

DRUSSA

Development Research Uptake
in Sub-Saharan Africa

DRUSSA Benchmarking Survey 2016

DRUSSA

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The Association
of Commonwealth
Universities



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Introduction

Welcome to the DRUSSA Benchmarking Survey. This, the third and final iteration of the survey, will serve to gauge the overall impact that the DRUSSA Programme has had on individual and institutional Research Uptake Management capacity. It will interrogate the manifold successes and challenges in strengthening institutional Research Uptake Management. Moreover, the survey will assess the sustainability of research uptake activities initiated during the programme. Whilst we recognise that this will ask you to provide more information than in previous surveys, we anticipate that your answers will inform DRUSSA's final recommendations and provide direction for future programmes.

The structure and questions of the survey are the same (or similar) to the DRUSSA Benchmarking Surveys in 2012 and 2014, consisting of **five sections** and will take **approximately 40 minutes to complete**. You can also download a copy of the whole survey – or parts of the survey – by choosing the '**Click for a print-friendly PDF of your survey**' under 'Completion Process' on the main survey screen.

In the main form you will also be able to see your university's responses from previous years' surveys, which will act as a reference when completing the current survey. Where no change has occurred, there is an option to copy individual responses to specific questions from previous years into the current survey, by clicking on the '**Copy**' icon in the survey form.

Section A – Research uptake strategy

This section covers some key areas related to your university's strategic approach of research uptake. This includes university management, structures, functions and priorities relating to the dissemination and communication of research and the engagement of key external stakeholders.

The functions and processes that enable efficient research uptake may be shared across any number of offices, including the Vice-Chancellor's office, research, public relations, communications, marketing, knowledge transfer offices/functions, extension services, and the library. In other words, any offices involved in the preparation of research results for your university's public stakeholders.

NOTE: For your reference, your university's previous answers are indicated in the relevant fields below. Please indicate any changes that might have occurred as of 2016 as directed below.

1. Does your university have an overall policy or strategy on research?

	2016	If appropriate, does it include a focus on research uptake or getting research into use?
Overall policy or strategy on research?	Drop down menu with users able to select from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes - No - Yes, but expired - No, but in development - Don't know 	Drop down menu with users able to select from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes - No - Don't know
<i>Please elaborate using this space.</i>		
Reported in 2014	Yes	
Reported in 2012	Yes	

2. Does your university have a specific office or post with responsibility for either communicating research and/or getting research into use?

	2016	If Yes, what is the name of the office or post
Specific office/post for communicating research and/or getting research into use?	Drop down menu with users able to select from: - Yes - No - Don't know	
<i>Please elaborate using this space.</i>		
Reported in 2014	Yes	
Reported in 2012	Yes	

3. Which other offices in your university (either academic or administrative) do you believe have an interest in Research Uptake? Please tick all that apply.

	2016	Reported in 2014	Reported in 2012
Research management office		X	
Extension or community engagement office			
External advisory boards/ commercial services		X	
Industrial liaison offices and offices managing intellectual property and knowledge transfer/knowledge exchange			
Vice-Chancellor's Office			
Office of Public Relations or Marketing			
Library		X	
HR / Staff Development Office			
Continuing Education units			
ICT Office			
Alumni Office			
Other			
<i>If 'Other', please elaborate using this space.</i>			

4. How would you assess attitudes towards Research Uptake amongst different levels of staff at your university? Please indicate which statement best describes the prevailing attitude among each staff group.

* Evidence of attitudes, e.g., level of engagement with Research Uptake related policies/strategies, the university council, advisory boards, or (research) committees, staff with interest in Research Uptake, or level of activity, e.g., conference or workshop participation, adapting findings for website publication or external audiences.

Internal stakeholder	2016	Evidence of attitudes*	Reported in 2014	Attitude in 2012 (if known)
University leadership	Drop down menu for each stakeholder, with users able to select from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Enthusiastic, actively supportive and engaged</i> - <i>Supportive, but not actively engaged</i> - <i>Interested, but not experienced</i> - <i>Disinterested, and not experienced</i> - <i>Unconvinced and resistant</i> - <i>Visibly opposed</i> - <i>Attitudes vary considerably within this grouping</i> 	e.g., level of engagement with RU related policies/strategies, the university council, advisory boards or (research) committees, staff with interest in RU, level of activity, conference or workshop participation, adapting research findings for website publication, or external audiences.		
Deans and Directors				
Senior research staff				
Junior research staff and early career academics				
Communications and Public Relations staff				
Research Management staff				
ICT staff				
Other				
Please elaborate using this space.				

