# Queen's University - Discussion Document

Queen's University Belfast is an international centre of research and education and a major part of the fabric of Northern Ireland.

As a member of the Russell Group, we are ranked as one of the **UK's top ten** research-intensive universities. The University has won the Queen's Anniversary Prize for Further and Higher Education on six occasions for world-class achievements in cyber-security, cancer research, environmental research, paleoecology, law and green chemistry.

Our ambition is to provide an exceptional student experience and high quality education from an institution that instils intellectual curiosity, innovation and best practice in education, teaching and student support. Entrepreneurship and employability skills are key attributes of the student experience and are embedded in the curriculum across the University.

Underpinning these aspirations is the delivery of an internationally recognised, dynamic learning environment that supports students and provides life-enhancing opportunities. We aim to ensure that our graduates are equipped as global citizens and future leaders who can make a positive difference in the world.

In the past ten years, the Higher Education sector has become ever more competitive. Student-led league tables are focused on employability, the student experience, research impact, innovation and institutional sustainability.

Today's students favour active, social, experiential learning and we need to provide the environment to facilitate this. Students are highly social, connecting with friends, family, fellow students and staff, both face-to-face and online. They say that they value being with other people and want their university experience to promote those connections.

**At a Glance:**

- In the **top 1%** of global universities
- **76%** of our work is in the top two categories of world research
- **170,000 alumni** in more than **120 countries**
- **23,000** students
- **88%** student satisfaction rating
- One of Belfast's largest employers with **3,700 staff**
- Queen's contributes over **£1bn annually** to the Northern Ireland economy
- **9th** oldest university in the UK (founded in 1845)



## Accelerating Excellence —*Vision2020*

March 2014 marked the beginning of a new phase in Queen's transformational journey. With the appointment of the new President and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Patrick Johnston, Queen's embarked on a new vision to be *"a world-class international university that supports outstanding students and staff, working in world class facilities, conducting leading-edge education and research, focused on the needs of society". Vision 2020* provides a framework for delivering new levels of excellence in higher education. Three areas of focus have been put in place to prioritise growth:

1. **Developing excellence in research by doubling our research income to £110 million**
2. **Expanding our postgraduate community from 23% to 30%**
3. **Widening our global reach by increasing our international students from 8% to 20%**

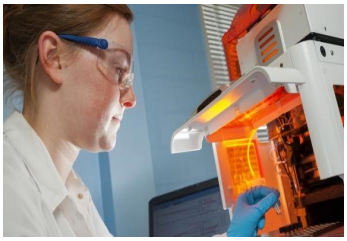
*"To make Queen's a global choice for education and research, we must create a community built on excellence, intellectual challenge, and inclusiveness that will transform lives and inspire futures; and develop Queen's graduates to be leaders and innovators."*

**Professor Patrick Johnston,** President and Vice-Chancellor

# Investing in our Most Urgent Priorities

*Vision 2020* looks beyond the status quo and encourages investment in all that we do to deliver our mission fully. Investments such as those outlined below will differentiate our graduates and help them become citizens of the world. Our funding priorities are aimed at attracting the brightest students, retaining the best Faculty and delivering high quality learning environments:

## 1. Establish innovative, leading-edge research institutes



Our goal is to be distinguished by our academic strengths and recognised globally for the social, economic and cultural benefit we deliver through our research. We have created four world-leading Global Research Institutes that focus on the big questions of society: *Global Food Security; Global Peace, Security and Justice; Electronics, Communications and Information Technology; and Health Sciences.* These complex global challenges require leadership and collaboration on an international level. We are positioned to become the thought leader in these four areas of expertise.

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## 2. Provide scholarships and fellowships to engage the brightest scholars

A key priority is to advance our research ambition and social impact through the development of future leaders. *The Queen's Fellows* will be a prestigious network of inspirational researchers who through their research discoveries will help drive practical changes locally, nationally and internationally. Fellowships will be highly competitive and will seek outstanding individuals from across the world with established global connections.

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## 3. Create new and enhanced world-class campus infrastructure



To continue to attract high achieving students, the University must provide facilities that will meet the needs of a changing student population. A proposal for a new **Integrated Student Centre** is part of the vision to develop a state-of-the-art student hub that will create an *emotional heart* of Queen's and symbolise the ambition that we have for every student. If The McClay Library is widely known as the academic core, we want to create a vibrant student space that centralises all student support services and offers a unique hub for activity.

Research shows that students who engage with services are more likely to have a positive experience, attain better results and secure the best employment opportunities. A new iconic building will improve the infrastructure of the University and create an accessible facility that will be the heartbeat of life on campus. The centre will bring together all student services under one roof, thus increasing student engagement and enhancing the support received, helping young people to develop into the leaders, entrepreneurs and global citizens of tomorrow.

## Your Participation

To help achieve our vision, the University has commissioned a fundraising feasibility study to seek the advice of the greater "Queen's community" on the potential for philanthropic support. Through feedback received, we aim to tailor the fundraising strategy, set realistic goals and develop an appropriate action plan. We invite your feedback in the following areas:

- Overall impression of Queen's University Belfast
- Reaction to the funding priorities
- Opinion on fundraising
- Input on obstacles that could limit success



Thank you for your participation. Your insights and ideas will help guide us at this important juncture of our development.