Research School of Humanities & the Arts (RSHA)
Strategic Priorities Plan 2022 – 2025

Australian National University

OUR PURPOSE
To understand the diversity and complexity of human experience, across cultures and languages, past and present; to examine the ways in which that experience shapes and is shaped by the environment - historical, political, sociocultural, linguistic and natural; and to discover how people have tried to make sense of the world and the place of humanity within it. In so doing, we seek to transform the future.

OUR VISION
We will be recognised nationally and internationally for producing distinctive, world-leading research and education in the humanities and innovative, impactful creative arts practice. We will adopt a leadership role in promoting the profile of the humanities in Australia and internationally, affirming and demonstrating the contribution of our disciplines to knowing, understanding and intervening with impact in the world.

We will continue to advance the development of the humanities and creative arts in Australia and provide leadership in advocacy for humanities research and education, including practice-led research, internationally.

Pillar 1: Strengthening our national mission and meeting our unique responsibilities

- Design and undertake rigorous and purpose-driven research, especially in the areas of First Nations knowledges, culture, heritage; health and wellbeing; environment; human-centred design and technology; and the creative, linguistic, material and biocultural history of Australia
- Develop collaborations that demonstrate the importance of humanities knowledge and methodologies to government and industry sectors
- Advocate for humanities research and education, intervening in public debates informing policy initiatives, and demonstrating the value of humanities-driven perspectives for understanding the human experience, meeting First Nations Priorities, and addressing important and pressing issues we face today
- Demonstrate the value of HASS disciplines to improving health and wellbeing outcomes, with a focus on Indigenous health and wellbeing, and improving communication between health professionals to increase patient safety
- Undertake research and education on the ways humans interact with the environment and contribute to environmental sustainability
- Develop environmentally friendly low-emissions art and design studio practices
- Support Indigenous-led projects, working with First Nations Peoples and communities on priority issues
- Draw on our expertise in technical, technological and computational knowledge to develop human-centred-design and investigation frameworks for collaboration with STEM disciplines, business, government and industry stakeholders

Pillar 2: Conducting research that transforms society and creates national capability

- Build collaborative interdisciplinary networks and teams to conduct research that address contemporary national and global issues
- Bring together leading international researchers and establish research networks and centres that build scale and maximise our impact in key focus areas.
- Develop and maintain digital infrastructure with the digital tools, technologies, and systems necessary to support innovative creative, cultural and historical research
- Refurbish our laboratories and facilities to support excellent, multidisciplinary research in art, design, archaeology and anthropology
- Support the creation of research outputs that have demonstrable societal impact and benefit, with an expanded program of public engagement to communicate our research and inform wider debates
- Increase participation in multidisciplinary, comparative and international research projects/collaborations focussing on issues of regional significance
- Maintain or improve reputation of our disciplines in order to attract outstanding talent and foster a high-impact research culture with professional support for research strategies and activities
- Embed research opportunities into UG programs and provide increased training, support and development for PhD programs

Pillar 3: Delivering a student experience equal to the world's best

- Provide students with educational and extra-curricular activities that engage with national cultural and political institutions in Canberra
- Enhance UG programs with innovative, research-rich curricula and assessment, with opportunities for internships, field trips, work-integrated learning and diverse on-Country experiences
- Embed Indigenous knowledges, rights and diverse perspectives in all our curricula
- Develop a suite of world-class PG programs which builds on our unique research strengths
- Expand and market a suite of short courses and micro-credentials targeted at the public sector
- Enable students and researchers across campus to access novel, complex and creative technologies

Pillar 4: Being a standard bearer for equity and inclusion

- Adopt a zero-tolerance approach to those who breach ANU values and implement measures to ensure these are well understood by current and future staff and students
- Embed transition pedagogy into first year courses and explore partnerships and alternative pathways to support the recruitment of students from Indigenous, rural and low-SES backgrounds
- Secure more HDR scholarships for Indigenous students
- Target recruitment for gender equity, First Nations people and staff from other under-represented groups
- Develop a mentoring scheme to build an inclusive and collegial work environment for all staff with a culture of engagement, inclusivity, and flexibility

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