5. NEW: Since the beginning of the programme (2012), how would you rate any changes in the level of communication and cooperation between university offices and staff with an interest or responsibility for Research Uptake? Please choose from the drop-down menu.

	Drop down menu for each stakeholder, with users able to select from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Improved significantly</i> - <i>Improved</i> - <i>Same as before</i> - <i>Deteriorated</i> - <i>Deteriorated significantly</i> - <i>Don't know</i>
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<i>Please elaborate using this space.</i>	
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6. Overall, to what degree do you feel your university prioritises the following areas of research activity?
Please choose from the drop-down menu.

	Priority level 2016	Reported in 2014	Reported in 2012
Teaching	Drop down menu for each area with users able to select from: - <i>Very high priority</i> - <i>High priority</i> - <i>Average priority</i> - <i>Low priority</i> - <i>Very low priority</i>		
Research			
Externally funded research			
Outreach and extension			
Relationships/partnerships with public/NGO/private sector			
<i>Please elaborate using this space.</i>			

7. Does the university have any specific mechanisms for developing links or partnerships with the public, government, NGOs, or the private sector? *Please choose from the drop-down menu.*

	2016	Reported in 2014	Reported in 2012
Mechanisms	Drop down menu for mechanisms with users able to select from: - <i>Yes</i> - <i>No</i> - <i>Under development</i> - <i>Don't know</i>		
<i>Please elaborate using this space.</i>			

8. Are there any incentives available to encourage staff or academic departments to develop links or partnerships with the public, NGOs, or the private sector? *e.g., inclusion of research uptake in promotion criteria, revision of job description, awards or financial incentives. Please choose from the drop-down menu.*

	2016	Reported in 2014	Reported in 2012
	Drop down menu for incentives with users able to select from:		

	- Yes		
	- No		
	- Under development		
	- Don't know		
<i>Please elaborate using this space.</i>			

Section B – Research uptake processes

This section aims to determine the processes by which your university prepares research results in formats that can be readily understood by external stakeholders.

1. **Are there any mechanisms in place at your university to assess the wider impact of university research?** *Please choose from the drop-down menu.*

	2016	Reported in 2014
	Drop down menu for mechanisms with users able to select from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes - No - Don't know 	
<i>Please elaborate using this space.</i>		

2. **Are there any mechanisms in place at your university to assess the effectiveness of such mechanisms to disseminate and communicate research results?** *e.g., assessing the effectiveness of radio and TV, external newsletters, the university web site, and other means of dissemination. Please choose from the drop-down menu.*

	2016	Reported in 2014	Reported in 2012
	Drop down menu for mechanisms with users able to select from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes - No - Don't know 		
<i>Please elaborate using this space.</i>			

3. Do you have mechanisms in place to obtain feedback from potential users regarding the usefulness of your university's research and whether they benefit from it?

Please choose from the drop-down menu.

	2016	Reported in 2014	Reported in 2012
	Drop down menu for mechanisms with users able to select from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes - No - Don't know 		
Please elaborate using this space.			

4. Are Research Active* staff or post-graduate students provided with training, guidance or resources to assist with identifying/including stakeholder needs and demands, and to plan for Research Uptake, in the design and execution of research? * Research Active staff refers to a Principal or Co-investigator with at least one currently funded and on-going research project.

Please choose from the drop-down menu.

	2016	Reported in 2014	Reported in 2012
Research Active staff	Drop down menu for mechanisms with users able to select from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes - No - Don't know 	We have held open days and trade fairs which are open to the public	
NEW: Post-graduate students (Masters, PhD)			
Please elaborate using this space.			

5. Are there any ways in which the university has effectively communicated specific research findings to relevant audiences? What communication methods have been particularly successful? e.g., working closely with science journalists, formal and effective engagement with government policymakers, etc.

2016	
Reported in 2014	
Reported in 2012	

Section C – Stakeholder engagement with your research activities

This section aims to determine the university's procedures in **engaging external stakeholders**. It looks at how the university aims to drive research results into policy and practice through working closely with key decision makers and users of research findings.

1. In the grid below, please rate each external stakeholder according to:

- a. the level of **priority** that your university places on its relationship with the stakeholder
- b. the **strength of** your university's **relationship** with the stakeholder
- c. the level of **influence** you feel the external stakeholder has in shaping change in society

Please place a number from 1 (very low) to 10 (very high) in the fields below.

