

## **1. Context and mission**

### **1.1. Mission**

The University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) is an international, multi-campus university. We gained university status in 1992, but our origins date back almost 200 years. The spirit of opportunity for all, which inspired us then, remains at the heart of our mission today. We inspire people to achieve their potential, seize opportunities and achieve things they never thought possible.

As one of the UK's largest universities, with staff and student community approaching 40,000, we are a truly international university, with 2,000+ students from 100+ countries and global 200,000-strong alumni network. As the first university to establish an overseas campus in Cyprus, we have forged strong partnerships with institutions worldwide (from China to the Middle East).

UCLan is growing its focus on impactful research from science to the Arts. We have made significant investment in STEM research during REF2021 and around a third of our submission is STEM-facing. Academics carrying out fundamental research work alongside our thriving practice-based community, from health to artists, musicians and writers. UCLan is perfectly positioned to produce research that is relevant to the real world.

We are a global leader in patient-centered, applied health research, one of the UK's largest providers of nursing and allied healthcare professionals – a third of our REF2021 Impact Case Studies are linked to health and wellbeing. In delivering high quality research to inform practice, we are uniquely placed to produce outstanding practitioners equipped with a robust understanding of the field who ~~in~~ contribute to the sustainable development of evidence to underpin future practice.

Many of our researchers are world-leading experts whose work is transforming lives globally. Our research is contributing towards UN Sustainability Goals and two-thirds of our REF2021 Impact Case Studies involve countries receiving ODA funding or UK areas ranking in the 25% most deprived nationally. Around one third of our work involves at least one major international NGO (e.g. UN, WHO, UNESCO). We are the first UK signatory to the [Global Code of Conduct for Research in Resource-Poor Settings](#) (GCC).

### **1.2. Context**

As a civic, anchor institution, we are proud of our place at the heart of the local and regional economy and are a Northern Powerhouse Partner. Lancashire is one of the most economically challenged counties in the UK and the University is a significant driver of economic, cultural and social development in Preston, Lancashire, Cumbria and the North West.

Our researchers are passionate about involving diverse communities in research, with a long history in Public Engagement (PE) going back to the 1800s. We hold the **NCCPE Silver Watermark for Public Engagement**. Our award-winning Lancashire Science Festival, running annually since 2011, attracts over 12,000 visitors per year.

UCLan is a multi-campus university with a thriving campus in Cyprus:

- ✓ **Preston**, home to our main campus, is a mid-sized modern city and key contributor to the Northern Powerhouse.
- ✓ UCLan **Burnley**, established 2010, serving HE needs of Pennine Lancashire.
- ✓ UCLan **Westlakes**, West Cumbria, is focused on innovation in the NHS, nuclear industry and public sector.
- ✓ UCLan **Cyprus**, opened 2012, has close working ties with UK-based researchers, including joint PGR supervision.

The University has an important role within the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP), helping develop the regional economic evidence base and priorities for regional economic strategies. University leaders chair the Lancashire Innovation Board (Vice Chancellor), Health Sector Group (PVC for Research and Enterprise) and others.

Collaborative work with partners has enabled large-scale regional economic development programmes, including a partnership with BAE Systems, AMRC NW, local authorities and SMEs to create a new aerospace cluster in Lancashire.

