

Departmental Impact Vision and Strategy

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Impact Vision and Strategy – Components

1. Our impact vision
2. Our overarching impact strategy, including objectives
3. Areas for development
4. Actions in relation to each area for development

Impact Vision

1. This Impact Vision relates to the impact beyond academia of research conducted within the UCL Department of Political Science.
2. We seek to have positive impacts on the world around us. We value impacts at any scale, from the very local to the global. We accord equal value to impacts in any part of the world. We value diverse kinds of impact, including on public policies, institutional structures, public debates, and the behaviour of individuals or private organisations.
3. We particularly value impacts that are rooted in excellent research, whether they are based directly on such research or draw on research expertise more broadly. The pursuit of impact is part of our research strategy, not separate from it. In accordance with that wider research strategy, we value the diverse kinds of research that can lead to impact.
4. There is no expectation that all colleagues should seek impact. We value the diverse paths that successful research careers can follow, including those with a strong impact focus, those where impact is not a priority at all, and those with varying impact focus over time.
5. The Department's commitment to EDI principles meets several challenges in the impact domain, which we will work to address.
6. We value positive impact as an end in itself, but we also recognise that the REF provides an important context in which impact is measured and assessed.

Impact Vision – Questions for You

Does this vision statement show respect for the kind of academic you want to be?

Does it show respect for the kinds of impact (if any) you want to have?

Does it reflect the kind of department you want to be part of?

Do you have any other comments?

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Impact Strategy

Our impact strategy is part of our research strategy. We particularly value impacts based on excellent research, so it is a foundation of our impact strategy that colleagues should be able to conduct such research. The principles of community, collegiality, and respect that define our approach to research in general equally define our approach to impact in particular.

We pursue all aspects of impact in close collaboration with the UCL Policy Lab and the SHS Faculty research team, as well as with other relevant parts of UCL, such as UCLB, UCLC, UCL Public Policy, and UCL Global Engagement.

Our objectives particularly in relation to impact are:

1. To enhance the positive impacts of our research beyond academia
2. To enhance our reputation for such impacts, among stakeholders, academics, and the wider public
3. To enable all academic colleagues to pursue impact to the extent and in the ways that they want
4. To foster impact capacity among PhD students and early career researchers
5. To perform well on impact in the REF and other related exercises.

Impact Strategy – Areas for Development

1. Increasing funding for impact-related activities
2. Increasing Professional Services support for impact-related activities
3. Identifying ways in which the impact environment challenges our EDI principles, and seeking ways to address these
4. Enabling deep engagements between colleagues and stakeholders that may generate substantial impacts – for example, through formal advisory roles or secondments
5. Examining the potential for developing specific opportunities for policy/impact-oriented PhDs
6. Maintaining training and advice for academic- and teaching-track colleagues and PhD students
7. Pushing for improved spaces at UCL for public events, stakeholder meetings, etc., in both in-person and hybrid formats
8. Improving our impact performance in REF2029, without allowing the REF to become overburdensome or to diminish the value we attach to non-REFable impact.

Impact Strategy – Actions

1. Increasing funding for impact-related activities

2024–25	2025–26 (and beyond)
(a) Work with Faculty and UCL to provide clear information on UCL funding (b) Work with Director of Research and Research Manager to clarify and embed process for internal review of impact aspects of grant applications	

Impact Strategy – Actions

2. Increasing Professional Services support for impact-related activities

2024–25	2025–26 (and beyond)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Encourage support for impact support roles in funding applications (b) Identify and address barriers to including impact support in funding applications (c) Work with Policy Lab to consider possible guidelines for such roles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (d) If deemed appropriate, establish guidelines as considered at 2(b)

Impact Strategy – Actions

3. Identifying ways in which the impact environment challenges our EDI principles, and seeking ways to address these

2024–25	2025–26 (and beyond)
(a) Identify potential challenges (b) Identify potential responses to these challenges	(c) As deemed appropriate, implement or begin implementing responses

Impact Strategy – Actions

4. Enabling deep engagements between colleagues and stakeholders that may generate substantial impacts – for example, through formal advisory roles or secondments

2024–25	2025–26 (and beyond)
(a) Work with Policy Lab and UCL Public Policy to hone aims and identify opportunities (b) Work out further strategy	(c) As deemed appropriate, implement further strategy

Impact Strategy – Actions

5. Examining the potential for developing specific opportunities for policy/impact-oriented PhDs

2024–25	2025–26 (and beyond)
(a) Liaise with PhD Director and Policy Lab regarding progress here	

Impact Strategy – Actions

6. Maintaining training and advice for academic- and teaching-track colleagues and PhD students

2024–25	2025–26 (and beyond)
(a) Liaise with Policy Lab, Faculty, and UCL on ongoing provision	

Impact Strategy – Actions

7. Pushing for improved spaces at UCL for public events, stakeholder meetings, etc., in both in-person and hybrid formats

2024–25	2025–26 (and beyond)
(a) Encourage Dean and Vice Dean (Impact) to press these issues	
(b) Continue to liaise with UCL AV on our needs	

Impact Strategy – Actions

8. Improving our impact performance in REF2029, without allowing the REF to become overburdensome or to diminish the value we attach to non-REFable impact.

2024–25	2025–26 (and beyond)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Give targeted support to REF ICS longlist (b) Continue to gather info on potential ICSs beyond longlist (c) Coordinate systems for capturing information on activities beyond ICSs (d) Constitute ICS Reading Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (e) Develop ICSs and gather other information in line with UCL expectations

Impact Strategy – Actions

9. In pursuit of all objectives:

2024–25	2025–26 (and beyond)
(a) Free up time of Dep. Director of Impact and Engagement to support these activities	

Thank you!