External stakeholders	Stakeholder Priority	Strength of relationship with stakeholder	Stakeholder Influence
Government ministries, departments and councils			
Reported in 2014			
Enterprise and industry			
Reported in 2014			
NGOs, INGOs and international associations			
Reported in 2014			
Farmers and agriculturalists			
Reported in 2014			
Health and medical professionals			
Reported in 2014			
Teachers and educators			
Reported in 2014			
Environmental groups and agencies			
Reported in 2014			
Other universities (domestically and internationally)			
Reported in 2014			
Research funders and donors			

Reported in 2014			
Media agents			
Reported in 2014			
Publishers			
Reported in 2014			
Informal sector			
Reported in 2014			
Other			
Please elaborate using this space.			

2. What *priority* does your university place on the following mechanisms to engage key external stakeholders in your research? Please choose from the drop-down menu.

	2016	Reported in 2014	Reported in 2012
Involvement of government/public sector representatives on your research boards/councils	Drop down menu for priority level, with users able to select from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Very high priority</i> - <i>High priority</i> - <i>Medium Priority</i> - <i>Low Priority</i> - <i>Very low priority</i> 		
Involvement of industry/private sector representatives on your research boards/councils			
Stakeholder consultations in setting the research agenda			
Stakeholder consultation at the research design stage			
Stakeholder consultation at the research dissemination stage			
Panels and user reference groups			
Collaborative research with other HE actors (including universities)			
Collaborative research with non-HE actors			
Community-university participatory research partnerships			
Citizen Science			
Other			
If 'other', please elaborate using this space.			

3. NEW: Can you specify any *ways/mechanisms* used by your university to put research findings into use? *e.g., formal or informal partnerships, co-creation of research projects with users or policymakers, include external representatives on research committees/boards, methods taken to the field by extension workers, etc.*

2016	
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4. How are engagement, uptake and partnership activities recorded at your university? *e.g., is a central record kept of research being adopted by external stakeholders? Does it relate to any research expertise database?*

2016	
Reported in 2014	Not being recorded so far
Reported in 2012	

5. **Can you give any examples of external stakeholders that have been able to utilise your university's research findings?** *e.g., policymakers, enterprise and industry, NGOs, farmers/agriculturalists, health/medical professionals, other universities, etc.*

2016	
Reported in 2014	Yes, but in a weak manner. The HIV Capacity Building programme funded by the NIH has had some of the project findings disseminated
Reported in 2012	

Section D – Disseminating and communicating research results

This section aims to determine your university's processes for **communicating and publicising research** findings. It looks at the ways in which the university publicises research results in order to raise the profile of the university. Rather than report on particular approaches to specific stakeholders who may utilise research (as in Section C), here you can report on how the university approaches the wider public to make research findings known.

1. **Which office(s) coordinates research publicity at your university?** *i.e., do you have a central university office/unit that publicises research on behalf of the university?*

2016	
Reported in 2014	ICT Staff
Reported in 2012	

2. **Do any of your staff have professional qualifications or experience in areas related to research dissemination and/or communication?** *Please choose from the drop-down menu and provide details in the fields below of the type/level of qualification and the office where these staff are based..*

	Yes / No / Don't know	Type/Level of Qualification	Office where based	Reported in 2014
Public Relations	Drop down menu, with users able to select from:	Drop down menu, with users able to select from: - BA/BSc - MA/MSc		
Marketing and Communication				
Journalism				

Science Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes - No - Don't know 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PhD/Doctorate - Diploma - Professional qualification - Short course - On-the-job training - Conference/workshop attendance - Membership of professional associations 		
Please elaborate using this space.				

3. How does the university announce new research projects or areas of research specialisation, both internally and externally? Please use the space below to elaborate on how any constituent part of the university announces new research activity.

	2016
How is new research/specialisation announced internally ? <i>e.g., internal newsletter, central database, research committee/council minutes, staff only access areas of website, awards/posters, email lists, etc.</i>	
Reported in 2014	Principally through newsletters
Reported in 2012	
	2016
How is new research/specialisation announced externally ? <i>e.g., public lectures, conference papers, press releases, TV, radio, publications specifically dedicated to business/industry or government, etc.</i>	
Reported in 2014	Trade fairs, open days, radio
Reported in 2012	

4. **Has your university started any initiatives between 2014 and 2016 which have aimed to make research findings and knowledge more widely known or accessible?** *i.e., to the wider public. Please choose from the drop-down menu.*

	Between 2014 and 2016	Reported in 2014	Reported in 2012
New initiatives since 2014	Drop down menu with users able to select from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes - No - Under development - Don't know 	Yes	No
Please elaborate using this space.			

