

INSPIRE 2016

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***ARTICULATING YOUR
RESEARCH IMPACT***

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UTS:
GRADUATE
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RESEARCH IMPACT WHAT IS IT/ WHY DOES IT MATTER?

- What is meant by research impact and what does it mean to me?
- Changes related to academic perspectives on impact;
- Why is it important?
- How can I begin to articulate my own research impact?

RESEARCH QUALITY

We are good at benchmarking and measuring research quality:

- Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA)
- World rankings (Times, QS, SJTU Top 500)
- Publication quality – “ranked journals”
- Citation figures
- Funding applications – assessed on quality (of the idea, the individuals etc.)

BUT – we haven’t measured the impact that research has.... Until now

DEFINING RESEARCH IMPACT

“Research impact is the demonstrable contribution that research makes to the economy, society, culture, national security, public policy or services, health, the environment, or quality of life, beyond contributions to academia.”

Australian Research Council
(<http://www.arc.gov.au/general/impact.htm>)

RESEARCH OUTCOME AND RESEARCH IMPACT – WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?

The movement for evidence-based policy began in health research in the 1990s. It was rapidly joined to a political mandate demanding demonstration of economic impact from research council funding in terms of measured outcomes rather than just research outputs.

Question: What is the difference between a research outcome and a research impact?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7z_SHAUVhWQ

OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES

Outputs

Delivery of research results to a client or user group. Though this is a prerequisite for future impact it falls short of constituting an impact.

Publication of results in a journal or at a conference.

Securing a patent or other form of IP protection.

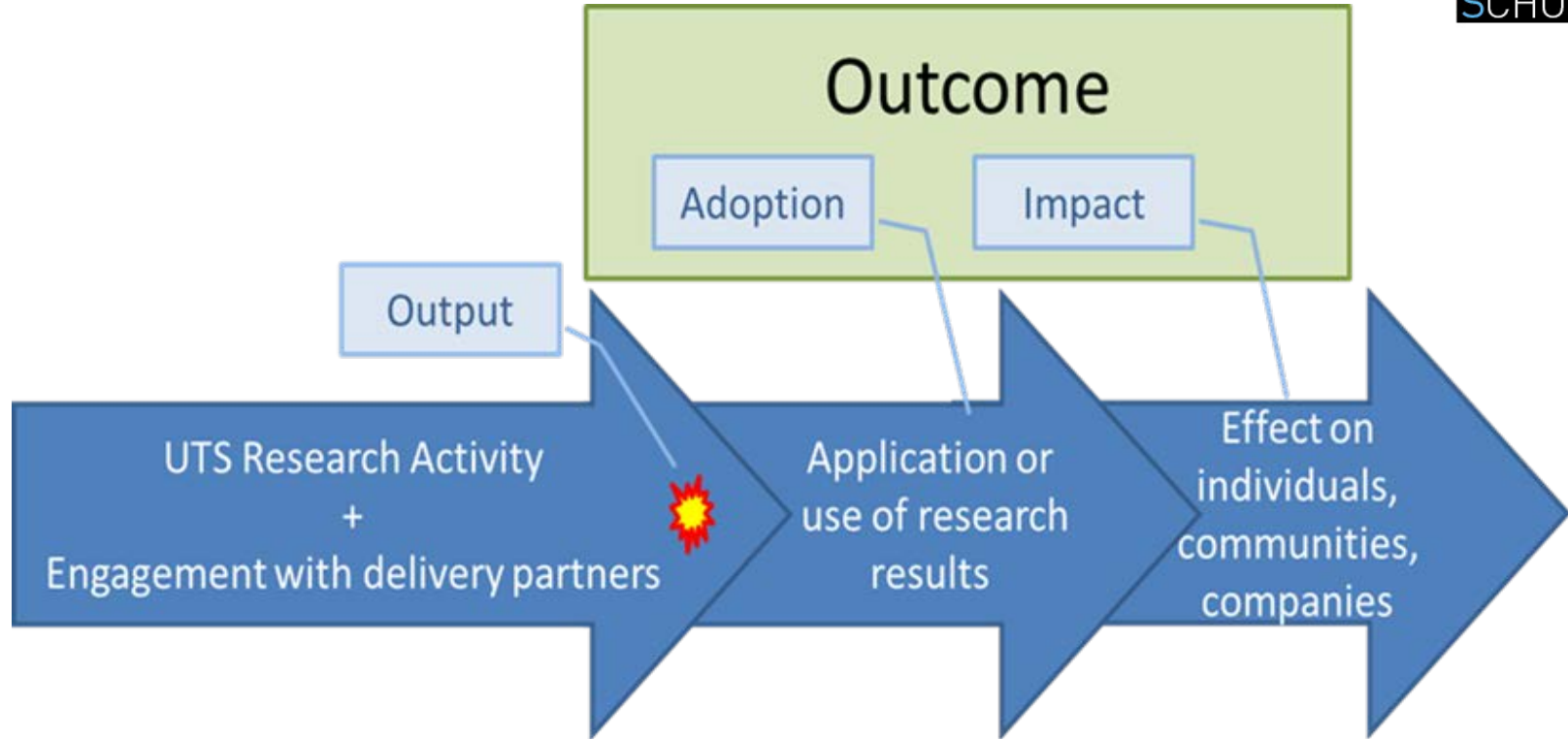
Outcomes

Adoption: the application or use of the results of your research outside your university.

