

The Hunterian, University of Glasgow

ACADEMIC POLICY AND STRATEGY

1. HUNTERIAN ACADEMIC POLICY

1.1 Mission of The Hunterian

- 1.1.1 The overall strategic objectives of The Hunterian through to 2016/17 have been set out in a draft Plan for approval by the Hunterian's Strategic Advisory Board in early 2013.

These are aligned in support of the University of Glasgow's Strategic Plan *Glasgow 2020: A Global Vision* and address the key actions of 2020:

- To deliver excellent research
- To deliver excellent student experience
- And to enhance global reach and reputation

These objectives also reflect and align to objectives and performance measures set by the Scottish Funding Council for its Museums, Galleries and Collections Grant funding for 2011-14. These require The Hunterian to provide:

- An appropriate level of collections care and management
- A service to the wider research community
- A high-quality teaching and learning experience to the wider HE community
- Contribution towards SFC's Widening Participation objective

The Plan aims to deliver a new mission for the Hunterian as a facilitator and contributor to the research and learning objectives of UoG and as a cultural asset with national and international reach. The Hunterian will make a tangible contribution to UoG's mission to provide an intellectually stimulating learning environment. Drawing on our encyclopaedic historical collections, we will support and engage with UoG ambitions for interdisciplinary approaches to research, teaching and knowledge exchange. In doing so, The Hunterian will create and nurture an exciting research culture around its collections.

To this end, we will focus on our core mission to care for and develop our collections and share and communicate our knowledge about them.

- 1.1.2 As a university museum with nationally Recognised collections across the arts, human history, social, natural and life sciences, together with the history of science and medicine, The Hunterian is uniquely placed to initiate and support experimental and interdisciplinary activity.

- 1.1.3 Research expertise is a resource university museums can offer the museum community as a whole. As a leading member of University Museums in Scotland (UMiS), The Hunterian will make a full contribution to developing research capacity in the Scottish and wider UK museums sector.
- 1.1.4 The long term goals of The Hunterian are to develop and sustain strong academic links with all parts of the University of Glasgow through:
- Contribution to HE teaching and course supervision
 - Providing work-related learning and collections research opportunities through for example work placements, student projects, PGR Associateships
 - providing an on-line collections research and teaching resource
 - providing collections expertise
 - The Hunterian Academic Advisory Board (HAAB)
 - The establishment of joint Hunterian/College curator/lecturer appointments (1st appointment 2013 in Museum Studies MSc)
 - The undertaking, collaborating in and facilitating high quality, peer-reviewed research for UoG and external research partners
 - Providing an interface and showcase of University of Glasgow research

2. HUNTERIAN ACADEMIC STRATEGY

2.1 Priorities

2.1.1 Hunterian staff will undertake, collaborate in or facilitate research activity that:

- 1) Is integrated into existing programmes or contributes to the initiation of or facilitates academic activity through
 - High quality research and peer-reviewed publication (suitable for submission in research assessment exercises)¹
 - Teaching and learning at some undergraduate² but main emphasis being post-graduate training (PGT) and research (PGR)
 - Peer review and management of published collections or collections-related research, including participation in Learned bodies management and editorial boards
 - Communication of UoG research to the wider public
 - Widening Participation
 - Supporting object loans and collections exchange

2) Draws on or contributes to the strengths of The Hunterian:

¹ . Currently Hunterian curatorial staff (MPA contacts) are ineligible for REF submission. In the short term proposals are being developed to create 0.2 fte R&T contracts to drive research activity and to submit on pro-rata basis (but this mechanism dependent on negotiations with HEFCE). Long term ambition to develop more joint curator/academic (R&T) appointments.

² . Hunterian support required for UG specimen-based learning in Life and Earth Sciences and in Coin studies (College of Arts, School of Humanities).

- Recognised collections, data and archives (including collections management system and web interface)
- The maintenance and development of world class curatorial expertise
- Hunterian gallery renewal and special exhibition programme, in-focus research exhibits, and associated public programmes
- History of museums and museological practice

2.1.2 Informs the design and derives new academic opportunity from developing the Hunterian Collections Study Centre at Kelvin Hall.

2.2. Collaboration

2.2.1 The Hunterian will build close relationships with UoG academic units (i.e. through Heads of Colleges, Schools and research centres, Deans of Research, members of the Hunterian Academic Advisory Board) in order to develop opportunities for and support academic collaboration. Main areas of Hunterian/UoG academic interchange include:

- Teaching and course development (UG, PGT, Open Studies)
- Supervision of post-graduate students
- PG research projects
- Work placements (PGT)
- Museum University Educators (MUSEs) programme
- Post-Graduate Research Associateships (PGR)
- Hunterian curatorial staff submitting to REF via cognate Subject Area
- Joint seminars, conferences
- Establishment of joint Hunterian/College curator/lecturer appointments
- Creation of Visiting Hunterian Research Scholarship scheme

2.3 Managing academic contribution

2.3.1 Facilitating and contributing to research is a strategic priority for the Hunterian as an academic museum.³ Staff time allocated to research activities will always be balanced in respect of The Hunterian's public programme and collections management and care responsibilities.

2.3.2 A procedure will be established with the HAAB to assess and approve staff proposals for research projects to ensure that they meet The Hunterian's aims, objectives and priorities, and that all resource implications have been considered

2.3.3 Hunterian staff will seek to bid for funds for research through appropriate research funding bodies

2.3.4 The Hunterian will aim to achieve better management of curatorial duties and to continue to provide support through the Collections Management team to enable periods of uninterrupted research time

³ . Embed research activity in curatorial job role and in P&DR .

- 2.3.5 A mechanism will be established to enable Hunterian staff to present information internally about ongoing and proposed research.
- 2.3.6 Staff time invested by The Hunterian in research that contributes directly to REF outcome will result in an apportionment of income to The Hunterian from the relevant unit of assessment, for reinvestment by The Hunterian in academic activity.
- 2.3.7 Staff time and other resources invested by The Hunterian in contributing to HE teaching and supervision will be funded through an appropriate disbursement to The Hunterian.

2.4 Research outcomes and impact

- 2.4.1 Research in The Hunterian will have outcomes that are:
 - Academically highly valued and
 - Widely accessible
- 2.4.2 Hunterian staff will present their research in the form of
 - Peer-reviewed academic publications
 - Literature in the public realm such as exhibition catalogues
 - New permanent displays and special exhibitions
 - Research pages on The Hunterian website
 - Contributions to UoG Teaching and Learning
 - Seminars, conferences and lectures
 - Public programmes

3. The HUNTERIAN'S PRIORITY ACADEMIC GOALS (2012/13-2017)

- 3.1 Creation of an excellent research environment through the development of the Hunterian Collections Study Centre at Kelvin Hall
- 3.2 Develop collections research and teaching themes exploring our unique multidisciplinary 18th-century Enlightenment foundation and museum heritage
- 3.3 Delivery of a Hunterian permanent display, special exhibition and in-focus exhibits programme, exploring where possible transdisciplinary themes
- 3.4 Development of Collections Documentation and Collections Management System and web interface as primary research and teaching
- 3.5 Delivery and enhancement of the Hunterian Learning Plan (UG, PGT, PGR and Lifelong Learning)
- 3.6 Fostering of UoG Internationalisation and international academic collaborations