

SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY STRATEGIC RESEARCH PLAN

SUMMARY

MAJOR OBJECTIVES OF THE STRATEGIC RESEARCH PLAN

Saint Mary's University has four key objectives in presenting this Strategic Research Plan:

1. To carry out high quality research that builds on existing strengths and partnerships, with particular emphasis on interdisciplinary endeavours;
2. To develop research programs that are relevant to and engage the Atlantic Canada community;
3. To engage in research projects that offer value nationally and internationally by involving Saint Mary's researchers abroad and bringing visiting researchers to Saint Mary's;
4. To ensure that students, particularly undergraduates, benefit from research activities at the University.

MAJOR RESEARCH THRUSTS

1. **Research for Atlantic Canada communities** emphasizing current expertise in research applicable to social, cultural, economic, political and health issues in the region.
2. **Innovation in business management, finance and workplace studies** focusing on research in Human Resource Management, Industrial/Organizational Psychology, and Corporate Finance.
3. **Environmental studies and sustainable development** concentrating on interdisciplinary research on scientific/technical issues as well as management/policy research and health and the environment issues relevant to Atlantic Canada, but applicable internationally.
4. **Astronomy and computational science** including the creation of the Institute of Computational Astrophysics as a national centre in the discipline.
5. **International development and human migration issues** focusing on community economic development, the role of religion and culture in development policy, and challenges and opportunities related to human migration.

CHAIR ALLOCATION AND STATUS

Year of Allocation	Chair Level	Category	Field	Status
1	Tier I	Special	Astronomy	Renewed
1	Tier II	NSERC	Computational science	Filled
2	Tier II	Special	Atlantic Canada studies	Renewed
3	Tier II	Special	Human resource management	Filled
4*	Tier II	NSERC	Environmental studies	Filled
4*	Tier II	SSHRC	Industrial/organization psychology	Filled
5	Tier II	SSHRC	International development studies	Filled
6	Tier I	SSHRC	Occupational health psychology	Filled
7	Tier II	SSHRC	Finance	In process of filling

*originally a Tier I NSERC-oriented Chair; subsequently approved for reassignment to a Tier II NSERC Chair and a Tier II SSHRC Chair

PAST AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF RESEARCH IN PRIORITY AREAS

- 1. Research for Atlantic Canada communities:** Saint Mary's is a community-based university and has a distinguished record of research in support of Atlantic Canada communities. This expertise has been exported internationally through the International Development Studies program. The University has strengthened this expertise by appointing a Tier II Chair in Atlantic Canada Studies, who has diversified research applicable to social, cultural, economic, political and health issues in the region. The University offers a Master of Arts in Atlantic Canada Studies.
- 2. Innovation in business management, finance and workplace studies:** Saint Mary's is the leading Atlantic Canada university in Business Studies and Industrial/Organizational Psychology and is recognized for its innovation in these fields. Complementary to its PhD programs in Management and Industrial/Organizational Psychology and its Master of Finance, the University has filled a Tier I Chair in Occupational Health Psychology, a Tier II Chair in Human Resource Management, a Tier II Chair in Industrial/Organizational Psychology and is in the process of filling a Tier II Chair in Finance to support research in these fields that are so important for a knowledge-based economy. The Chairs will also contribute to developing stronger linkages among these fields and to the University's CN Centre for Occupational Health and Safety and its Centre for Leadership Excellence.
- 3. Environmental studies and sustainable development:** Environmental research at Saint Mary's currently encompasses interdisciplinary research in both scientific and management/policy fields and involves Faculty members from the Departments of Biology, Chemistry, Economics, Geography, Geology, Management and Religious Studies. The University recently founded the Maritimes Centre for Green Chemistry for research and instruction in the design of products and processes that reduce or eliminate the use and generation of hazardous substances. The University has filled a Tier II Chair in Environmental Studies to strengthen and provide future leadership to the diverse activities in this field. The University supports a BSc in Environmental Studies and an MSc in Applied Science with a Co-operative Education Option.
- 4. Astronomy and computational science:** The Department of Astronomy is a regional leader in the discipline, particularly in computational astrophysics. The recently founded Institute of Computational Astrophysics and the development of high performance computing facilities at Saint Mary's (as a node of ACEnet) have catapulted the group to national and international prominence. The University has filled a Tier I Chair as Director of the new institute and has filled a Tier II Chair in computational astrophysics. The University offers an MSc in Astronomy and has recently introduced a PhD in Astronomy.
- 5. International development and human migration issues:** The University has broad experience in research in International Development. The Masters in International Development Studies is highly subscribed to, recruiting students regionally, nationally and internationally. Saint Mary's is a lead University in The Atlantic Metropolis Centre for Research on Immigration, Integration and Cultural Diversity. With the increased emphasis on global, immigration, and emigration issues across Canada and in the Atlantic Canada region in particular, the University has identified International development and human migration issues as research priorities and has filled a Tier II Canada Research Chairs in this area.

INTER-INSTITUTIONAL AND INTER-SECTORAL COLLABORATIONS

As a small university, Saint Mary's collaborates effectively with partners in the private sector, government agencies and other universities in order to deliver research. Collaborations within each research thrust are documented in the University Strategic Research Plan.

ASSESSMENT OF SUCCESS IN MEETING OBJECTIVES

Success in meeting objectives will be assessed by the following four criteria:

- conventional measures of research success such as scholarly publications in quality journals and success in attracting additional research funds
- involvement of Atlantic researchers and other regional stakeholders, and success in applying University research to Atlantic Canada, nationally and internationally.
- success in attracting visiting scholars to Saint Mary's and success in attracting international research projects;
- increased participation of students in research and increased numbers of graduates being awarded scholarships/fellowships for graduate study.

Specific outcomes have been identified for each research thrust.

PLANNING AND APPROVAL PROCESS

This research strategy resulted from "bottom-up" discussions and written proposals for new initiatives within individual faculties being combined with a "top-down" strategic prioritization by Deans and the Vice-President, Academic and Research. The draft Strategic Research Plan was posted on the University Research Office web site, revised following public scrutiny, reviewed by the Senate Research Committee and approved by the University Senate executive. Planning with collaborating institutions is carried out on a program-by-program basis. Updates to the original plan have been made by the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research and the Vice President, Academic and Research.