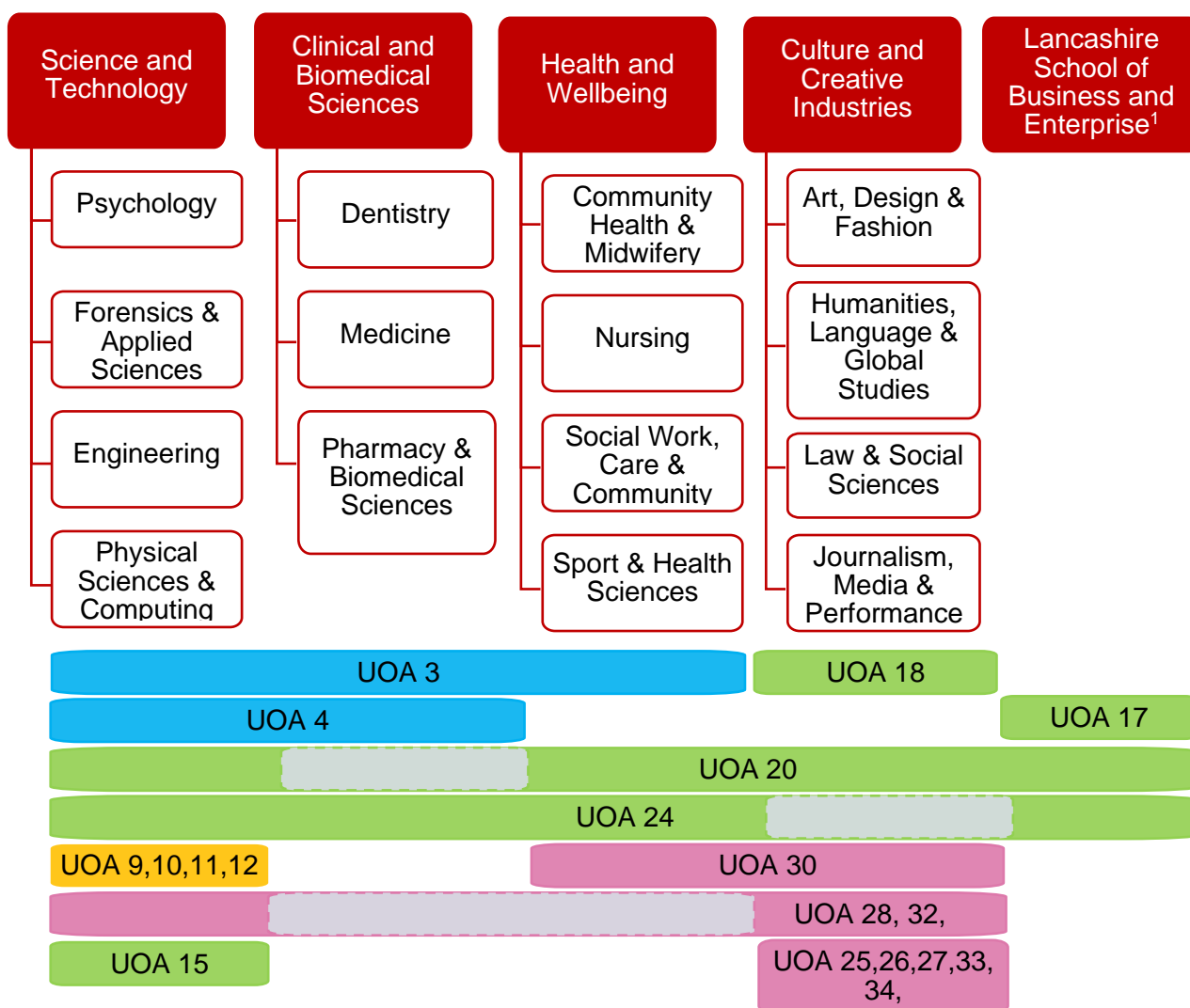
We are members of important sector groups, such as the Northern Health Science Alliance, better enabling NW organisations to access our expertise.

### 1.3. Structure

Our activity is structured across five Faculties and 15 Schools (Figure 1), bringing together academics across disciplines and practice-based specialisms. 11 UOA submissions map to multiple Schools, reflecting our interdisciplinary foundations.

This structure is complemented by challenge-led interdisciplinary University Research Institutes and Centres (Section 2) and Faculty-led entities such as the Jeremiah Horrocks Institute.

Figure 1. UCLan structure 2019/20 mapped to UOAs of submitted staff



<sup>1</sup>On REF2021 Census Date, the Lancashire School of Business and Enterprise had no School structure.

## 2. Strategy

### 2.1 Strategy

Strengths across fundamental, applied and practice-led research with strong international links underpin our strategic focus on *research with impact*, central to the **University Strategy 2015-2020**. Building on this, our **Research Strategy 2018-2020** documents how research, informed by local and global challenges, leads to impact.

Key aims of these Strategies with related achievements are set out in Table 1 and were delivered by:

#### A. Interdisciplinary structures

- ✓ £3m investment since 2017 in two University Research Institutes and 11 Research Centres to facilitate interdisciplinary research.
- ✓ This top-down, strategic approach is complemented by bottom-up coalescing of academics' interests around six research themes, giving our researchers awareness of their place within the institutional picture, a sense of common enterprise and encouraging researchers to recognise the interconnectedness of their work and the expertise available to build fundable projects (Figure 2).

