

The King's University

Edmonton, Alberta



Strategic Research Plan Summary

2018 - 2021

A. Institutional context

The King's University is a privately governed undergraduate university, offering three-year and four-year Bachelor degree programs in the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities, a four-year Bachelor degree in commerce, and two-year Bachelor after degree programs in elementary and secondary education. All degree programs are accredited by the Province of Alberta.

B. Commitment to research

The King's University aspires to contribute to the advancement of knowledge through a commitment to excellence in teaching and scholarly research. In order to live up to this commitment, King's requires a doctorate or equivalent terminal degree for appointment to a tenure track faculty position. Faculty members are contractually obliged to be actively engaged in research and scholarship.

C. Objectives of the Strategic Research Plan

- Strengthen the interdisciplinary philosophical and theological inquiry into the relationship between religion, culture, and society.
- Enhance the development of the community engaged research theme.
- Assist faculty members to develop sustained programs of disciplinary and interdisciplinary research.
- Involve undergraduate students in faculty research projects.
- Increase the funding obtained through external research grants.
- Continue to promote and facilitate collaboration with researchers at other universities, government, and non-government agencies.
- Access research infrastructure support from federal and provincial government sources in order to maintain and/or upgrade the university's current research infrastructure.

D. Areas of research

With The King's University being a primarily undergraduate institution (PUI), it has not identified clearly defined priority areas for research. The King's University appoints faculty members to fill a particular academic program teaching need. The expectation for newly appointed faculty members is that they develop a research program. Hence the

range of research areas and themes present at The King's University reflects the areas of interests and expertise of its current faculty. Thus far nominees for Canada Research Chair (Tier II) positions have been selected from among the existing faculty.

Currently, the areas of research can be summarized as follows:

- Religion, Culture, and Society
- Environment
- Pedagogy
- Community Engaged Research
- Natural Sciences Research

E. Gender representation

The King's University is committed to gender equity among its Canada Research Chair nominations. The University has a permanent, properly trained, Canada Research Chair Selection Committee that recruits and selects faculty for Canada Research Chair positions.

F. Expected observable outcomes

Being in the early stages of receiving Canada Research Chair allotments, The King's University has not identified areas or research in which it intends to deploy Canada Research Chairs. The current Special Tier II Canada Research Chairs are in disciplines in which the university has faculty members who have a research program of Canada Research Chair quality and productivity.

G. Development of Research and research training

In light of the early stage in which the university is with respect to Canada Research Chairs (see F.), the university does not have a research-training program for a specific area it wants to develop.

H. Collaborations

As a primarily undergraduate institution (PUI) inter-institutional collaborations emerge either out of similarity of interest or out of complementarity of expertise among faculty members. Inter-sectoral collaborations usually come about due to connections made at professional society meetings or academic conferences.

I. Assessment

At the current stage of the development of the institution's Canada Research Chair program, success in meeting its objectives are assessed in terms of the number of successful nominations and renewals of its Canada Research Chairs, the increase in scholarly productivity, the increase in the number of students involved in research projects with the Canada Research Chair faculty members, and an increase in the success rate of research grant applications.

J. Planning and approval process

The King's University received its first Canada Research Chair allotment (Special Tier II) in 2015, the second and third (Special Tier II) were received in 2018. Upon receiving an Canada Research Chair allocation, the planning and approval process begins with a recommendation from the Canada Research Chair selection committee (chaired by the VP Academic and Research) to the General Faculty Council regarding how to fill the allotted chair position(s). The predominant question the committee usually faces is if the university is going to use the allocation for a current faculty member, or it is going to be used for the recruitment of an additional faculty member in department slated for expansion. Once this recommendation is approved, the Canada Research Chair Selection Committee recruits and selects the faculty member to be nominated for a Canada Research Chair.