

UNSW “ INNOVATION STATEMENT ”

UNSW 2025 Strategy

In October 2015 UNSW published a strategy for the next decade. The *2025 Strategy* commits UNSW to work with government, industry and the community to translate research advances into social progress and economic prosperity. UNSW aspires to be increasingly known for its focus on innovation, the scale and extent of interactions involving staff, students and alumni with industry, business, government and with our community partners. UNSW will build upon an existing track record as one of Australia's leading knowledge exchange universities to achieve a step change in the translation of research into economic and social outcomes.

The National context

The government has focused attention on the key role that innovation and research play in improving economic and social outcomes and in transforming Australia. University research lies at the heart of this transformation. For every dollar invested in university research, between \$5 and \$10 is returned to the national economy – equivalent to an annualised return of 60-100%¹. While additional strategic investment in research is a necessary condition for innovation, it is far from sufficient. To achieve even greater returns, Australia needs to stimulate entrepreneurialism and intensify knowledge exchange between universities and industry.

UNSW Innovation Precinct

The UNSW Innovation Precinct will continue to be an important focus of our efforts to embed innovation and entrepreneurship into our research and education culture. The Precinct will involve a series of new developments and partnerships which will bring together industry, small to medium sized enterprises (SMEs), entrepreneurs, investors and policy makers from around the world to our campus. The UNSW campus is ideally placed to link outstanding research with new incubator developments and a new Innovation Park in Eastern Sydney.

The Precinct will link all the steps in the innovation–research–development–translation value chain, from harnessing the creativity of our students, staff and alumni, through to incubating our best ideas and bridging them to industry or the end-users of our research. The Precinct will work closely with, and leverage off, UNSW Innovations – the technology transfer and innovation office of UNSW.

UNSW will work with Government at all levels, including the Commonwealth Government and its Innovation Agenda, the NSW Government and its “Silicon Harbour” initiative, as well as with local Councils to ensure that UNSW innovation creates jobs and stimulates economic activity both locally and nationally. Leveraging its Canberra campus, UNSW will work with the ACT Government and its Business Development Strategy, particularly as a Foundation Member of the Canberra Innovation Network.

UNSW will deliver our vision for innovation and economic progress through the following new or expanded programs:

Five UNSW Innovation Programs

1. Attracting and Nurturing Skills

- UNSW will make strategic recruitments in areas aligned with existing UNSW research strengths and areas of national importance. Our recruitment strategy will strengthen both the basic and the applied aspects of the innovation pipeline.
- UNSW will establish a 1000 Interns Program to create innovation 'carriers' between UNSW and industry.
- UNSW will continue to develop its student innovation spaces; extending our new Michael Crouch Innovation Centre to a series of Innovation Centres across the campus.

2. Embedding and empowering an innovation culture

- UNSW will develop engagement metrics to incentivise, track, recognise and reward researcher engagement with industry.
- By embedding knowledge exchange specialists in faculties, UNSW will increase our capacity to identify, nurture and rapidly translate research discoveries which have applied potential.
- UNSW's Scientia Fellowship Program will implement a flexible career pathway for academics to spend time in industry, and provide programs to encourage industry leaders to contribute to shaping research at UNSW.
- UNSW will emphasise the importance of innovation across its educational programs and seek to provide in-depth opportunities for increasing numbers of students to develop relevant skills and experience.

3. Creating and growing partnerships with industry

- UNSW will improve the gateway for industry and business partners to engage with its staff, students and resources through the Easy Access Innovation Portal.
- UNSW will expand its Easy Access IP model to Easy Access Research, moving further its research into industry, and eliminating legal complexities for most of the research conducted at UNSW.
- UNSW will scale up its successful student start-up program with the aim of creating more than 100 start-ups per year.
- UNSW will introduce a first step Voucher Scheme for SMEs, entrepreneurs and start-ups to use to purchase engagement with the university.
- Each year, UNSW will host up to 50 multi-disciplinary interactive "sandpit" programs with researchers and industry to stimulate novel thinking in topics of national importance.
- In partnership with NSW Health, UNSW will open an internationally accredited Scientia Clinical Research Facility in 2016. The facility will be available to all university, government and industry partners, allowing laboratory medical discoveries to be taken to market.