#### B. Investment in the Engineering Innovation Centre (EIC)

- ✓ Section 4

#### C. Funding programmes

- ✓ £20m of QR and £7m HEIF was invested centrally and by Faculties to support buyout of staff; studentships; pump priming; bridging; infrastructure and equipment.
- ✓ £200k invested in Distinguished Visitor Scheme to develop international partnerships – 100 leading academic visitors from 31 countries, leading to £1.1m of collaborative external funding and 100+ publications.
- ✓ £150k Catalyst Programme, small pots of flexible funding to support research activity
- ✓ £0.5 million QR-GCRF and QR SPF funding have supported our goals to promote challenged disciplinary and interdisciplinary research with developing countries and to support work with local, national and international government.

#### D. Researcher Development

- ✓ Section 2

Figure 2 University Research Institutes and Centres mapped to research themes

	Research Themes					
	Arts, Culture and Heritage	Citizenship, Society and Justice	Lifelong Health and Wellbeing	People, Place and Environment	Sustainability, Business and Enterprise	Transformative Sciences and Technology
<b>University Research Institutes</b>						
Global Health and Wellbeing (LIFE)						
Citizenship, Society and Change						
<b>University Research Centres</b>						
Brain and Behaviour						
Business, Management and Enterprise						
Digital Life						
Drug Design and Development						
Engineering						
Field Archaeology and Forensic Taphonomy						
Global Development						
Migration, Diaspora Exile (MIDEX)						
Smart materials						
Sustainable Transitions						
Transdisciplinary Health Research for Thriving in the Early Years (THRIVE)						

Table 1 - Achievement of our strategic objectives for research and impact excellence

University Strategy 2015-2020	Research Strategy 2018-2020	Examples of our achievements
<p>Enhanced recognition for the quality of our international and world-leading research, innovation and enterprise across an expanded range of disciplines.</p>	<p>Increase external profile of the University as a research provider and a place of research for academics and students.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Global Sound Movement</b> <a href="#">THE Award for Excellence and Innovation in the Arts</a>, 2016</li> <li>• <a href="#">Professor Lubaina Himid's 2017 Turner Prize</a> and <b>CBE for services to art</b></li> <li>• <a href="#">Professor Dame Caroline Watkins 2017 Dame of British Empire</a> for services to nursing</li> <li>• <a href="#">Most Innovative Contribution to Business-University Collaboration Award</a> (THE) for partnership with Preston-based Recycling Lives, 2018</li> <li>• Professor Derek Ward-Thompson's <a href="#">contribution to the first image of a black hole</a>, 2019</li> </ul>
<p>Growing and vibrant community of academic innovators, nurturing PGRs and ECRs.</p>	<p>Provide appropriate support to academics and research students in their research endeavour relevant to their career stage.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See Section 3</li> <li>• HR Excellence in Research Award</li> </ul>
<p>Increased number of high-quality, results-driven relationships with public, private and third sector organisations.</p>	<p>Provide a leading contribution to developments in the area of policy, practice, technology and services as a civic and anchor institution.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Professor Soo Downe</a> led two world-leading H2020 COST networks and helped shape WHO childbirth guidance</li> <li>• <a href="#">Professor Doris Schroeder</a> is a leading academic on ethics dumping and lead author of the Global Code of Conduct for Research in Resource-Poor Settings, now used in at least 40 countries</li> <li>• See <b>Engineering Innovation Centre</b> (Section 4)</li> </ul>

University Strategy 2015-2020	Research Strategy 2018-2020	Examples of our achievements
<p>Substantial funding from external sources to broaden and deepen our research and innovation and enterprise activities, maximising the resulting economic and social impact.</p>	<p>To deploy internal resources to support areas of research and encourage collaboration and development of inter-, multi- and trans-disciplinary research.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Growth in research income from £5.8m pa in 2013/14 to pre-Covid forecast of £8.0m in 2019/20.</li> <li>• £15m internal investment in the EIC (Section 4)</li> <li>• £9m NIHR funding as part of the <b>Applied Research Collaboration North West Coast</b>, working with Liverpool, Lancaster Universities and 60+ partners, building on the work of the CLAHRC North West Coast (£23m).</li> </ul>
<p>A dynamic, supportive and enterprising environment in which our students, graduates and staff can establish resilient businesses – an area in which we will continue to be sector leaders.</p>	<p>Build and promote successful collaborations, internally and externally with business and community organisations, as well as other HEIs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ERDF research projects with NHS Trusts, Innovation Agencies, FE and Universities have led to 1,250 engagements with SMEs to March 2020, 236 jobs created.</li> <li>• 369 businesses receiving ERDF support via the Engineering Innovation Centre, with 350 businesses attending events since 2019.</li> <li>• Multi-award winning Propeller Hub supports UCLan staff, students to create new businesses. We reported 920 active staff/student businesses in 2019 (HEBCIS) with £37 million turnover per annum.</li> </ul>

## 2.2 Open research

Supporting the Open Research/Open Data agenda across all disciplines by:

- Signatory of DORA and [Responsible Research Metrics](#) policy
- Policies supporting green Open Access since 2014 and Research Data Management since 2015.
- JISC pilot of the Open Journal Systems (OJS) platform, enabling publication of 93 articles across six fully open access UCLan journals during the REF period.
- Active role in Open Research debate with representatives on UKCORR, UKRI Open Access Practitioners Group and UUK Open Access Monographs Subgroup.
- JISC ORCID consortium member since 2015. 99% of submitted staff have an ORCID.

