

Research Plan

2022-2026

Several whole-of-University supporting plans provide a bridge between the ECU Strategic Plan 2022-2026 and ECU's annual operating plans: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Plan, Educational Experience Plan, Enrolment Growth Plan, Equity and Inclusion Plan, International Plan, Regional Plan, Research Plan, and People and Culture Plan. The supporting plans provide a coordinated approach to achieve a broad range of objectives for the relevant Strategic Priorities from the Strategic Plan.

As a young, contemporary university, ECU will continue to focus on the growth of our research capacity in distinctive research areas that provide innovative, real-world solutions of significance and benefit to society. We are committed to undertake research that is always world class, producing research outputs that have relevance and reach for our industry and community partners.

This Research Plan resets our research direction to enhance our reputation for research excellence, relevance and impact over the next five years. By the end of this plan, ECU's research will be focused toward societal need, with outputs from our world-class researchers addressing the needs of our communities across Western Australia, as well as in national and international contexts.

ECU's outstanding teaching capability, coupled with our externally engaged and impactful research expertise, provides the ideal learning environment to develop our higher degree by research students to be cross-disciplinary, cross-sectoral researchers and future leaders.

The ECU Research Plan's Senior Executive sponsor is the **Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)**, and it was approved by the Vice-Chancellor on 2 February 2022. Progress against the plan will be reviewed annually, with adjustments incorporated where necessary.

Objectives

No.	Objective	Strategic Priority
1.	Enhance alignment between ECU's research, teaching strengths, and the research needs of industry and communities.	6
2.	Increase the volume of quality research recognised nationally and internationally for excellence.	6
3.	Translate research outcomes into knowledge that benefits partners and communities.	6
4.	Enhance research leadership and target staff recruitment towards major focus areas.	7
5.	Support academic staff to grow their research profiles, connections, and outputs.	7
6.	Improve the internal processes that support our research endeavour.	7
7.	Improve recruitment, enrolment, candidature management, and retention of higher degree by research (HDR) candidates in ECU's major focus areas of research.	8
8.	Embed HDR candidates in supportive research communities that enable access to professional development opportunities.	8
9.	Deliver HDR training that connects and prepares candidates for employment with industry, government, and community organisations.	8
10.	Grow research partnerships with partners of significance to our communities.	9
11.	Foster researcher-led engagement with external partners.	9
12.	Enhance research capability through professional development and recruitment.	15
13.	Refresh and implement the academic careers framework.	16
14.	Improve gender equity in research leadership.	17