Impact: is a proven benefit that has been achieved through the application or utilisation of the results of your research.

Outcome: either adoption or impact (or both). It explicitly requires action by, or effects on individuals or organisations external to your university

OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES



POTENTIAL ROUTES TO IMPACT VIA YOUR RESEARCH

- Knowledge – scientific advances; technique
- People – skills; people ‘pipeline’
- Society/Health – international development; policy; health; quality of life
- Economy – new companies; inward investment; products and procedures and wealth creation.

Economic and Social Research Council (UK)

DRIVERS FOR CARRYING OUT RESEARCH – REFLECTION POINTS

Activity – consider your drivers for carrying out research (see handout) – such as:

- Making a difference;
- Influencing policy and practice;
- Answering and posing new questions and
- Creating new products/services;

Tracing your route – define the problem(s) you are exploring:

- i) Whose problems are you trying to solve?
- ii) Who are your user communities?

WHO WOULD BE INTERESTED IN YOUR RESEARCH?

Activity: Consider your own research, who might be interested in it and how will it make a difference to them?

- Who will benefit from your research?
- How will they benefit?
- What will you do to ensure they have the opportunity to benefit?
- How can you involve potential beneficiaries in your research?
- How will you know if your research has made a difference?

Source: Economic and Social Research Council (UK)

DEMONSTRATING IMPACT

The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada ask research grant applicants to outline the following:

Expected Outcomes: Elaborate on the potential benefits and/or outcomes of your proposed research and/or related activities.

> Indicate and rank up to 3 scholarly benefits relevant to your proposal.

Social Benefits: Indicate and rank up to 3 social benefits relevant to your proposal.

Audiences: Indicate and rank up to 5 potential target audiences relevant to your proposal.

Expected Outcomes Summary: Describe the potential benefits/outcomes (e.g., evolution, effects, potential learning, implications) that could emerge from the proposed research and/or other partnership activities.

**Activity: Write a SMART objective
for your project in two sentences**

S-Specific

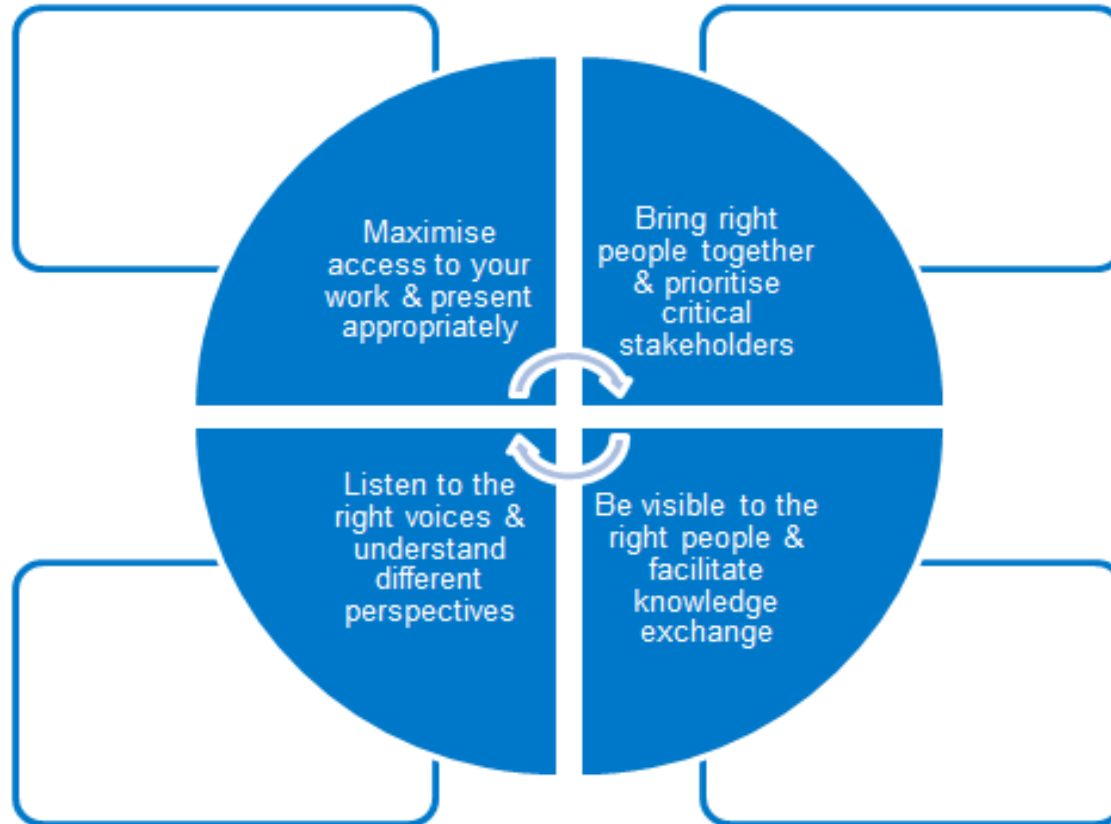
M-Measurable

A-Achievable

R-Realistic

T-Timely

PLANNING IMPACT INTO YOUR RESEARCH PROCESS



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