



Joining forces to transform the world

– Innovating to
benefit society
*Inclusive, connected,
sustainable*

2022–2027 Research and
Innovation Development Plan



UNIVERSITÉ
LAVAL

Background

This 2022-2027 Research and Innovation Development Plan (RIDP) of Université Laval, entitled “*Joining forces to transform the world – Innovating to benefit society*”, perfectly encapsulates the ambition of an impact university that constantly brings people together to transform the world and responds in an innovative and relevant way to the major challenges facing society. This strategy is grounded in three strongly interrelated priorities: inclusivity, connectivity, and sustainability. For each of these orientations, the Plan sets out the content of the research issues and the expected impacts. To frame all of these aims for the next five years in a modern, meaningful, and global perspective, Université Laval will also highlight its many scientific contributions by using the matrix of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations (Horizon 2030). Université Laval thus confirms its position as a leading transformative institution.

This five-year plan is a continuation of the previous plan, which sought to address the major challenges of the day. It has been developed at a time when inclusiveness, connectivity, and sustainability are major issues at both the local and global levels.

This development plan draws on a range of important collaborations with partners such as Alliance santé Québec, Institut nordique du Québec, the International Observatory on the Societal Impacts of Artificial Intelligence and Digital Technologies (OBVIA), Sentinel North, Schola, Alliance culture+numérique, and many others. New initiatives are currently under development for the coming years. It draws in large part on the University’s strong leadership at the national and international level, including on the management team of the Articnet Network of Centres of Excellence of Canada and at the secretariat of the Arctic Council’s Sustainable Development Working Group.

This ambitious plan shows Université Laval’s clear desire to contribute to Québec and Canadian government research and innovation objectives by serving as a scientific leader at the regional, national, and international levels, for the benefit communities and their environments. This plan meets the main objectives of the Québec Research and Innovation Strategy (QRIS). Université Laval fully embraces both Québec and Canada’s goals for success at the global level while ensuring that prosperity and development are both inclusive and sustainable.

Our Ambition

By adopting this new Research and Innovation Development Plan, Université Laval is clearly broadcasting its intent to remain among the world’s most consequential universities and be a transformative institution that serves both humanity and the planet. The title we chose, *Joining forces to transform the world – Innovating to benefit society*, lays out this ambition. *Joining forces* by bringing together our community of researchers, disciplines, collaborators, and partners. *To transform the world* by ensuring we respect key values such as peace, justice, equity, and environmental protection. *Innovating* by remaining resolutely open to all forms of research, knowledge, and innovation. *To benefit society* by offering innovative solutions to current and emerging challenges, training the leaders of tomorrow, and continuing to make tangible contributions to sustainable development both locally and globally.

A Plan with Three Strategic Priorities

The 2022–2027 Research and Innovation Development Plan is inspired by the University’s past achievements and future ambitions and is divided into three closely linked strategic priorities. For each priority—inclusive research, connected research, and sustainable research—we explain the issues at stake, identify what we expect to achieve, and make specific commitments. For each subcategory of the sustainable research priority, the Plan lists the SDGs that our community’s scientific contributions may impact.

Priority 1: Inclusive research

1.1 Inclusive of diverse people and perspectives

- 1.1.1 Advance the principles of equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) in all research and innovation activities
- 1.1.2 Recognize and promote diversity in research and innovation
- 1.1.3 Support reconciliation, partnership, and co-construction with Aboriginal communities

1.2 Inclusive of the next generation of faculty and students

- 1.2.1 Promote measures to better integrate new researchers and support their success
- 1.2.2 Provide greater visibility for the achievements and expertise of young researchers

1.3 Inclusive of various disciplines and approaches

- 1.3.1 Encourage and support major interdisciplinary and intersectoral research initiatives
- 1.3.2 Support and promote diversified and innovative research methods and approaches

1.4 Ethical and responsible

- 1.4.1 Promote and reinforce an ethical and responsible culture and practices

Priority 2: Connected research

2.1 Connected to society

- 2.1.1 Promote and support research initiatives in partnership with diverse communities
- 2.1.2 Better mobilize knowledge and skills and increase uptake of technological and societal innovations
- 2.1.3 Participate more in setting research priorities
- 2.1.4 Make a sustained contribution to the dialogue between science and society

2.2 Connected to the world

- 2.2.1 Further globalize research and training through research
- 2.2.2 Boost the University’s national and international reputation in research and innovation

2.3 Connected via digital technology

- 2.3.1 Develop and provide the research community with state-of-the-art digital infrastructure
- 2.3.2 Provide the research community with modern and effective research management tools

Priority 3: Sustainable research

This plan makes an important contribution to sustainable development by mobilizing our research and innovation community around nine cross-cutting themes. The wide variety of projects and initiatives underway, along with emerging and promising fields, will contribute to these themes, which address increasingly complex scientific and societal challenges. The University will build on these themes to broaden our horizons, encourage collaboration around shared issues, and welcome all disciplines and research approaches. Certain themes may also be linked within the framework of major interdisciplinary and intersectoral research initiatives that tackle global issues such as the impact of climate change or ecohealth.

Ambitions grounded in the Sustainable Development Goals

We will also use this development plan to educate members of our research community about the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals matrix and encourage them to find ways to contribute to attaining them. This approach is consistent with the sustainability approach we launched in 2007 through which we became a world leader in this area.

Nine major themes

1. Connect communities and territories
2. Understand and support cultural and societal change
3. Foster equitable access to healthy food
4. Offer lifelong education and learning
5. Design and develop sustainable technologies
6. Research and innovate to improve the health and well-being of individuals and populations
7. Understand and take action in a changing North
8. Protect and enhance natural resources
9. Study global and international issues

Planning and approval process

The 2027–2022 Research and Innovation Development Plan (RDPI) is a key instrument to guide University's decisions towards major strategic research programs such as the Canada First Research Excellence Fund, Canada Excellence Research Chairs (CERC), the Canada Research Chairs (CRC) and grants from the CFI. The Plan aims to increase University leadership in research and teaching, to recruit and retain the most talented minds and to benefit from partnerships for the profit of Québec City, Québec Province, and Canada.

In addition to ensuring compliance with the Institution and funding agencies rules, the Office of the Vice-Rector, Research and Innovation (VRRCI) manages and selects all CERC and CRC attributions and CFI grants in collaboration with partnering faculty, department, and affiliated research center. Furthermore, the VRRCI takes into account the fit with strategic priorities and themes as indicated in the 2022-2027 RDPI and also considers equity, diversity and inclusion issues as mentioned in the institutional recruitment policies.