

DEUSTO 2018 - P6 Excellence and Transfer

Eight strategic projects have been defined as part of Deusto 2018 Strategic Plan. This document addresses the design of P6 called Excellence and Transfer. This strategic project encompasses the objectives and commitments set out in the Basque University Plan and those that the University of Deusto (UDEUSTO) includes, in addition to the previous ones, to comply with its mission and meet its commitment to society.

1. Strategic objectives of Deusto 2018 and P6 Objectives

P6 focuses on the following five strategic objectives approved in Deusto 2018 plan:

SO 2. Strengthen research areas, teams and projects centred on the key issues involved in building a fairer world.

SO 6. Define and promote benchmark research in focus areas in which the UD is recognised, and encourage participation in Spanish and international teams and networks.

SO7. Lead alliances with Spanish and international business, institutions and social organisations, creating networks for research and development projects.

SO8. Boost interdisciplinary and collaborative work between faculties, institutes, centres, teams and people as a contribution to the development of our society.

SO 10. Foster structures and processes to boost research, watching over the researchers' training and placing special emphasis on offering top quality PhD and post PhD training and attracting talent.

The aim is to achieve the strategic objectives of Deusto 2018 through the following five objectives of P6 -Excellence and Transfer:

Table I. P6 Objectives

O1. Support the activities and initiatives carried out by researchers, research teams and units in UDEUSTO's strategic research areas on which the university's research excellence is focused. (SO 2, SO 6)
O2. Design and implement a research internationalisation plan (aggregations, consortia and networks, international projects) in order to speed up the research internationalisation process in the strategic areas defined by UDEUSTO.(SO6)
O3. Promote excellence in the doctoral programmes run by the School of Doctoral Studies in three key areas: attracting talent, internationalisation of programmes and relationship with economic and social actors. (SO10)
O4. Create and strengthen a number of interdisciplinary research platforms that integrate knowledge and skills from different fields in order to create new knowledge that responds to current social challenges and provide visibility to UDEUSTO as a research university committed to the problems facing society today.(SO2, SO8)
O5. Design and implement a master plan for R&D&I Transfer of this research excellence (SO2, SO7)

2. Master Plans

Each of the above objectives will be carried out through the implementation of a number of actions that are included in the Basque University Plan (BUP) or actions defined by the Vice-Rector's Office for Research and Transfer. These are structured into six master plans intended to achieve the objectives set out in P6.

Master Plan I. Support Plan for scientific production and research teams.

This Master Plan contributes to P6 with regard to the promotion of research excellence; in particular, through the development of researchers, research teams and units recognised for their excellence in strategic research areas.

In this way, this Plan strengthens and is linked to two of the Strategic Objectives of Deusto 2018 Plan, which are those related to strategic research (SR2) and competitive research excellence (SO6).

Likewise, this Master Plan shares aspects that are related to all the other Master Plans as teams are the cornerstone of research at Deusto.

Master Plan II. Plan for International Research Projects and Networks

This master plan aims to make the University of Deusto be recognised as a university with world class research in its specialist areas. In the last three decades, the University of Deusto has followed a proactive strategy of participation in international networks and projects. Since 2004, considerable resources and efforts have been devoted to improving participation in specific international research projects, and this strategy has resulted in the 59 proposals submitted during the 7th Framework Programme of the European Commission. They had a success rate above 22% and resulted in 13 of them being approved, and the coordination of two projects, achieving a total return of €3,127,737.16.

The University of Deusto has decided to continue its strong commitment to the internationalisation of research, the strengthening of international networks and consortia in order to promote joint and supervised participation in international networks and projects. These are all objectives of this Master Plan. Thus, this Plan reinforces and is linked to various Strategic Objectives of Deusto 2018 Plan, particularly with regard to competitive research excellence (SO6).

Likewise, and as part of P6, this master plan focuses on Objective 2 and Objective 3, namely through CP06 action included in the Contract Programme: support programme and services, revitalise and maintain stable international consortia, networks and partnerships, international stable aggregations and participation in calls for European and international programmes.

Master Plan III. DIRS Plan – School of Doctoral Studies.

The [International School of Doctoral Studies](#), which launched the first doctoral programmes in 2013 in line with the Principles of Innovative Doctorates promoted by the European Commission (EC), presented the [DIRS-COFUND](#) European proposal to the EU in the 2014-15 academic year. The submitted proposal approved by the Commission was highly rated and obtained the requested funding.