## 2.3 Enabling and facilitating impact

Embedding and developing impact is led by our Impact Team, supported by Partnership Development Managers and Public Engagement Team (Section 4).

- UCLan was an early adopter of the Vertigo Ventures Impact Tracker (VVIT) and are an active participant on the VVIT Steering Group shaping future developments of the product.
- Training and support is provided to researchers, including PGRs, from workshops to 1:1 coaching. Includes external workshops from the NCCPE, GK Strategy, Fast Track Impact. Internal catalyst funding and faculty sabbaticals have enabled time for impact development. HEIF funding has been used to develop video impact case studies.
- £10k per annum PE Catalyst funding for 5-10 projects each year throughout REF2021.
- We have embedded PE training within PGR student induction and offer PE training to research staff, including externally delivered communication training for engagement activities, complementing the range of media training undertaken by the Press Office.
- UCLan hosted the 2019 STFC Interact Symposium, bringing together researchers and PE practitioners from across the UK to share best practice.

## 2.4 Engaging with regional, national and international priorities

Our priorities for local growth and regeneration are consistent with regional priorities. We work closely with regional partners LEP to develop the evidence base, establish strategic objectives and develop, deliver and evaluate regional economic development programmes aligned to national and regional challenges, such as those in the UK Industrial Strategy. For example:

- As the largest University healthcare provider we work closely with local Primary Care Trusts, including Mersey Care, one of the largest UK PCTs.
- Our work on recycling in the automotive industry aligns to the **Clean Growth** agenda.
- A range of our research and impact is relevant to the **Ageing Population** challenge, from understanding molecular basis of neurodegeneration, stroke treatment and rehabilitation, to our FidgetWidget for dementia sufferers.

The University is a major provider of ESIF projects with SMEs and individuals and has accessed significant Local Growth Deal funding to respond to local productivity and skills challenges.

## 2.5 Future strategy

**Research and Enterprise** is a key pillar in our Institutional Strategy 2021-2028, with five areas of focus (Figure 3).

## Institutional level environment template (REF5a)

Figure 3. Future strategy - five areas of focus



Our new strategy will be delivered through:

- Continued development of our University Institutes and Centres approach, including the **Global Race Centre for Equality (GRACE)** (2021); incorporation of the JHI under this strategic umbrella (2020); complementing Faculty-level development of the **Arts and Humanities** and **Creative Practice Research Academies**, fostering collaborative research culture among researchers in the Arts and Humanities and beyond.
- Building on our commitment to the *Global Code of Conduct* (Section 1.1) ensuring best practice in ethics and integrity across disciplines.
- Developing the **UCLan Health Innovation Programme** to respond to regional and national needs - our work during the pandemic with NHS and local partners has fostered new opportunity for collaborating to help the region be responsive to health and other emergencies.
- Supporting researcher development and management, building capability, capacity and sustainability of the research force.
- Development activities to embed impact at all levels, growing our researchers' confidence in adopting innovative approaches to creating, capturing and communicating impact; and benchmarking our progress in this area by adopting international impact frameworks such as Times Higher Impact Rank.
- More strategic focus on Public Engagement through implementation of our PE Strategic Framework and governance to ensure activity aligns with University priorities and measures impact.



### 3. People

UCLan's academic community comprises 1,356 Teaching and Research, and 120 Research Only staff. The research body consists of 449 research-active staff – 23% Professors, 14% Readers/Principal Lecturers, 32% Senior Lecturers, 21% Lecturers, 9% Research Fellows.

#### 3.1 Staffing strategy and development

Our mission is to TRANSFORM LIVES of employees and the local community. We were among the first UK universities to receive the **HR Excellence in Research Award** in 2010 and, as a signatory to the **Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers**, are committed to support researchers “beyond the current contract”.

