SCHOOL OF INFORMATICS

School Strategy

January 2016

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SCHOOL STRATEGY

Introduction

Over the summer and autumn of 2015, the School of Informatics undertook a review of its strategic priorities. The outcomes of that review are reflected in this plan.
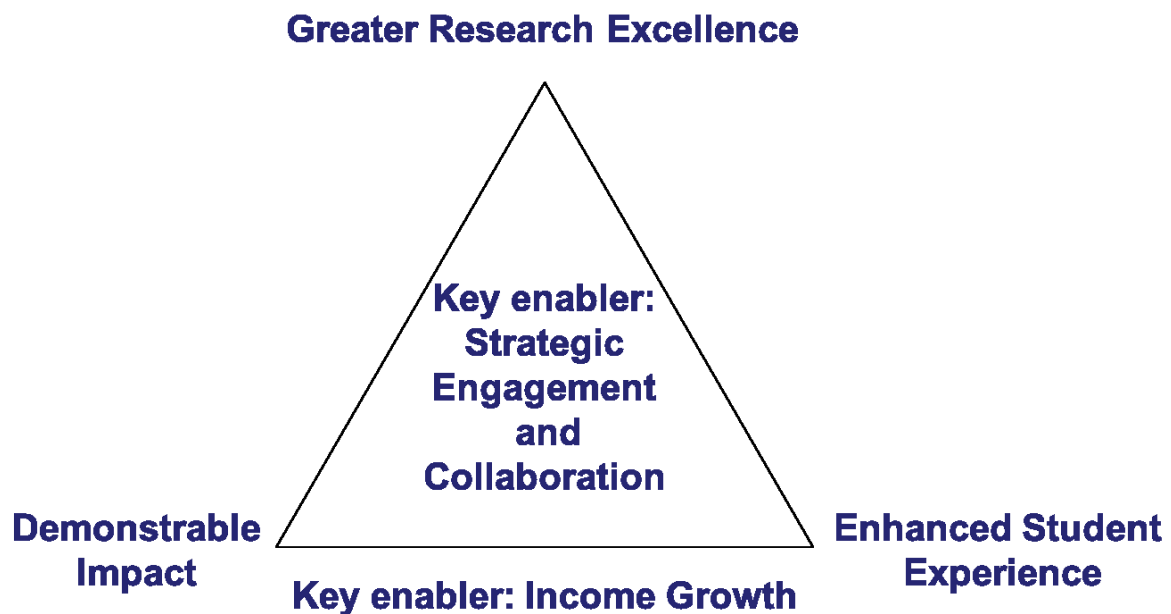
Strategic objectives:

The School's strategic objectives are:

- Promote Informatics as a coherent, multi-disciplinary area of academic research, learning and innovation, encompassing the structure, the behaviour, and the interactions of natural and engineered computational systems.
- Take an international leadership role in Informatics, including retaining the leading position in the UK.

Strategic framework

Three strategic priorities and two key enablers provide us with the strategic framework for achieving our objectives.

Strategic priority: Greater Research Excellence

Informatics at Edinburgh has international leaders in many areas of research. Our priority is to further develop the breadth and depth of that leadership by ensuring that all academics develop to their full potential, through support in their route to leadership and in the continuance of their leadership roles, once achieved. The consequences of this are:

- We are in a leading position to shape the intellectual development of Informatics and are recognised in that role.
- Our leadership in Informatics places us in strong positions to gain research funding to push forward the intellectual development of our discipline.
- We are recognised internationally as a destination of choice for talented students, postdocs and academic staff, and that flow of talent reinforces our leading role.
- Our research evaluation scores reflect this excellence and further strengthen our ability to secure the resources to further our work and to sustain our leadership in our discipline.

Strategic priority: Demonstrable Impact

The School has the leading position in the UK and an international reputation for Informatics knowledge exchange and industry engagement.

We produce extraordinary science, scientists, and knowledge that is the source of disruptive change. Through our research, education, knowledge exchange and public engagement activities the knowledge that we create impacts upon the international academic community, upon policy and society, upon industry and businesses, upon our local community and upon individuals; as measured by their roles in business, academic life and the public realm.

We will take steps to capture more of our impact and reflect it back to informatics people, funders and industry, to promote a stronger understanding of the substance and impact of our research. A consequence will be greater preparedness for the impact component of the next Research Evaluation Framework.

Strategic priority: Enhanced Student Experience

The School has made significant advances in learning and teaching and in student engagement in recent years. A key strength is our academic breadth, which allows us to offer a variety of multi-disciplinary programmes of study.

We will continue to work with our student communities to further review our curriculum and its delivery and to ensure that student support, resources, and the physical and social environment all contribute to student achievement and satisfaction.

We believe that there are opportunities to innovate in the way that our student body is engaged, collectively and individually, in the learning process and experience. We will work with staff, students and those elsewhere with expertise and experience, to explore how we can develop a distinctive Informatics approach to learning, teaching and student experience.

Key enabler: Strategic Engagement and Collaboration

Information pervades the modern world, so opportunities for collaborative inter-disciplinary research abound. We will prioritise those interactions that have the capacity to contribute to our strategic objectives through generating the highest quality research and educational opportunities, and the greatest impact.

Key enabler: Income Growth

The School's strategic objectives and priorities can only be achieved from a position of financial strength. The School will continue to leverage its position as the UK leader in Informatics research and knowledge exchange to secure funding from public funders whilst seeking to further develop other sources, including funding from industry, charities and alumni. In addition, increased numbers

in our student body, especially undergraduate and postgraduate taught students, will contribute to income growth.

The priorities for the application of increases in income will be in additional academic staff and in postgraduate research studentships, to further enhance the breadth and depth of our academic community.