Therefore, this master plan mainly focuses on the objectives and actions needed to implement the commitments acquired in the COFUND proposals, which were drawn up in line with the challenges of Deusto's School of Doctoral Studies: Excellence, Internationalisation, Interdisciplinarity and Intersectoriality of research training in the doctoral period. Therefore, in the next 5 years, the Horizon 2020 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Programme will provide funding for a group of 16 international PhD students that will pursue their doctoral studies at DEUSTO.

Master Plan IV. Plan on Interdisciplinary Platforms.

As part of Deusto 2018 Strategic Plan, the P6-Excelence Research and Transfer, sets as a priority the interdisciplinary and collaborative work between different researchers and fields to address the challenges facing our society from a research perspective.

Specifically, the strategic objectives of the strategic Plan aim to boost interdisciplinary and collaborative work between faculties, institutes, centres, teams and people as a contribution to the development of our society. This strategic objective is contained in P6's Objective 4, which includes the creation and consolidation of a set of interdisciplinary research platforms and is developed in this master plan. Therefore, one of the actions set out in Deusto 2018 Strategic Plan is the development of Deusto Advanced Research Centre (DARC) through a number of interdisciplinary platforms. These interdisciplinary platforms will meet the current social challenges that are contained in the work programmes of the European Commission, where the University of Deusto has research capacities and plays an important role in addressing them considering their nature and specialisation.

The interdisciplinary platforms are not intended to be a formal research structure, as research teams are already in operation at DEUSTO. The aim is not to replace them but to complement them through the interaction of researchers from different teams and, hence, research areas that can give an interdisciplinary approach to the social challenge under study. Thus, platforms are a form of network organisation, with a flexible structure and composition, and a weak level of formalisation that seeks to strengthen interdisciplinary cooperation between researchers from different DEUSTO teams.

Master Plan V. Research Transfer Plan.

The production of knowledge at the university and research must find their practical application in businesses, institutions and society at large, as it is the key role of knowledge transfer at university.

The master plan for transfer is one of the plans included in the 2015-2018 Contract Programme. This plan aims to draw up a strategy to promote knowledge transfer to the corporate sector based on the knowledge and capacities of the people who are part of the University of Deusto. Deusto has a long-standing tradition in this regard, ranging from the design of a number of transfer plans to the creation of Deusto Foundation or transfer plans carried out at different centres or faculties. The most outstanding is Deusto Foundation, which has managed to consolidate the relationships with businesses leading to the transfer of knowledge generated at university.

This master plan mainly seeks to support the registration of intellectual property to protect the creation of new knowledge at Deusto; it also aims to develop a support programme to define a portfolio of expert services developed by different teams and institutes and research centres at Deusto and promote the consolidation of relations with companies, institutions and social organisation to conduct collaborative research that can be applied to these social actors.

Master Plan VI. Plan for the Promotion of Social Impact of Research.

As stated in the heading describing the Excellence Research & Transfer project, its aim is “to ensure that the University of Deusto is recognised as a university with world class scientific production in its areas of specialisation and attentive to the needs of society.” Therefore, a key priority in this strategic plan is to promote the social impact of Deusto’s research effort.

Deusto needs to develop research excellence according to academic standards and to the demands of university quality assessment systems. In addition to this academic excellence, research at Deusto must pursue an impact beyond academia, addressing the challenges of society today and with a special focus on its transformation. The promotion of the social impact of research at the University of Deusto certainly affects all the objectives contained in this project in a transversal way. However, given its relevance within the Deusto 2018 Strategic Project, it has been decided to develop a master plan to structure and plan a number of actions to promote and disseminate the social impact of Deusto's social research.

This master plan has three main objectives. On the one hand, determining/measuring the social impact of the university’s research projects; on the other, developing actions to promote and support research projects that relate UD to the social actors. And finally, improving outreach and hence, the social positioning of the university's research and incorporating this social dimension to the communication, dissemination and publication of UD’s research.

These objectives aim to promote collaborative research with/for other non-university groups and to make the social value of Deusto's research comprehensible to society.

These master plans are “dynamic” plans, that is, they will undergo development, improvements and changes with regard to what was scheduled in their first version throughout the strategic period. This gradual adaptation will be necessary to achieve the expected objectives.