

# Strategic Plan

2017 – 2022

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The Royal Society is the National Academy of Science in the UK.

It is a self-governing Fellowship of the UK's and the Commonwealth's most distinguished scientists and elects Fellows and Foreign Members from all over the world based on the excellence of their science. The Society's mission, as set out in its founding charters of the 1660s, is to recognise, promote and support excellence in science and to support the development and use of science for the benefit of humanity.

This Strategic Plan takes account of the changing scientific, political, cultural and social trends in the UK and globally, including the UK's decision to leave the European Union. It recognises the need to respond to future trends in science and emerging technologies and their implications for the way we live and for our environment. The Society will endeavour to ensure that the UK remains an attractive destination for outstanding researchers and scientific collaborators across the world.

The Royal Society is committed to increasing diversity among the scientific workforce and in its own activities. It will seek to collaborate with partners to promote the benefits of science. In delivering this Strategic Plan, the Society will continue to promote and uphold the highest ethical standards in, and in relation to, scientific work.

The Strategic Plan has three major priorities:

## Promoting excellence in science

The Society will engage with academia, industry, government, parliament and others to advocate for the conduct of excellent science, the establishment of the best environment for researchers in the UK and the need for a properly funded research system. It will encourage researchers to develop science and technology innovations that will benefit society and contribute to the UK economy.

The Society will continue to fund and support outstanding researchers and engage with scientists at all career stages and across scientific disciplines. It will recognise exceptional contributions to science through election to the Fellowship and through the Medals and Awards programme. It will harness technological and other innovations to develop a sustainable open access model for publishing.

## Supporting international collaboration

The Society will put increased importance on its international work with the aim of building partnerships between nations, promoting international relations and encouraging collaborations and networks that promote scientific understanding, improve scientific quality and address global challenges.

The Society will contribute to international decision-making, partner with leading scientific nations on emerging trends and technologies and support developing countries by working with them towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

## Demonstrating the importance of science to everyone

Science and innovation influence how people live their lives, as do many other aspects of society such as culture, economics or politics. Through engagement with different groups in society and with the public in general, the Society will aim to ensure that its work is informed by broader views and that science is included as part of wider public conversations.

The Society will take a lead in the provision of authoritative, accessible and independent scientific evidence to policy makers, and, where appropriate, will inform this work through public dialogue. It will engage with interested stakeholders including the legal profession, the City and cultural organisations. It will promote opportunities for the public to engage with science and scientists and advocate for the importance of science and maths education in order to equip young people with the skills they need for the future. It will inspire people through its extraordinary historic collections.



The Royal Society is a self-governing Fellowship of many of the world's most distinguished scientists drawn from all areas of science, engineering, and medicine. The Society's fundamental purpose, as it has been since its foundation in 1660, is to recognise, promote, and support excellence in science and to encourage the development and use of science for the benefit of humanity.

The Society's strategic priorities emphasise its commitment to the highest quality science, to curiosity-driven research, and to the development and use of science for the benefit of society.

These priorities are:

- Promoting excellence in science
- Supporting international scientific collaboration
- Demonstrating the importance of science to everyone

**For further information**

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