

Research Strategy 2024-2029

UCL Political Science has an international reputation for producing rigorous and impactful research. Drawing on input from the 2023 Research Away Day, this document sets out six key objectives for the Department. It also identifies eight core areas of activity to develop over the next five years to ensure that: 1) individually, researchers are given the appropriate resources and skills to successfully develop their own personal research agenda; and 2) collectively, the Department grows its reputation for internationally leading, policy-relevant research. Since the last Research Strategy, the department has also seen a number of challenges, which we seek to address through objectives and core areas of activity. These are in particular: the growth of the department, changing funding landscape, introduction of the teaching track, and generally greater heterogeneity in career progression.

1. Key objectives

We share six core research-related objectives for the Department of Political Science/School of Public Policy. We want:

1. Community, collegiality and respect to define our approach to engaging with research
2. A research environment that promotes equality, diversity and inclusion
3. Research that is well supported financially and enabled by an effective professional services research support team.
4. To enhance our reputation as leaders for rigorous, impactful research and external engagement
5. To facilitate an environment for outstanding collaborative and autonomous research alongside excellent teaching.
6. A research community that is attentive to the support of a variety of career tracks.

2. Areas of development/strategic needs

Eight core areas of development were identified and prioritized.

1. Development of research support and mentoring for different career tracks (academic and teaching track) and stages including the integration of, and provision for, PhD students and post-docs.
2. Strategic review of professional service team operation, development and capacity
3. Framework for increasing research grant success and facilitating applications for different funding streams, in particular EU funding.
4. Supporting impact and external engagement and facilitating the work of the Policy Lab
5. Protecting research time through innovative teaching provision and new sabbatical leave model.
6. Fostering opportunities for collaborative and interdisciplinary research
7. Recognizing the importance of estates (office space, facilities, access) as part of the research environment
8. De-carbonizing the department