senior researchers mentor, encourage and support early to mid-career staff
3. Increasing the number of postgraduate students in terms of the proportions of total student enrolment
4. Increasing both the number of external research grants obtained and their total value
5. Assisting existing researchers to maximise their success in obtaining external grant income and encouraging and supporting new applicants to apply
6. Stimulating research activity in key strategic areas by the establishment of university-wide, inter-disciplinary, research centres and institutes

Activities for 2010-2012	Responsibility
1. Ensure academic staff contracts state minimum requirements in terms of research activity and quality	Deputy Vice-Chancellor in conjunction with the Director of Human Resources
2. Develop policies that will protect the time that academics have for research while balancing this with teaching responsibilities	AVC Research in conjunction with PVCs and HODs
3. Ensure that academic staff development and performance appraisal processes continue to place due emphasis on research performance	PVCs
4. Support non-research active academic staff to become research active	HoDs/HoS/Directors
5. Give priority to increasing the number of postgraduate research students and postgraduate student scholarships	Dean of Postgraduate Studies
6. Increase research postgraduate student retention and thesis completion rates	Dean of Postgraduate Studies
7. Provide direct assistance to staff initiating or developing research funding proposals to maximise their chance of success	Director of Research & Innovation and relevant staff
8. Establish four to six University-wide Research Institutes	Deputy Vice-Chancellor

## Strategic Objective 2

### RESEARCH QUALITY

#### Enhance the quality and impact of our research outputs

##### Strategic Priorities

Over the period of this plan (2010-2012) strategic priority will be given to:

1. Improving the national and the international research reputation of the University, including postgraduate research
2. Using rigorous benchmarking of research to ensure and enhance, productivity and quality
3. Developing and supporting strategies that increase research impact, relevance and the wider dissemination of results

Activities for 2010-2012	Responsibility
1. Ensure that the 2012 PBRF round maximises staff research quality outcomes, i.e. <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. That the University is ranked in the top 3 amongst New Zealand universities for quality of research as measured by the 2012 PBRF; and</li><li>b. That many of the University's subject areas are ranked in the top one or two of their respective PBRF categories for the 2012 round</li></ol>	AVC Research and PVCs
2. Engage specific college-based support staff to maximise staff research quality outcomes.	Director of Research & Innovation and relevant staff
3. Identify a range of appropriate research quality and productivity indicators	AVC Research
4. Encourage and facilitate international benchmarking exercises with the University of Adelaide and other partners	Deputy Vice-Chancellor
5. Ensure that staff research activities and profiles as recorded in the UC Research Database are current and complete	Director of Research & Innovation and relevant staff
6. Maximise access to and use of the UC Research database by external users	Director of Research & Innovation and relevant staff
7. Ensure that research successes are showcased effectively	AVC Research

Strategic Objective 3  
**RESEARCH CAPABILITY**

**Enhance research capability and productivity through investment in current and future researchers**

**Strategic Priorities**

Over the period of this plan (2010-2012) strategic priority will be given to:

1. Recruiting and retaining suitably qualified staff with excellent research records and potential
2. Facilitating and supporting internal and external research collaborations
3. Improving financial support for postgraduate research including increasing the number and value of scholarships
4. Ensuring all researchers have access to adequate resources for their research and have access to internal contestable research funds
5. Enhancing and building upon the current capacity of Māori and Pacific researchers
6. Increasing the support to research centres in areas of strategic relevance

Activities for 2010-2012	Responsibility
1. Align College research spending relative to College research strategies	Chairs of College research committees and PVCs
2. Maintain or increase research funding within each College	PVCs
3. Increase the number of the Summer Scholarships and the number of scholars entering postgraduate research degrees at UC	AVC Research
4. Increase support provisions for thesis writers	Dean of Postgraduate Studies
5. Maximise research degree completion rates	Dean of Postgraduate Studies
6. Implement professional development and appraisal systems with a strong emphasis on research on a universal basis	PVCs in conjunction with the Director of Human Resources
7. Strengthen engagement with Māori and Pacific stakeholders	Professor of Māori Research and other senior Māori staff

## Strategic Objective 4

### **RESEARCH COLLABORATION**

#### **Increase research collaboration throughout the University and with external partners**

##### **Strategic Priorities**

Over the period of this plan (2010-2012) strategic priority will be given to:

1. Maximising the success and impact of the new Research Institutes
2. Building strong linkages with Te Rūnanga O Ngāi Tahu and other Māori communities
3. Increasing external and internal international research linkages including the business community
4. Facilitating research initiatives across disciplines and between disciplines to maximise success in research grants bids
5. Facilitating collaborative research which will maximise the use of the research assets of the University
6. Encouraging high-quality postgraduate student and postdoctoral research in interdisciplinary fields

<b>Activities for 2010-2012</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
1. Identify and build interdisciplinary fundable research teams in research areas of strategic importance	AVC Research and PVCs
2. Increase the number of targeted scholarships involving collaborative research for postgraduates in areas of strategic importance	AVC Research and Dean of Postgraduate Studies
3. Review existing internal and external research linkages to determine effectiveness and opportunities for enhancement	PVCs in conjunction with College research committees
4. Strengthen and extend opportunities for international and national networking and exchange programmes	PVCs