4. Building infrastructure

- UNSW will intensify and extend the number of enhanced industry incubators across the UNSW Campus. These incubators provide space and infrastructure for UNSW researchers to work closely with industry partners. UNSW will focus on areas of strategic research strength and industry demand, including energy, advanced materials, biomedical engineering and sustainability.
- UNSW will develop a major new Innovation Park adjacent to the UNSW Randwick campus by 2020, building on UNSW's existing national and international industry network and emerging partnerships from the industry incubator activity on campus.

5. Forging Partnerships for Innovation

- UNSW will play a leading role in establishing a New Academic Health Science Partnership across Sydney which links three Universities (UNSW, UTS and WSU) with three Local Health Districts² and six Medical Research Institutes³.
- UNSW will support the establishment of the National Universities Innovation Group⁴ and work to ensure it enables the next major step forward in research commercialisation.
- UNSW will continue to leverage its existing role in its other successful sectoral technology partnerships such as ATP Innovations⁵ and UniSeed⁶.
- UNSW will establish Commercial Research Consortia to bring transformational research to market such as solar energy, quantum computing and biomedical devices.
- UNSW will play a leadership role with other NSW-based universities and research organisations in support of the State Government's long-term objectives for the development of the Bays Precinct site as one of the major technology hubs for the Southern Hemisphere.
- UNSW will play a leadership role with other ACT universities and research organisations in driving innovation in the nation's capital in areas such as cyber security and space through its Foundation Membership of the Canberra Innovation Network.

Strategic long term collaboration and investment required

UNSW is well placed to play a major “relationship orchestration⁷” role in bringing researchers and industry closer together. However, UNSW cannot do this alone. Success will only be possible with strategic long-term investment, commitment and cultural change from across both research and industry sectors. Nevertheless, UNSW is prepared to take the first step by investing significantly in the programs outlined above and stands ready to work with government, industry and other research partners in delivering the full benefit from innovation and research to Australia.

² South East, South West and St Vincents Local Health Districts

³ Garvan Institute of Medical research, Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute, Neuroscience Research Australia, Black Dog Institute, Children's Cancer Institute, Ingham Institute of Applied Medical Research.

⁴ A proposed investment fund modelled on the IP Group in the UK. This partnership includes the Group of Eight and Auckland University. It proposes to establish a multi-hundred million investment fund for technology transfer.

⁵ ATP Innovations – A partnership with the University of Sydney, UTS and ANU. ATP Innovations has worked with more than 80 businesses over the last several years, helping them raise over \$121 million and sell products across the globe.

⁶ Uniseed - A partnership with the Universities of Sydney, Melbourne and Queensland as well as CSIRO. Uniseed is establishing a \$50m fund over 10 years to invest in early stage projects up to \$250k.

⁷ Harvard Business Review <https://hbr.org/2014/11/what-airbnb-uber-and-alibaba-have-in-common>.

UNSW INNOVATION LEADER



1st in Australia for the number of millionaires amongst its alumni

Spear's Wealth Insight (2014)



1st University-based startup legal centre in Australia



1st in Australia for the number of graduates who have become ASX100 CEOs

Leading Company (2012)



1st in Australia for Industry-focused Australian Research Council (ARC) linkage grants

\$78m from 234 grants, \$170m invested by partners

For more details on UNSW innovation outcomes:

10 innovations that changed the world
10innovations.unsw.edu.au/

15 women changing the world
15trailblazers.unsw.edu.au/

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Biggest student startup program in Australia

562 programs supported since 2014



Founding partner ATP innovations: World's no.1 Technology incubator

2014 International Business Innovation Association Incubator of the Year



Top performing easy access IP organisation worldwide

National Centre for Universities and Business (UK) 2015 report