The UCLan **People Plan** sets out priority activities which underpin the UCLan Strategy. Key pillars:

- ✓ Reward and recognise staff
- ✓ Support managers to manage
- ✓ Attract the best talent
- ✓ Open career pathways
- ✓ Simplify systems
- ✓ Measure and monitor success.

The University **does not employ staff on zero hours contracts** with 93% of academics on permanent contracts compared to a sector average of 87% (2019/20). Between 2016-2018, 246 employees (50:50 F:M gender split) moved onto permanent contracts.

UCLan uses its Home-Grown Talent Initiative (established 2014) to nurture, retain and support staff throughout their careers by providing clear career pathways. All **vacancies up to School Leadership Team level are initially advertised internally** with 14 staff (78% women) promoted to management contracts since 2014.

Staff can follow, and move between, three career pathways:

- ✓ Teaching and Learning
- ✓ Research and Impact
- ✓ Innovation and Enterprise

Progression is supported from Associate Lecturer onwards, with individual development plans for key progression points.

- ✓ Lecturers can apply for progression to SL on reaching grade maximum, with **no quotas**.
- ✓ In 2016 progression criteria were broadened to reflect the range of professional practice, increasing the number of women occupying SL roles by 10% (250 to 275). Since 2016, 55% of promotions to SL have been for women; 20% from fractional staff.
- ✓ Promotion to Professor/Reader from any pathway is considered by the Professorial and Readership Committee.
- ✓ All staff are expected to have an appraisal each year, with a mid-year review, including discussions on research careers development.
- ✓ Mentoring is available to all staff

A range of training and development programmes for UCLan researchers, including provision tailored to career stage, is available via our **Researcher Development Portal** (2019), which aggregates all central and Faculty researcher training mapped to the Vitae Researcher Development Framework.

- ✓ Since October 2016 all staff involved in appraising or recruitment receive Unconscious Bias

## Institutional level environment template (REF5a)

Training. Those involved in REF2021 decision making received bespoke training from November 2018 onwards.

- ✓ The Researcher Development Unit (Section 2; Figure 4) coordinates research-specific training and resources, including Academic Research Induction programme and blog.
- ✓ UCLan's Centre for Collaborative Learning supports researchers in developing their teaching skills to become Fellows of the Higher Education Academy.
- ✓ Since 2017 staff development resources have focused on leadership and management skills. This enabled 215 managers (481 places) (71% female, 29% male attendees) to engage in the development of coaching, emotional intelligence, influencing and engaging others, honest conversations, resilience and change management.
- ✓ Staff are encouraged to undertake professional development, with 62 staff currently undertaking PhDs and a further 70 pursuing Professional Doctorates. 50 staff are currently pursuing academic professional apprenticeships.

### 3.2 Working Environment

We survey staff to assess wellbeing and effectiveness of management/leadership. Staff networks provide peer support for female, BAME, disabled and LGBTQ+ staff and complement the following career stage specific forums:

- ✓ Early Career Research Forum (see 3.4)
- ✓ Mid-Term Research Network (2020) – 66 members
- ✓ College of Professors and Readers (formed 2016) – 141 members

Flexible working arrangements are in place, with phased return, adaptive working or reduced working hours available to those returning from an extended absence.

We are a family-friendly employer, mindful of needs of parents and carers, including investment in three breastfeeding/expressing rooms across campus; and pre-school centre rated Outstanding by OFSTED and a central fund established in 2019 to support additional expenses staff incur, i.e. extended childcare arrangements.

The number of staff returning to work following maternity leave in 2016/17 rose to 100% (from 88%) and remains at this level.

### 3.3 Early Career Researchers

In REF2014 ECRs comprised 5% of our submission. Development activities focused on supporting ECRs has raised this figure to 10% in REF2021. ECRs benefit from:

- ✓ Affiliate/associate membership of relevant UCLan Institutes/Centres, with progression to full membership supported by mentoring/collaboration with senior colleagues and seed-corn funding.
- ✓ ECR Forum (2018) - 147 members. Monthly meetings with opportunities for tailored professional/personal development; and a supportive and welcoming space for ECRs to share research, knowledge and practice; facilitated sessions on key research skills.
- ✓ 12 ECRs benefited in 2019 from a series of Sense about Science workshops on working with policy makers and the media.
- ✓ Access to start-up funds and reduced teaching loads at School-level to establish research.

### 3.4 Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

We value our richly diverse community and take seriously our responsibility to provide a safe, inclusive and welcoming environment.

