

Trent University

STRATEGIC RESEARCH PLAN

2023 - 28

TRENT UNIVERSITY RESEARCH IS VIBRANT, RESPONSIVE, AND CREATIVE

The Trent University Strategic Research Plan 2023-28 celebrates, supports, and provides direction for the intensification of research activity and impact.

Trent's impressive research performance has earned top rankings in national research performance metrics, including publication intensity, income growth, and research impact.

This research plan was developed through extensive consultation from November 2022 to April 2023.

The research plan will support the further growth and integrity of Trent's research activity.

*Cover image: Painting in Polarization by Prof. Aaron Slepkov
Consultation for Research Plan by Stiletto Consulting*



TRENT'S RESEARCH ECOSYSTEM

2023-28

The research ecosystem at Trent University incorporates the University's signature focus on healthy and sustainable environments and communities, priority areas of research intensification, and a diverse range of

research methods. The priorities identified in the Strategic Research Plan are grounded in a commitment to this interconnected research ecosystem.



SIX RESEARCH PRIORITY AREAS

Student Engagement with Research

Enhanced Communication of Research

Faculty Support & Mentorship

Research Funding & Partnerships

Research Leadership

Research Collaboration



STUDENT ENGAGEMENT WITH RESEARCH

Student research opportunities are an essential part of undergraduate and graduate education at Trent University. Research opportunities in coursework, in

the field, in communities, in labs, and in arts venues, and co-curricular learning experiences will prepare students for a life of consequence.

Key Actions

- Encourage quality training of undergraduate and graduate students, including research personnel¹ in curricular and co-curricular settings.
- Expand the range and quantity of research-based experiential learning opportunities in collaboration with the careers, co-op, and experiential learning office.
- Develop credentialing opportunities for student research experiences in collaboration with The School of Graduate Studies.

¹ Research personnel at Trent University include all HQP as described by NSERC's definition of HQP: "Highly qualified personnel (HQP) include college and university (undergraduate and graduate) students, postdoctoral researchers, technicians, artisans, tradespeople and research assistants and associates. HQP may be from a post-secondary institution or from other groups involved in the research, such as community groups or private, public or non-profit sector partner organizations." (Source: https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/NSERC-CRSNG/Policies-Politiques/assessment_of_contributions-evaluation_des_contributions_eng.asp)



ENHANCED COMMUNICATION OF RESEARCH

Mobilizing, translating, and disseminating Trent research drives policy, knowledge building, social innovation, and diversity of thought. Enhanced recognition,

communication, and promotion of research capacity and significance will illustrate research excellence at Trent University and beyond.

Key Actions

- Further refine Trent's research awards program.
- Develop and implement a five year research communications strategy.
- Establish and implement a tracking system for research accomplishments, awards, and news features in collaboration with Communications.
- Promote the sharing of findings while encouraging sound data management practices.



FACULTY SUPPORT AND MENTORSHIP

Ongoing support, collegial mentorship, and research opportunities are central to ensuring researcher success. Supporting

and mentoring researchers will expand and deepen research activity at Trent University while helping to attract and retain talent.

Key Actions

- Refine and implement a plan that provides strategic and formalized support for new faculty, focused on establishing a strong research program and grant-seeking practice.
- Source and implement best practices that enable faculty-to-faculty mentorship opportunities on a voluntary basis for later career faculty.
- Collaborate with the provost and deans to implement explicit talent recruitment and development strategies.
- Further develop a healthy complement of faculty.



RESEARCH FUNDING AND PARTNERSHIPS

Research funding from external sources engenders greater research opportunities, with high potential impact. Grant success rates, focused philanthropic support, as

well as strong government, community, and industry partnerships will be essential to ensuring responsive and significant research outcomes.

Key Actions

- Work with researchers, deans, the provost, and the Office of Research and Innovation to increase Tri-agency applications and success rates.
- Maintain and enhance not-for-profit collaborative funding opportunities.
- Increase industry and private sector funding, leveraging the Commercialization Mandate Policy Framework.
- Work with the Development Office to expand philanthropy-supported research opportunities.



RESEARCH LEADERSHIP

Trent's research excellence involves faculty leadership, locally and globally. Further development of Trent's Chairs Program, including named chairs, endowed chairs,

Fulbright Scholars, and Canada Research Chairs will advance research activity and intensity.

Key Actions

- Support faculty as they take on leadership roles in grant seeking and cross-institutional collaborations, as well as with Trent's research centres and institutes.
- Secure Endowed Chair and Fulbright positions.
- Continue to pursue appointments of Canada Research Chairs.
- Implement best practices tied to the principles of the pan-Canadian Dimensions Charter.



RESEARCH COLLABORATION

Interdisciplinary and collaborative research focused on local and global challenges is a high priority for Trent. Providing researchers

with opportunities to cluster by areas of mutual interest will facilitate valuable research developments.

Key Actions

- Increase collaboration agreements with international research partners, as well as government agencies, industry, and private sector.
- Focus on responsive research that tackles local to global challenges through specialized funds and in-kind contributions.
- Facilitate the formation of groups or clusters of faculty within and beyond departments, domains, and decanal units - formally and informally.
- Further develop research security and risk management strategies that respond to a global research era.

CULTIVATING RESEARCH ACTIVITY AND IMPACT IN

TRANSFORMATIVE SPACES

ON THE HORIZON

1. Sustainable small-scale agriculture research at Trent's new farm
2. Green tech innovation through Cleantech Commons
3. Aging, health and society research at Trent's Seniors' Village





- 4.** Digital, non-digital, and archival research materials and supports at Trent University Library & Archives
- 5.** State-of-the-art research centres and labs
- 6.** Amphitheatre for performance arts at Catherine Parr Traill College
- 7.** Trent Durham campus research in the heart of east GTA communities
- 8.** Field sites that expand local and global exploration
- 9.** International research collaborations for faculty and student research teams

