

# International partnerships: what next?

## Perspective from a UK university



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**KING'S**  
*College*  
**LONDON**

*Our vision  
is to make  
the world a  
better place.*

We have been making the world a better place for almost 200 years. Since our foundation in 1829, King's students and staff have dedicated themselves in the service of society.

# Strategic priorities: by 2029, King's will be...

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Educate to inspire and improve

**A recognised community of learners in which students and staff across disciplines collaborate and connect to change the world**

Research to inform and innovate

**Home to the most able and innovative researchers delivering valuable insight and ground-breaking discovery in state of the art infrastructure**

Serve to shape and transform

**Known as the university that makes a significant and innovative contribution to society and to business, beyond education and research**

A civic university at the heart of London

**Regarded throughout the world as London's leading civic university**

An international community that serves the world

**Making a significant difference on the world stage**



# Our strategic priorities

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**EDUCATE TO  
INSPIRE AND  
IMPROVE**

**1**

community of learners in which  
students and staff across disciplines  
collaborate and connect to change the  
world

global connections

# Our strategic priorities

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**RESEARCH  
TO INFORM  
AND INNOVATE**

**2**

innovative researchers delivering  
valuable insight and ground-breaking  
discovery in state-of-the-art  
infrastructure

Enable:

interdisciplinary work  
external partnerships  
academic exchanges

# Our strategic priorities

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**SERVE TO  
SHAPE AND  
TRANSFORM**

**3**

universities must make a significant and innovative contribution to society and to business, beyond education and research

Foster:

service ethic

civic engagement

engage with local and international communities

# Our strategic priorities

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**A CIVIC  
UNIVERSITY  
AT THE HEART  
OF LONDON**

**4**

## A civic university

Local partnerships with business, NGOs, agencies, government

Learning experiences to integrate London

Build partnerships with other London and UK universities to address shared challenges

# Our strategic priorities

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**AN INTERNATIONAL  
COMMUNITY  
THAT SERVES  
THE WORLD**

**5**

Address global challenges

Partnerships have become increasingly important as universities adapt to an interconnected world



# Building strategic international partnerships to drive impact

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Partnerships used to be:

- reactive; MoU-driven
- student exchanges
- dual or joint degree programmes, with largely one-way mobility
- capacity-building programmes



# Building strategic international partnerships to drive impact

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Partnerships are now developing into:

- driven by a central strategy, developed in close collaboration with academics
- performing new functions
- seen as essential for learning, student experience, HE outcomes (employability), impactful research
- important for institutional profile and reputation



# Partnership Portfolio

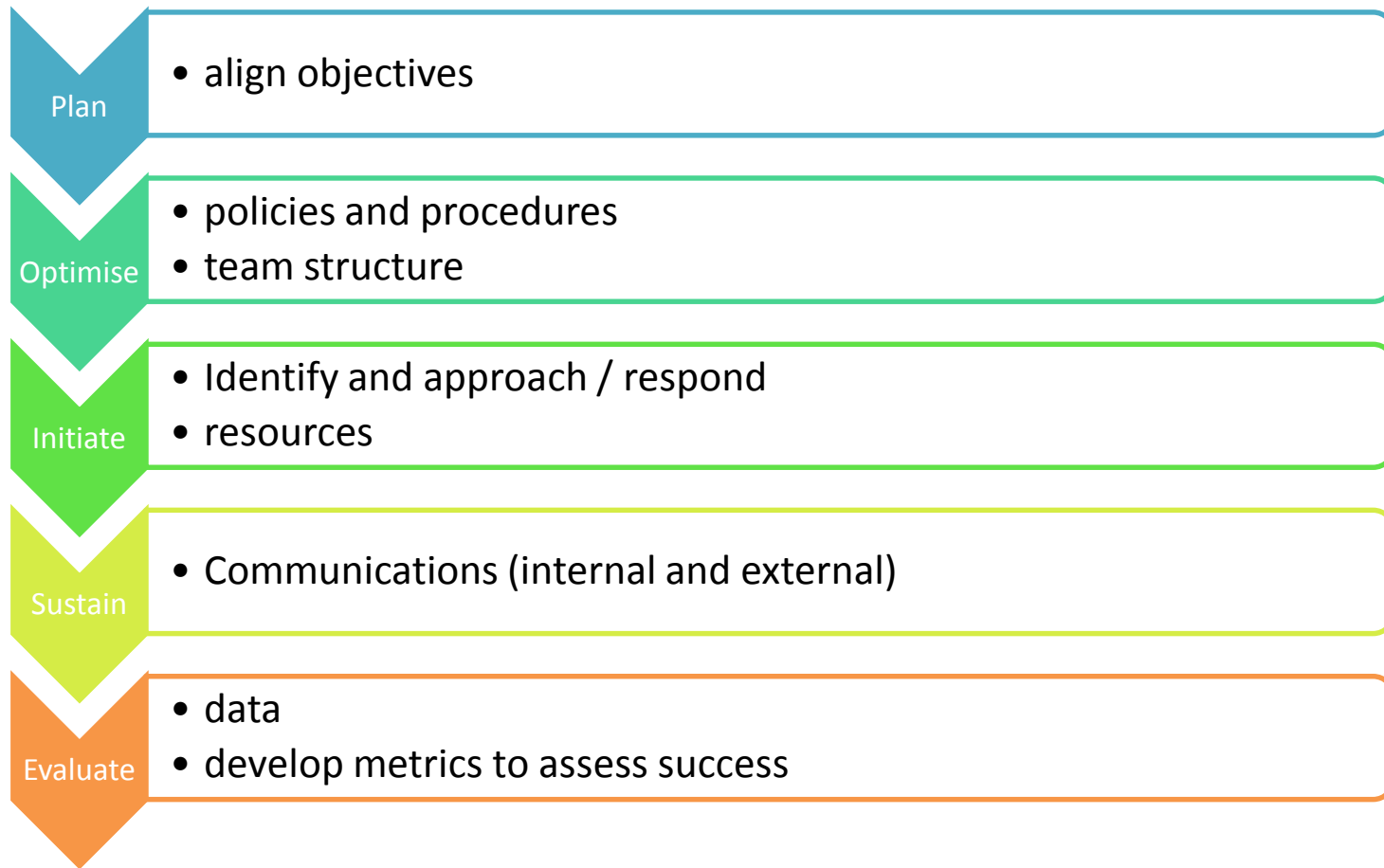
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Carefully chosen links that will

