

## Research Vision Statement

World-leading research in a collegial environment.

The Department of Political Science fosters world-leading research that improves our understanding of politics and international relations, and contributes to our teaching, policy development and the wider community. We are a community of academics, PhD students, and professional service staff who embrace common goals and values. We conduct innovative and rigorous research, promote a collegial, equal, diverse, inclusive and intellectually inspiring environment, and engage through many channels with a wide variety of external actors.

Several shared values underpin our collective and individual research endeavours. We conduct ethical, ambitious, rigorous and high-impact research that contributes to theoretical, empirical and methodological advancement of the discipline and beyond. We support and celebrate a diversity of theoretical and methodological approaches and recognise that excellent research comes in different forms and that successful research careers can follow different paths. We stimulate and intellectually challenge each other in a constructive, generous and collaborative environment. We are ambitious about making a difference in the world by challenging conventional understanding or debunking myths that underpin current political practices.

The research strengths of the department extend to all fields within the discipline. The Department is committed to rigorous research using methods and approaches appropriate to the questions that we ask.

Our research governance structures are underpinned by our values. We seek to draw on academic, PhD, and professional services staff expertise and incorporate a diversity of perspectives. Through our cross-cutting clusters, associated events and seminar series, we foster our curiosity and support each other in generating high-quality evidence and innovative arguments. Indeed, staff members' engagement with research fields and methods beyond their own expertise is central to our vibrant research environment. We aim to develop and sustain an inspiring and collegial environment that facilitates internal and external research-related communication and collaboration, fosters inter-disciplinary engagement and also promotes research autonomy, offering appropriate professional support, peer mentorship, and development opportunities to encourage those at all stages of their career achieve their individual ambitions and professional development.

As a Department, we nurture strong local, national and international networks through collaborative and interdisciplinary research projects, our Departmental Research Seminar series, our Policy & Practice series, the Policy Lab, and a wide range of other specialist subject area colloquia and events. Through academic works, policy reports, media appearances, consultancy work, multiple electronic channels, and direct engagement, our reach extends to key stakeholders in local, national and international politics.