

Researchers' Group

A 'researchers-supporting-researchers' Strathclyde Research Staff initiative

The initiative

The Researchers' Group (RG) is a researcher led initiative to support research staff at the University of Strathclyde. The RG acts as a conduit between researchers and University management committees having a representative sitting on Institutional and Faculty Research and Knowledge Exchange committees.

The RG is supported by Strathclyde centrally to run events, workshops, development opportunities, networking sessions, and any other arising matter from the community (i.e. Brexit events).

To date, the RG has had 26 committee members that range from research assistants to senior research fellows with 14 departments represented across the faculties of Science, Engineering, Business School and Humanities and Social Sciences.

RG's Focus

- Provide a forum for the community of staff that carry out research activities;
- Provide a conduit between this body of staff and University management committees;
- Establish frameworks that encourage research collaborations;
- Encourage communication between academic and professional services staff and researchers;
- Bringing clarity between research staff, associated academic staff, principal investigators and professional services in the institution;
- Sharing good practice via events and surgeries.

A success story: StrathWide

STRATHWIDE2019

Annual Strathclyde Researcher Conference

StrathWide is a yearly one-day conference/symposium for assistants/associates/fellows from all Academic Professional job families (research/teaching/knowledge exchange) which aims to promote new collaborations across Faculties in The University of Strathclyde. This conference provides cutting-edge keynote talks, networking opportunities and access to funding support for new collaboration projects.

Organised by researchers for researchers, participants will share their ideas for interdisciplinary projects to address Strathclyde's seven strategic themes and find partners to make it a reality. Sessions normally include:

- Ideas into action: a series of rapid-fire 60s pitches from researchers about themselves and their ideas (no slides needed);
- Mix 'n' Match: networking sessions with other disciplines to develop new approaches;
- Insights: new perspectives on Strathclyde's seven strategic themes from leading academics;
- Pitch Perfect: workshops with mentors from Strathclyde's Entrepreneurial Network to support researchers in developing their research;
- Grants to Go: Small starting grants for collaborators to kick-start their project.



Outputs and impact

StrathWide has run for 3 consecutive years. Some of the outputs and impact of these events are:

- 150+ research assistants/associates/fellows participants engaging with the university research community;
- Around 100 presentations publicising research projects and research skills;
- At least 9 new collaborative projects were born;
- Unique funding scheme of up to £25k for proof of concepts lead by conference participants;

Career Development Benefits

- This conference and funding scheme provide developmental opportunities to Strathclyde research community;
- Allows participants to improve their grant writing and communication skills;
- Fosters a peer-review culture at Strathclyde;
- Serves as a first opportunity for many early career researchers to develop independent research and to take their first PI role;
- The faculties and more generally the University will benefit from better prepared researchers, who will develop further grant writing skills;
- This scheme will also help faculties to reach strategic targets such as those set by the Athena Swan or the Concordat programmes;
- The latter seeks to increase sustainability of research while improving its quality and supporting the development of Researchers at the University of Strathclyde;
- The potential interdisciplinary cross-faculty collaborations that align with the University's strategic plan raising the opportunity to facilitate the creation of innovative know-how and synergistic solutions.