



# Research Enablement Framework (REF) Policy

## ORYX UNIVERSITY

*In Partnership with Liverpool John Moores University*

### Institutional Research Strategy and Operating Model

|                     |                                               |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
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### Version History

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# 1. Purpose of the Policy

The purpose of this policy is to formally establish the **Research Enablement Framework (REF)** as the institutional model for planning, managing, governing, and evaluating all research and innovation activities at ORYX University.

The REF provides a structured and unified approach that ensures research activities are:

- Strategically aligned with institutional priorities
- Compliant with ethical and funding requirements
- Supported by robust governance and digital infrastructure
- Measurable through institutional KPIs
- Translatable into academic, societal, and economic impact

This policy formalises REF as the **central research operating system of the university**.

All research activities conducted under the Research Enablement Framework shall comply with the requirements set out in the Research Ethics & Governance Framework (**RKEO-POL-Research Ethics & Governance Framework**).

# 2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All academic staff engaged in research activities
- Research centres, groups, and laboratories
- Undergraduate and postgraduate research supervision activities (where applicable)
- All externally and internally funded research projects
- Collaborative projects with industry and external partners

# 3. Policy Statement

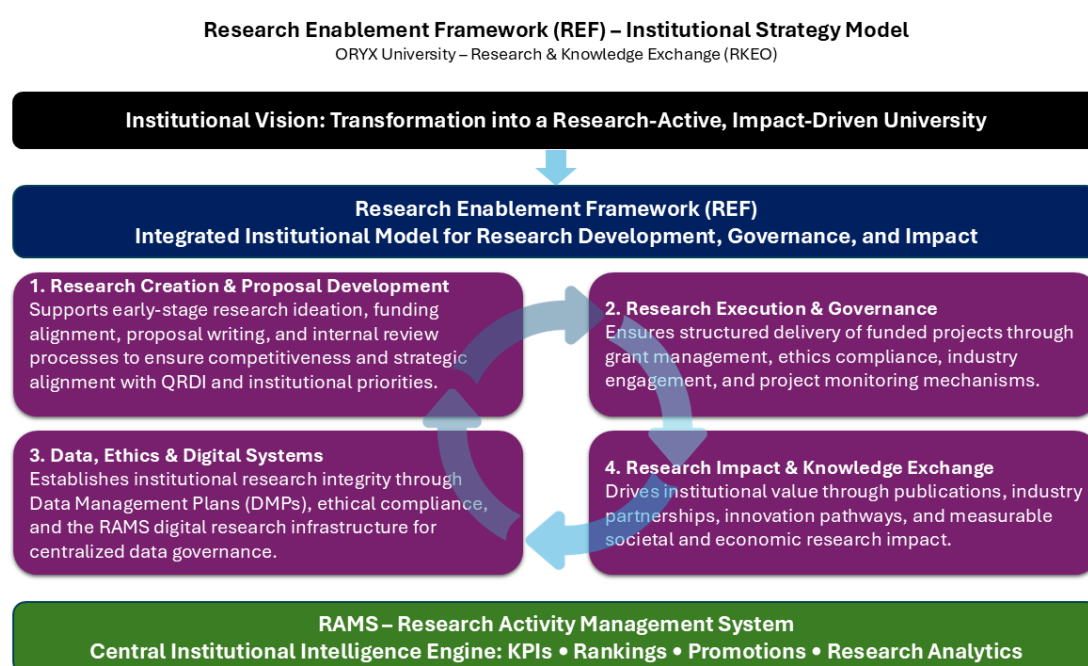
ORYX University adopts the **Research Enablement Framework (REF)** as its official institutional model for research development and governance.

REF establishes a structured ecosystem that integrates research development, execution, compliance, data governance, and impact generation into a unified institutional system.

All research activities must align with REF principles and processes as defined in this policy.

## 4. Structure of the Research Enablement Framework (REF)

The REF is built around four interconnected institutional pillars:



### 4.1 Research Creation and Proposal Development

This pillar governs the early stage of research development, ensuring that all ideas are refined into fundable, high-quality proposals.

It includes:

- Research idea development and refinement
- Funding opportunity identification and alignment
- Grant writing support and guidance
- Internal proposal review and approval processes

This ensures that all submitted proposals are competitive, strategically aligned, and funder-ready.

## 4.2 Research Execution and Governance

This pillar governs the delivery phase of funded research projects.

It includes:

- Grant management and financial compliance
- Research ethics approval and monitoring
- Industry and external partner engagement
- Project implementation oversight

This ensures that all research is executed in a controlled, compliant, and transparent manner.

## 4.3 Research Data, Ethics, and Institutional Systems

This pillar provides the digital and compliance backbone of the university's research ecosystem.

It includes:

- Data Management Plans (DMPs) for all research projects
- Research integrity and compliance standards
- Centralised research governance via the RAMS platform
- Secure data storage, access, and archiving protocols

This ensures that research data is managed responsibly, securely, and in accordance with international standards.

## 4.4 Research Impact, Innovation, and Knowledge Exchange

This pillar ensures that research outputs translate into measurable institutional and societal value.

It includes:

- Publication and dissemination strategies
- Research performance tracking and KPI reporting
- Industry Collaboration and partnerships
- Commercialisation and innovation pathways
- Contribution to institutional ranking frameworks

This ensures research directly contributes to institutional reputation, economic value, and strategic positioning.

## 5. Role of the RAMS Platform

The **Research Activity Management System (RAMS)** is the official digital infrastructure supporting REF implementation.

RAMS serves as the **central institutional research intelligence system**, enabling:

- Real-time tracking of research activities
- Faculty research profile dashboards
- KPI generation and reporting (excluded in the current version of RAMS)
- Grant and publication tracking
- Evidence for promotion and appraisal
- Institutional ranking data support

All research activity must be recorded and maintained within RAMS as part of institutional compliance.

## 6. Governance and Responsibilities

### 6.1 RKEO Office

- Overall governance and implementation of REF
- Development of research policies and frameworks
- Oversight of RAMS system and research data integrity
- Support for funding applications and research development

### 6.2 Academic Staff

- Compliance with REF processes and guidelines
- Accurate reporting of research activities in RAMS
- Adherence to ethical and data management requirements
- Active participation in research development and dissemination

### 6.3 Deans and College Leadership

- Ensuring faculty engagement with REF

- Monitoring research performance at college level
- Supporting strategic alignment of research activities

## 6.4 Executive Leadership

- Strategic oversight of REF implementation
- Use of KPI outputs for institutional decision-making
- Approval of research priorities and resource allocation

## 7. Compliance Requirements

All research activities must comply with:

- Institutional ethical approval processes
- Institutional Research Policies and Guidelines
- Funding body regulations (e.g., QRDI requirements)
- Data protection and confidentiality standards
- Intellectual property and authorship policies

Non-compliance may result in delays in approval, funding restrictions, or administrative review.

## 8. Monitoring and Evaluation

REF implementation will be continuously monitored through:

- RAMS-generated KPI dashboards
- Annual research performance reports
- Grant acquisition and success rates
- Publication and impact metrics
- External partnership outcomes

These indicators will inform institutional strategy, ranking performance, and resource allocation.

## 9. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed:

- Every 2 years, or
- Earlier if required due to changes in funding requirements, institutional strategy, or regulatory frameworks

## 10. Conclusion

The Research Enablement Framework (REF) establishes a unified, structured, and strategic model for research at ORYX University. It transforms research from a set of individual activities into a coordinated institutional system supported by governance, digital infrastructure, and performance measurement.

REF positions ORYX University to strengthen its research culture, enhance external competitiveness, and achieve sustainable long-term research impact.