

## OVERVIEW OF SUSSEX RESEARCH GROUPINGS

The University formally recognises five types of research grouping:

### 1. RESEARCH GROUPS AND NETWORKS

#### Definition

Research Groups and Networks provide a focus for a collection of academics working on a particular research topic or theme. They may be working in an emerging or established area of expertise for Sussex.

#### Further information

Research Groups and Networks are managed entirely by the School in which they are based. Heads of School are responsible for determining the reporting structure.

Proposals for new Research Groups/Networks should be submitted to the Head of School in which it will be based. Once a Group/Network is formally established, a summary report should be sent to the Sussex Research team who will arrange for it to be included in the next Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee.

Groups/Networks which intend to cease to exist should report to the Head of School in which they are based, who will then notify Sussex Research. The closure will then be reported to the next Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee.

### 2. RESEARCH CENTRES

#### Definition

Research Centres are groups of faculty working together intensively on collaborative research, whose collaborative work provides added value over and above their individual research. They are often interdisciplinary in nature, undertaking research that is internationally excellent in terms of originality, significance and rigour and that has considerable impacts.

#### Further information

Guidelines on the purpose, establishment and review of Research Centres can be found on the [Research Centre Policies webpage](#).

### 3. REGIONAL RESEARCH CENTRES

#### Definition

Regional Research Centres are interdisciplinary groupings working on collaborative, regionally focussed research, whose collaborative work provides added value over and above their individual work. Their research is internationally excellent in terms of originality, significance and rigour and has considerable impacts.

Regional Research Centres host research-led undergraduate and postgraduate teaching programmes, which enable our students to develop regional expertise; and they may be the focal point for the University's international strategy of engagement with the regions themselves, through international student recruitment, researcher and student exchanges, institutional partnerships, and research collaboration.

**Further information**

Regional Research Centres may be reviewed annually according to their host School's procedures and will be reviewed every three years by the University. Details of the University and Regional Research Centre Review process can be found on the [Research Centre Policies webpage](#)..

**4. UNIVERSITY RESEARCH CENTRES****Definition**

University Research Centres are groupings of academics undertaking research that is widely recognised as world-leading in an established area of expertise. They address significant international challenges and problems and redefine the parameters of one or more disciplines. University Research Centres are distinguished from Research Centres primarily through their significance to the University Strategy and through the external funding they attract. They are expected to maintain a portfolio of significant grants over a sustained period.

**Further information**

Guidelines on the purpose, establishment and review of University Research Centres can be found on the [Research Centre Policies webpage](#).

**5. RESEARCH PROGRAMMES****Definition**

Research Programmes are the result of substantial strategic investment in areas of existing research strength to build critical mass through further research-led appointments and studentships. They have been designed to address some of the key challenges and opportunities facing contemporary society by bringing together expertise from many disciplines across campus.

**Further information**

Each Research Programme has its own tailor made set of Key Performance Indicators, which are evaluated through 6 monthly interim, and more comprehensive annual reviews chaired by the PVC Research.