5. **Does the university have a communication and/or marketing strategy?** *Please choose from the drop-down menu.*

	2016	Reported in 2014	Reported in 2012
Communication strategy	Drop down menu with users able to select from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes - No - Under development - Don't know 	Yes	No
Marketing strategy		Yes	Yes

6. **Please indicate which of the following communication channels your university employs in order to communicate research to different audiences.** *Please tick all that apply.*

	2016	Reported in 2014	Reported in 2012
Press releases to external media outlets			
Research newsletter disseminated primarily within your institution (academics, researchers and administrative managers)			
Research newsletter disseminated primarily outside your institution (general public)			
Database of research staff			

with media engagement experience, and willingness to comment publicly on research topics			
Email distribution list of external stakeholders			
Dedicated website or webpage			
Publications directed primarily towards the business community, science and/or industry			
Publications specifically directed to governments (local and national), NGOs and INGOs			
Public lectures			
Science cafes, open days and trade fairs			
University TV and radio			
External/private TV and radio			
Conference papers			
Other			
<i>If 'Other', please elaborate using this space.</i>			

Section E – DRUSSA programme influence and sustainability

In this final section we aim to determine the overall impact of the DRUSSA Programme on individual and institutional research uptake management capacity, including challenges and successes experienced over the course of the programme. We would also like to assess the sustainability research uptake initiatives and activities introduced or planned for during the programme past its completion.

1. **To what degree do you feel that the DRUSSA programme has influenced change in your university's strategic approach to research uptake?** *Please choose from the drop-down menu.*

Research uptake strategy	Drop down menu with users able to select from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Very significantly</i> - <i>Significantly</i> - <i>Somewhat</i> - <i>Not very significantly</i> - <i>Not at all</i> - <i>Don't know</i>
<i>Please elaborate using this space.</i>	
Reported in 2014	

2. **To what degree do you feel that the DRUSSA programme has influenced change in your university's processes related to research uptake?** *Please choose from the drop-down menu.*

Research uptake processes	Drop down menu with users able to select from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Very significantly</i> - <i>Significantly</i> - <i>Somewhat</i> - <i>Not very significantly</i> - <i>Not at all</i> - <i>Don't know</i>
<i>Please elaborate using this space.</i>	
Reported in 2014	

3. To what degree do you feel that the DRUSSA programme has influenced change in your university's engagement with external stakeholders? *Please choose from the drop-down menu.*

Research uptake stakeholder engagement	Drop down menu with users able to select from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Very significantly</i> - <i>Significantly</i> - <i>Somewhat</i> - <i>Not very significantly</i> - <i>Not at all</i> - <i>Don't know</i>
<i>Please elaborate using this space.</i>	
Reported in 2014	

4. To what degree do you feel that the DRUSSA programme has influenced change in your university's dissemination and communication of research findings? *Please tick the most appropriate answer.*

Research dissemination and communication	Drop down menu with users able to select from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Very significantly</i> - <i>Significantly</i> - <i>Somewhat</i> - <i>Not very significantly</i> - <i>Not at all</i> - <i>Don't know</i>
<i>Please elaborate using this space.</i>	
Reported in 2014	

5. **Between 2014 and 2016, what changes, challenges and successes have you encountered in *strengthening* your university's strategic approach to Research Uptake?** *Please provide details in the fields below.*

Changes	
Reported in 2014	
Challenges	
Reported in 2014	
Successes	
Reported in 2014	

6. **Between 2014 and 2016, what changes, challenges and successes have you encountered in *strengthening* your university's processes related to research uptake?** *Please provide details in the fields below.*

Changes	
Reported in 2014	
Challenges	
Reported in 2014	
Successes	
Reported in 2014	

7. **Between 2014 and 2016, what changes, challenges and successes have you encountered in strengthening your university's engagement with external stakeholders?** *Please provide details in the fields below.*

Changes	
Reported in 2014	
Challenges	
Reported in 2014	
Successes	
Reported in 2014	

8. **Between 2014 and 2016, what changes, challenges and successes have you encountered in strengthening your university's dissemination and communication of research findings?** *Please provide details in the fields below.*

Changes	
Reported in 2014	
Challenges	
Reported in 2014	
Successes	
Reported in 2014	

9. **Overall, which elements/activities of the DRUSSA programme have been most useful for your university's ability to strengthen research uptake capacity?** *e.g., at internal and external individual, organisational, systems levels or combinations of these.*

	2016
Useful activities to promote RUM capacity	

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10. Once the DRUSSA programme has been completed, which potential issues do you believe may affect the sustainability of research uptake capacity at your institution?

	2016
Potential issues affecting sustainability of Research Uptake post-programme completion.	

11. Overall, which elements/activities of the DRUSSA programme do you believe will be able to guide and support sustainable research uptake capacity at your university once the programme has been completed?

	2016
Sustainable guidance and support for research uptake post-programme completion.	

**Thank you for completing the
DRUSSA Benchmarking Survey 2016!**