We promote EDI in collaboration with a range of partners, including Preston City Council, Lancashire

## Institutional level environment template (REF5a)

County Council, City of Sanctuary, Universities of Sanctuary, NHS, Preston Black History Group (PBHG), Lancashire LGBT, Disability Northwest and Mermaid.

Through the Cara Network, we have opened our doors to those in danger with two Cara-funded PhD students receiving UCLan Living Expenses Stipend Scholarship plus fees during REF2021 and a permanent contract for a Syrian academic originally joining us through Cara as a visiting scientist.

Our accreditations:

- [Athena SWAN](#) Bronze Institutional Award, charter member since 2005 and actively working towards Silver
- Race Equality Charter
- Stonewall Diversity Champion
- AccessAble
- Level 1 Disability Confident employer
- Mindful Employer charter mark
- Defence Employer Recognition Scheme Silver Award

Attracting a diverse staff and student community is essential to our continuing success. Our [EDI policy](#) and [Equality and Diversity Strategy \(2016-2020\)](#) show our commitment to delivering a welcoming and inclusive culture which promotes inclusion, tackles inequalities and values diversity.

Diversity starts at the top - 50% female/14% BAME representation in senior management (38%/8% sector average, 2019/20); 37% Professoriate are female (28% average), 13% BAME (10% average). Three BAME researchers promoted to Reader/Professor during REF2021.

In 2020 a Director of Diversity and Inclusion was appointed to complement School EDI leads.

We are in the top 10% best performing Universities on gender pay gap. 21 women benefitted from the Aurora Leadership Development Initiative since 2013, 47% of participants subsequently promoted. There have been 99 Springboard participants since 2015.

[“Race in Focus” studentships](#) have resulted from £280K investment in research into racial inequalities in HE.

A framework for supporting transgender staff developed in 2017 in consultation.

UCLan actively promotes cultural change and challenges gender stereotypes through its events, teaching, and research projects.

- Annual Diversity Conference since 2011 - 934 attendees in 2019
- Black History Month and Pride celebrated annually.
- EDI is a research focus for many of our academics, keeping discussion around diversity alive (e.g. [Institute for Black Atlantic Research](#), [UCLan Research Centre for Migration, Diaspora and Exile](#), and others.)

### 3.5 Research Students

We support a diverse PGR cohort of 637 students. 542 students completed doctorates in REF2021 – 498 PhDs and 44 Professional Doctorates, with increases throughout REF2021 in line with expansion of our research activity.

We have a track record in widening participation that extends to PGR. Two thirds of PGRs are part-time (sector median 36%). Our flexible programmes also enable higher uptake by female students.

The Graduate Research School leads the PGR experience.

- Support for research careers begins through the Undergraduate Research Internship Programme. Over 600 students have produced outputs with UCLan researchers since 2008.

## Institutional level environment template (REF5a)

- £7.8m investment during REF2021 to support PGR fees and stipends.
- 10 places in the University Alliance DTA3/COFUND Marie Skłodowska-Curie PhD Fellowship programme, which is supported by €6.5 million funding, UCLan hosting a 3-day event for ~70 external PhD students and 30 supervisors on employability, writing skills and resilience.
- PGR training is mapped to Vitae RDF and delivered via inclusive/accessible formats.
- Supervisor training mapped to UKCGE Good Supervisory Practice Framework.
- Regular PGR networking - events programmes, annual PGR conference, 3MT competition.
- Small-scale research grants awarded biannually.
- PGR Society coordinates networking and academic citizenship opportunities.
- Paid teaching opportunities with training programme leading to Associate Fellowship of the HEA.

## 4. Income, infrastructure and facilities

### 4.1 Masterplan

In 2015, we announced our £200 million **Campus Masterplan** that will spark a major focus on regeneration and investment in the University quarter, reinforce our ties to the local community and create wider benefits for Preston and beyond.

A key focus is the **Engineering Innovation Centre (EIC)** opened in 2018 (see below).

Our Masterplan has led to improved Social Spaces developed including purpose-built multi-faith centre (Spring 2018) and new Student Centre with dedicated communal space for PGRs.

### 4.2 Engineering Innovation Centre (EIC)

Developed in partnership with the Lancashire LEP, the £35 million EIC is a key regional asset and gateway for industry to access our expertise, facilities and services. It is now home to more than 40 researchers, now working in improved research facilities. The new facility supports our delivery of world-leading aerospace, advanced engineering and manufacturing research and innovation in collaboration with industry, supporting UK Industrial Strategy objectives. Industry collaboration is built into the EIC's delivery model, ensuring our research is industry-informed, applied and with a clear route to impact.

