

Reflective tool for higher education institutions



When to use?

When evaluating existing institutional supports for inter- or transdisciplinary researchers and projects

Ask yourself...

- Do you provide training in key collaborative research skills, such as managing diverse groups?
- What opportunities are there for researchers from under-represented groups or disciplines to develop skills to lead collaborative research teams?
- Do you provide creative, interactive spaces between disciplines' territories, such as cafeterias, coffee rooms, hallway alcoves, that are conducive to informal conversations?
- Do you show flexibility in grouping or regrouping individuals by area or theme of research, as interests evolve, so that they can interact outside of meetings?
- Are there opportunities for researchers from multiple departments to come together and explore a new research area, e.g. through externally facilitated retreats or workshops?
- Is advice about relevant funding schemes and how to develop a high-quality grant application readily available to all researchers, including those who are not yet tenured or on short-term contracts?
- Are there small amounts of internal (seed corn) funding available to allow researchers to develop their research networks, or pilot new research ideas?
- Can budgets, time and other resources be readily and equitably shared across administrative units?
- Do your administrative units all use the same processes, for example when signing off on research proposals?
- Do you provide resources to sustain collaborations beyond the life of a specific project e.g. to organise meetings or visit partners?
- Do you celebrate or formally recognise interdisciplinary successes and cite them at high-level institutional events and in publications?
- How well do your recruitment and promotion criteria evaluate collaborative researchers?
- What kind of job security do interdisciplinary researchers have in your organisation? How does that compare with disciplinary experts?

