

## MacEwan Tactical Plan for Scholarship 2023 - Summary

As an undergraduate teaching institution, MacEwan University is a place for scholarly activity that is inclusive, innovative, and impactful. Our Scholarship, which encompasses research and creative activity, enables teaching greatness and leads to improved communities, societies, and environments.

### Objectives of MacEwan University's Tactical Plan for Scholarship

MacEwan's 2023 Tactical Plan for Scholarship reflects our continued growth in scholarly activity. It complements our institutional Strategic Vision - [Teaching Greatness-Strategic Vision 2030](#) - by implementing the scholarly activity aspects of it, including metrics to monitor our progress.

Our tactical plan has three overarching goals:

1. Strengthening the quality of MacEwan's Scholarship – As an evolving institution, we continue to nurture a culture of creative and scholarly excellence that complements our institutional pursuit of teaching greatness. This includes developing mentorship programs and other approaches to support early career researchers. We continue to build a robust system for undergraduate research. We are continuing to develop our MacEwan specific CRCP Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Action Plan to develop, monitor and evaluate our research ecosystem through the lens of EDI principles.
2. Building capacity to expand MacEwan's Scholarship - Scholarly growth happens when faculty members and students get the chance to pursue new opportunities inside and outside our institution. MacEwan's Office of Research Services (ORS), working with internal and external stakeholders, will develop clear pathways for community partners to engage with and collaborate with MacEwan on scholarly pursuits. This will involve working with Faculties, Schools and the library to ensure faculty members have appropriate support to conduct their scholarly activity, including the pursuit of dedicated funding for research activity and infrastructure, or collaborative work with other institutions using shared spaces. We also want to grow our cross and multidisciplinary scholarship through expanded opportunities for interdisciplinary dialogue and collaboration. This growth could be internal as well as external through enhanced community partnerships and international engagement. We strive to create opportunities to align and position existing and future scholarly activity to make an impact on shared societal goals and objectives at local,

national, and international levels. An example of the latter category is the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

3. Utilizing Scholarship to increase meaningful engagement with communities - Effective scholarship must demonstrate impact, recognizing that impact can take many forms. We must define appropriate metrics and collect the necessary data to allow us to show the impact of our scholarly output. We will build relationships with government, industry, and other external stakeholders to enable our scholarly outputs to be integrated into the community, including informing public policy decisions. We also will develop approaches for communicating and celebrating the value of our scholarly achievements.

### **MacEwan's Priority Areas for Research and Research Training**

While MacEwan welcomes and promotes scholarly activity in all areas, we are pursuing areas of scholarly excellence that will position MacEwan as a local, national, and international centre for scholarly excellence. Our current and future Canada Research Chairs will be our initial areas of excellence. The priority areas, inspired by our CRCs, focus on gender and sexual diversity, urban wellness, social entrepreneurship, and immersive learning. Additional areas of excellence will be developed outside our CRCs in response to societal needs and faculty member expertise.

### **Equity and Gender Representation at MacEwan**

MacEwan University is committed to the principles of diversity, equity and inclusion. Equitable recruitment of CRC candidates is a priority at MacEwan. Two of our four CRC personnel (active chair holders or nominations) are female. We used an executive recruitment firm for our searches to ensure we reached as diverse an applicant pool as possible. Gender and other forms of equity guide the composition of the search committee. Unconscious bias and other relevant training are provided to search committee members through MacEwan's office of Office of Human Rights, Diversity and Equity.

## Deployment of Canada Research Chairs and CFI Support at MacEwan

Title	CRC – Tri-Agency	CRC Status	CFI
The Public Understanding of Sexual and Gender Minority Youth in Canada	Tier 2-SSHRC	Awarded 2019-2025 (Nomination for Renewal 2025-2030)	
Urban Wellness-Urban Governance and Policy	Tier 2-SSHRC	Nomination for 2023-2028	JELF submission
Social Entrepreneurship in Disadvantaged or Marginalized Communities	Tier 2-SSHRC	Nomination for 2023-2028	JELF submission
Immersive Learning	Tier 2-SSHRC	Nomination for 2024-2029	JELF submission

## Development of Research and Research Training at MacEwan

MacEwan has an internal research grant program that provides initial funding for scholarly activity with the expectation that faculty members will then seek external funding to further grow and scale up their research program. All our existing and future CRCs are leading or will lead a research centre. Aligning our CRCs with a dedicated research centre will ensure that the CRCs have the necessary infrastructure and other resources to lead CRC quality research including training of highly qualified personnel and innovative forms of community engagement and knowledge mobilization.

We have prioritized access to our institutional allocation of the John Evans Leader’s Fund (JELF) for our Canada Research Chair nominations. Any remaining JELF funds are made available on a competitive basis to faculty members to enable the scale-up of existing research.

## **Inter-institutional and Inter-sectoral Collaborations at MacEwan**

MacEwan has always been known as a community-engaged institution and much of our scholarly activity is done in collaboration with community partners. Our existing and in-development research centers will be living laboratories that spark curiosity and the development and scale up of ideas to develop the talent and knowledge to respond to shared global challenges. Our research centers are hubs that integrate MacEwan faculty members and students with community partners, post-secondary collaborators, and industry to advance research in key areas.

## **Assessment of Success in Meeting the Objectives of Our Tactical Plan**

Our tactical plan includes a detailed implementation plan with a set of objectives, actions, and metrics to monitor progress. Examples of current metrics include:

- Number of internal and external grant applications and applicants per year
- Number of successful Tri-Agency grant applications and applicants per year
- Amount of USRA funding and the number of students supported by USRA grants
- Percentage of internal grant applicants who applied for an external grant in the 3-5 years following an internal grant application
- Number of Community Engaged Scholarship events held by the Office of Research Services
- Analytics for knowledge mobilization activities such as the Research Recast(ed) podcast series

## **MacEwan's Planning and Approval Process**

MacEwan's Tactical plan for Scholarship was developed through a thorough consultation process with the university community as well as with community stakeholders. MacEwan's General Faculties Council Standing Committee on Scholarly Activity led much of the analysis and iterative development of the tactical plan. The final version of the plan was approved by MacEwan's General Faculties Council.

Yearly reporting on the objectives and metrics in the plan will be provided to MacEwan's General Faculties Council Standing Committee on Scholarly Activity as well as to other relevant bodies.