Supported by £20.5 million in external funding (Growth Deal, ERDF and HEFCE STEM Capital), the EIC is a platform on which to develop new and grow existing specialisms. It is a major success story for UCLan and the wider Lancashire LEP area that clearly demonstrates capability to identify and respond to an opportunity to build upon a local specialism, address market failures, and design and deliver a large scale, high quality capital investment.

### 4.3 Income

UCLan researchers have attracted £50m in external research income, including £2m UKRI income-in-kind, over the REF2021 cycle to deliver ~1000 projects.

Research Services provide support throughout the research project cycle, from concept to reporting. We have seen an increase in bidding activity and success over the REF period with award value secured more than doubled over the REF2021 period.

Researchers have access to:

### Institutional level environment template (REF5a)

- Institutional subscriptions to Research Professional, GRANTfinder 4 Education, UKRO and The Training Gateway
- Fortnightly funding magazines tailored to UCLan's research themes. Blog to disseminate funding opportunities, events and internal competitions.
- UCLanKNOWLEDGE, database of staff research interests, expertise and connections (launched 2015).
- Vertigo Ventures Impact Tracker, since 2015
- Expert support in coordination of bidding, peer-review, demand management and cross-Service coordination of Post Award activities.
- Comprehensive training programme, including tailored workshops to support funding calls.

We have 13 projects part-funded from European Structural and Investment Funds worth £38 million with academic investigators supported by a team of 20 project officers.

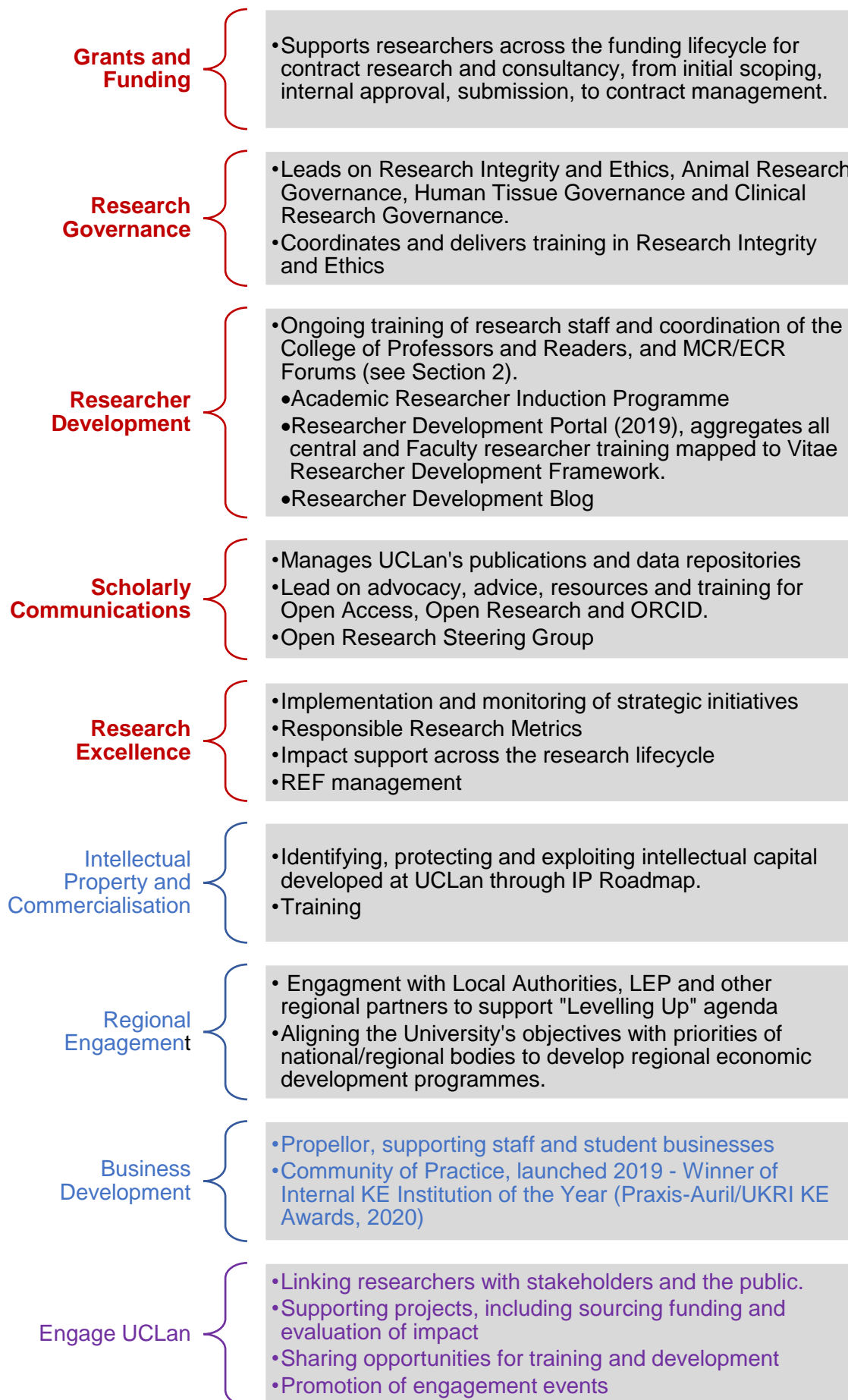
We have a wide-ranging IP portfolio with support mapped to an Innovation Roadmap.

