



see blue.

2015-2020 STRATEGIC PLAN

Graduate Education

2015-2020 STRATEGIC PLAN

OVERVIEW OF STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2

Strengthen the quality and distinctiveness of our graduate programs to transform our students into accomplished scholars and professionals who contribute to the Commonwealth, the nation, and the world through their research and discovery, creative endeavors, teaching, and service.



Recruit and retain
outstanding
graduate students



Invest in graduate
programs that align with
UK research priorities



Increase the quality and
national competitiveness
of graduate programs

2015-2020 STRATEGIC PLAN

EXPECTED RESULTS

Metric	Definition	Baseline	2020 Goal
Doctoral Program Selectivity	Percentage of doctoral applicants who receive offers of admission	25.0%	22.0%
Graduate Degrees Awarded	Master's, Education Specialist, and Doctoral degrees awarded	1,539	1,639
Diversity of Graduate Student Enrollment	African American/Black	4.5%	7.7%
	Hispanic/Latino	2.6%	2.7%

2015-2020 STRATEGIC PLAN

OVERVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION

All 10 action steps are currently in progress in Year One of implementation.

Status of Action Steps by Strategy: Graduate Education	Not Started	In Progress/ On Track	Completed	Total
1 Recruit and retain outstanding graduate students	0	3	0	3
2 Invest in graduate programs that align with UK research priorities	0	4	0	4
3 Increase the quality and national competitiveness of graduate programs	0	3	0	3
TOTAL	0	10	0	10

2015-2020 STRATEGIC PLAN

IMPACT STORIES



○ Allocate centrally funded aid

Block funding for stipends

- Piloted in five programs
- Commits Graduate School stipend support early in the recruiting season

- Experienced higher than usual success rates in recruiting and enrolling students, with special attention to high-quality and under-represented minority students

2015-2020 STRATEGIC PLAN

IMPACT STORIES



○ Elevate professional development

- Courses in Preparing Future Faculty and Preparing Future Professionals provide students with insightful and realistic views of doctoral job markets
- New Graduate Student Leaders Conference and GradDegree+ program provide pathways to develop leadership and other essential transferable skills
- Three-Minute Thesis competition gives graduate students across the disciplines guided practice at presenting research to public audiences and the media

2015-2020 STRATEGIC PLAN

IMPACT STORIES



○ Enhance diversity and inclusivity

Mentorship program for Lyman T. Johnson Fellows

- Mentoring program established for Lyman T. Johnson Fellows (LTJ), Southern Regional Education Board Fellows (SREB)
- 54 scholars paired with mentors
- First annual reception occurred October 5, 2016

2015-2020 STRATEGIC PLAN

RESULTS



Metric	Definition	Baseline	2015-16	2016-17	2020 Goal
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Doctoral Program Selectivity	Percentage of doctoral applicants who receive offers of admission	25.0%	32.9%	29.8%	22.0%
Graduate Degrees Awarded*	Master's, Education Specialist, and Doctoral degrees awarded	1,539	1,501	1,507	1,639
Diversity of Graduate Student Enrollment	African American/Black	4.5%	4.6%	4.7%	7.7%
	Hispanic/Latino	2.6%	2.4%	2.5%	2.7%

*Results reported from prior year

2015-2020 STRATEGIC PLAN

YEAR ONE LESSONS

YEAR ONE

Lessons learned from Year One:

- Coordinated Graduate School- and program-level communication with prospective students is essential
- Flexible funding to programs enhances the recruitment of top-performing students
- Under-represented minority graduate student mentoring enhances academic success
- Survey data clearly indicate the need for additional graduate student career exploration, career mentoring, and career preparation through centralized and departmental initiatives
- The top three transferable skills graduate students want to develop to complement their scholarly training are project management, supervision, and grant writing

2015-2020 STRATEGIC PLAN

YEAR TWO PRIORITIES

YEAR TWO

Statement of Year Two priorities:

- In partnership with the graduate programs, develop a new marketing and communication strategy to increase applications from and ultimately enrollment of high-performing domestic, international, and under-represented minority students
- Expand the block funding program
- Further promote the Climate, Inclusion, and Diversity in Graduate Education Initiative
- Develop additional support services for all graduate students
- Enhance access to data that will facilitate strategic planning at the program-, college-, and Graduate School-level



QUESTIONS