Office of the Vice-President, Research

Joy Johnson leads Simon Fraser University’s strategic research initiatives and facilitates international opportunities that foster research collaborations and student exchange.

Her work focuses on facilitating research excellence and helping the University respond to new opportunities. She works with members of SFU’s eight faculties to ensure they have the support and resources required to conduct excellent cutting-edge research in all its forms.

Building on her long-standing leadership and research experience, she works with faculty, students and staff to secure research partnerships within the community and industry.

Dugan O’Neil works closely with the Vice-President, Research and shares responsibility for academic leadership in, and administration of, research and other scholarly activities. Together, they work to raise SFU’s research profile to an internationally competitive level.

Activities include the encouragement, facilitation and administration of research across faculties and other offices at SFU.

He is cited for integrating sophisticated digital infrastructure into a diverse scientific community that spans engineering, natural sciences, health, social sciences and humanities.

SFU’s 2016-2020 Strategic Research Plan

SFU’s Strategic Research Plan for 2016-2020 builds on its strengths and successes, and positions the University to continue to grow its capacity in research and knowledge mobilization. This plan provides direction for solidifying SFU’s interdisciplinary research strengths while building critical mass in areas that are globally relevant and strategically important. It reinforces SFU’s commitment to excellence across the full spectrum of research as the driver of bold research questions, engaged partnerships and transformative impact. Lastly, it provides a road map for how the University will capitalize on new opportunities, invest in strategic research growth areas, and drive forward initiatives that enhance its research performance.

Read the 2016-2020 Strategic Research Plan.
SFU Research: Stats & Rankings

RESEARCH PERFORMANCE AND STRATEGY

Over the last decade, SFU has transformed into one of Canada’s top research-intensive universities. This transformation has been due to a deliberate, strategic shift to build on core and interdisciplinary strengths in the fundamental, social and applied sciences, with a particular emphasis on research excellence, innovation, community engagement and economic relevance of research. As a result, we have increased our research capacity four-fold since the turn of the Century, as reflected by the increase in our total research income.

Our research spans across eight Faculties, covering a broad range of fundamental, interdisciplinary and applied research topics, as outlined in our Strategic Research Plan, which identifies six strategic world challenges the University is equipped to address. These are: (1) Addressing environmental concerns and creating a sustainable future; (2) Understanding our origins; (3) Supporting health across the human lifespan; (4) Strengthening civil society by advancing justice, equity and social responsibility; (5) Enhancing our world through technology; and (6) Transforming the landscape of teaching and learning. In the process of addressing these challenges, we have developed particular strengths that have led to the establishment of four strong research clusters. These clusters provide platforms that enable researchers to tackle large crosscutting challenges, while creating and capitalizing on distinct advantages for global leadership. The clusters are defined by a strong core of researchers from diverse disciplines who use innovative approaches and methods to drive impactful outcomes. The four research clusters, strategically supported by the University, are:

- Big Data;
- Health Technology and Health Solutions;
- New Materials and Technology for Sustainability; and
- Community-Based Research.

At the heart of SFU’s research is a strategy for far-reaching collaborations at the local, national and international levels to foster a seamless continuum of knowledge generation and knowledge transfer across diverse sectors. SFU has an international footprint of partnerships with over 2100 institutions worldwide, in more than 110 countries.

On average, SFU researchers publish 2300 journal articles per year, over 40% of which appear in the world’s top 10% journals (Source: Scopus).

GLOBAL UNIVERSITY RANKINGS

SFU consistently ranks among Canada’s top universities in research impact. In the latest QS World University Rankings, SFU is ranked 2nd among Canadian universities for citations per faculty, while Times Higher Education ranks SFU 8th among Canadian universities for subject-normalized total citations. According to Elsevier’s SciVal, SFU ranks 5th among Canadian universities by field-weighted citation impact. In Maclean’s Rankings, SFU has been ranked 1st every year as Canada’s top Comprehensive University, with the exception of 2014, when it was ranked 2nd. This year, SFU was one of four Canadian universities to be named by Times Higher Education in their list of the world’s top 55 Tech Challenger Universities.
SFU INNOVATES

Moving ideas into action. SFU Innovates is a university-wide strategy that builds on our dynamic culture and seeks to strengthen SFU’s commitment to innovation and entrepreneurship.

Based on SFU’s vision to be Canada’s engaged university, SFU Innovates helps students and researchers mobilize their ideas for positive social and economic impact.

Learn more on the website at [www.sfu.ca/innovates](http://www.sfu.ca/innovates).

KEY, SFU’S BIG DATA INITIATIVE

KEY, SFU’s Big Data Initiative, provides tools, training and expertise to unlock the potential of big data.

Building on a decade of leadership, SFU provides powerful infrastructure to integrate, manage and secure your data on a massive scale. We empower you to translate data into knowledge through hands-on training and access to experts – no matter your domain, discipline or level of expertise. SFU is investing in the growth of data-intensive research across all eight Faculties to raise awareness of big data in every field of study, spark new collaborations, support faculty members and their students, and mobilize knowledge for real world impact.

Discover more on the website at [www.sfu.ca/key](http://www.sfu.ca/key).

RESEARCH COMPUTING

IT Services supports SFU researchers with a number of information technology services, including:

- Expertise regarding specific software packages
- Access to high-performance computing installations
- Assistance in analyzing, designing, and procuring IT software and hardware
- Project management support
- The preparation of the IT section of a grant proposal.

Researchers have access to large-scale computing resources and large-scale storage facilities. Service is provided either directly through the IT Services Research Computing Group (RCG), as is the case for The Colony cluster or WestGrid and Compute Canada, and it is free for all researchers.

MORE INFORMATION:

- IT Services
- Supercomputer Cedar
- WestGrid
- Compute Canada
- Collaboration facilities @SFU

Please contact research-support@sfu.ca.
RESEARCH FACILITATION CONTACTS

RESEARCH GRANT FACILITATORS

Staff with research credentials and experience who facilitate the development of competitive research grant applications, match researchers with funding opportunities and with potential collaborators, and offer individual research grant assistance and grant writing workshops.

Faculty of Applied Sciences
Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology
Faculty of Environment

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Did you know?

At SFU, University members own the products of their intellectual endeavours and “are free to publish those products without commercial intent, to pursue commercialization with the assistance of the University, or to pursue commercialization of the IP in their own right.” For more, see SFU’s Intellectual Property Policy.

RESEARCH SERVICES AND SUPPORT

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Major Projects Office 23229, tjl@sfu.ca
Major Awards Office 27058, research-awards@sfu.ca
Office of Research Services 25798, ors@sfu.ca
Office of Research Ethics 23447, dore@sfu.ca
Industry Engagement 24292, sfuie@sfu.ca
Animal Care Services 24737, acf@sfu.ca
SFU Library
Research Safety 24978, ehs@sfu.ca

Bennett: 24351
Belzberg: 25050
Fraser: 27411
Bio/Chemical: 27265
Diving: 23705
Radiation: 27238/7998

QUICK LINKS

• SFU’s Research Policies
• Funding Opportunities
• Strategic Research Plan
• Internal Grant Deadlines
• Centres & Institutes
• Grant Info for New Faculty
• Research Support Fund
• Grant Writing Tips
• Research Events
• Grant Guidelines & Policies
• Research Ethics Policies & Guidelines
• Office of Research Services Forms
• Research Ethics Training
• Tri-Agency Financial Administration Guide