Researchers have secured 17 live patents during REF2021, 10 with signed agreements or with advanced discussions, with a success rate of 65%, highest in North West [2018].

#### 4.4 Infrastructure

UCLan's research and impact endeavour is supported by a network of centrally coordinated Professional Services that complements technical and administrative support provided at Faculty/School level (Figure 4). Governance of Research and Impact is provided by University- and Faculty-level Research & Innovation Committees.

Figure 4. Professional Services working alongside researchers to deliver Research and Impact



## Institutional level environment template (REF5a)

### Public Engagement

Our researchers are involved in a broad spectrum of PE – from dissemination and outreach activities to engaged research.

PE is supported by Engage UCLan; alongside key community facing initiatives:

- Community Engagement and Service User Support (COMENSUS), who embed the service user and carer voice in our research and teaching;
- Centre for Volunteering and Community Leadership (CVCL) who promote community cohesion and championing active citizenship. CVCL research was shortlisted for THE International Collaboration of the Year in 2020 for “Letters from Lesbos”.
- Member of The Conversation since April 2016, with researchers supported in producing articles. 175 articles published during the REF period by 120 UCLan authors.
- First national branch of the Young Scientist Centre outside London in partnership with the Royal Institution (opened 2015).
- Lancashire Science Festival entered its ninth year in 2020 (cancelled due to Covid), a three-day event with 12,000 attendees in 2017 to 2019, two days dedicated to primary school children and the Saturday open to families.

### Library and Information Systems

Our Learning and Information Services (LIS) supports IT needs of researchers.

- Academics are provided with laptop/docking facility to enable flexible working. This enabled a smooth transition to home-working during the pandemic.
- 90+ specialist technicians provide support/guidance around our specialised facilities.
- Onsite High Performance Computing Facility (HPCAVF), with additional HPC services available through cloud-vendor partners.
- Successful bid in 2019 for SafePod, providing secure data connection to highly confidential/classified datasets. Launched January 2021.
- Comprehensive journal access and support from Research Librarian team.
- Many [Special Collections](#) of national and international importance.
  - Our [Temperance collection](#), featured in the BBC’s “A House Through Time”, is most popular with researchers and communities internationally.
  - First UK University to be awarded special status by the Republic Embassy of Korea (2018) to showcase Korean artefacts of cultural and educational importance in our “**Korea Corner**”.

### Open Research

- Two repositories: [CLoK](#) for outputs and [UCLanData](#) for datasets.
- Full programme of staff engagement and advocacy; supported through the Open Research Steering Group
- Central funding to support OA and access to transformative publisher deals.
  - RCUK/UKRI grant - £107k over REF2021 for advocacy, system development and “gold” OA of 39 publications
  - £20k per annum central OA Fund i
- Opening up Arts and Humanities portfolios with Open Book Fund of £20k to facilitate OA monographs and subscription to Open Book Publishers (2019/2020).

## Institutional level environment template (REF5a)

### Ethics and integrity

- Our commitment to research integrity is set out in the Code of Conduct for Research, further strengthened by our Ethical Principles, reviewed annually by the Committee for Ethics and Integrity.
- Member of UK Research Integrity Office and signatory to the UK Concordat to Support Research Integrity.
- UCLan Code of Practice for the Investigation of Allegations of Research Malpractice is promoted to all staff with **mandatory training** for researchers and relevant Professional Services staff.
- Signatory to Global Code of Conduct (1.1, Table 1).
- Robust, cascading governance through the Committee for Ethics and Integrity, responsible for maintaining strategic oversight of ethical processes and systems for approval.