- advance strategic institutional objectives
- have deep impact
- create new value together rather than simple exchange
- have clear outcomes/outputs (KPIs)
- engage a range of faculty, staff and students
- are supported by robust networks of interpersonal connections + internal infrastructures
- sustained and sustainable (*“living systems”*)
- equitable and ethical

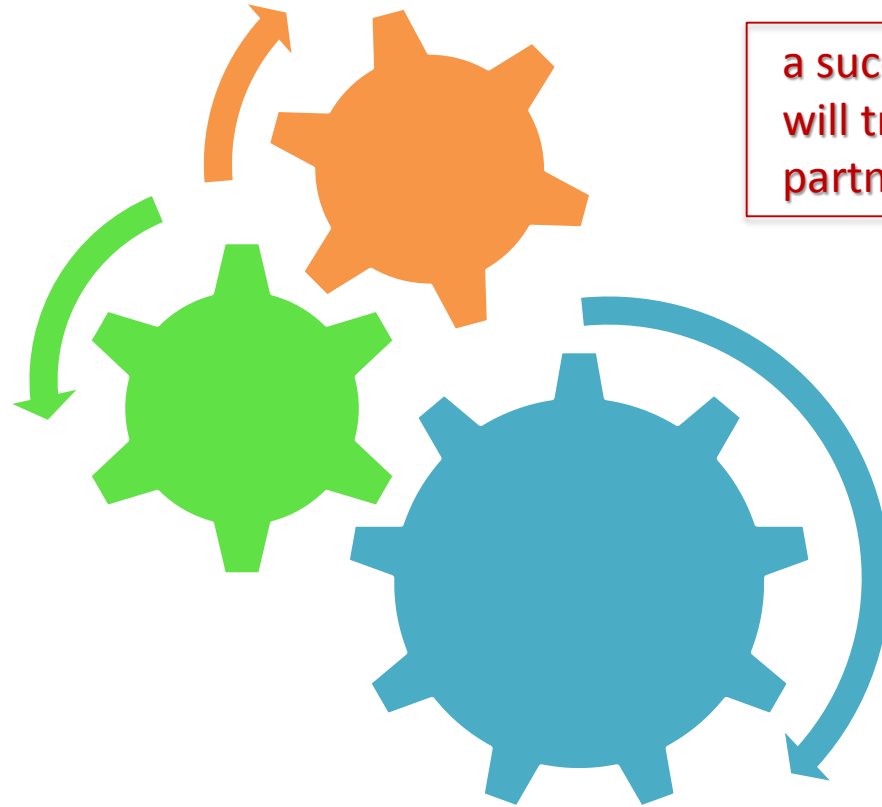


# A process for partnerships



...rarely linear....

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**a successful partnership  
will transform each  
partner institution**



# New models

- teaching:
  - undergraduate (2+2, 1+2+1); joint modules
  - summer programmes
  - split-site PhDs
  - PhD seminars
  - blended teaching (e-learning)
- research
  - joint institutes
  - international, collaborative, multi-disciplinary calls
  - seed funding; pump-priming pilot research
- civic engagement and professional practice
  - service learning for credit
  - curriculum development / training (incl staff)



# King's in China

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- Educational programmes
  - student exchanges
  - summer programmes
  - 4+1 pathway programmes
  - 1+1 Masters / double Masters
  - joint PhD
- Collaborative research
  - joint institute on biomedical sciences
  - jointly funded research grants – ex: Newton Fund / clinical trials
  - academic exchanges
- Training
  - curriculum development and professional training
  - Internships
- China Institute
- Expand to staff exchanges



# Conclusions – World-class Universities must embrace a dynamic third mission

We must flex to meet the needs of society, evolving our education provision to offer rigour and flexibility, with an international curriculum and outlook

We must embrace opportunities to work collaboratively to generate societal and economic impact

We must ensure we are diverse institutions in terms of the make-up of our staff and student intake





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# Thank you

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