



ICMP

The Institute
of Contemporary
Music Performance

RESEARCH,
SCHOLARLY, &
PROFESSIONAL
PRACTICE
STRATEGY
2022–26

icmp.ac.uk



I. Scope & Purpose

ICMP's mission is to:

“Inspire, encourage and equip our students to succeed by delivering a relevant and innovative educational experience of the highest quality.”

The continuing improvement and enhancement of the student experience is therefore the prime driver in the design of our strategic planning.

ICMP's Strategic Plan specifically states our intention to build and develop teams with strong professional standards and values working in a collaborative and motivational environment. Cultivating a culture of research, scholarship and professional practice is critical in achieving this goal.

The Research, Scholarly, and Professional Practice Strategy therefore underpins the development of ICMP's academic community by setting out our priorities for 2022–26. Its strategic intent is to further embed a culture of research, scholarly and professional activity that informs our curriculum, programme portfolio, pedagogical effectiveness, and enhances the student experience.



2. Aims

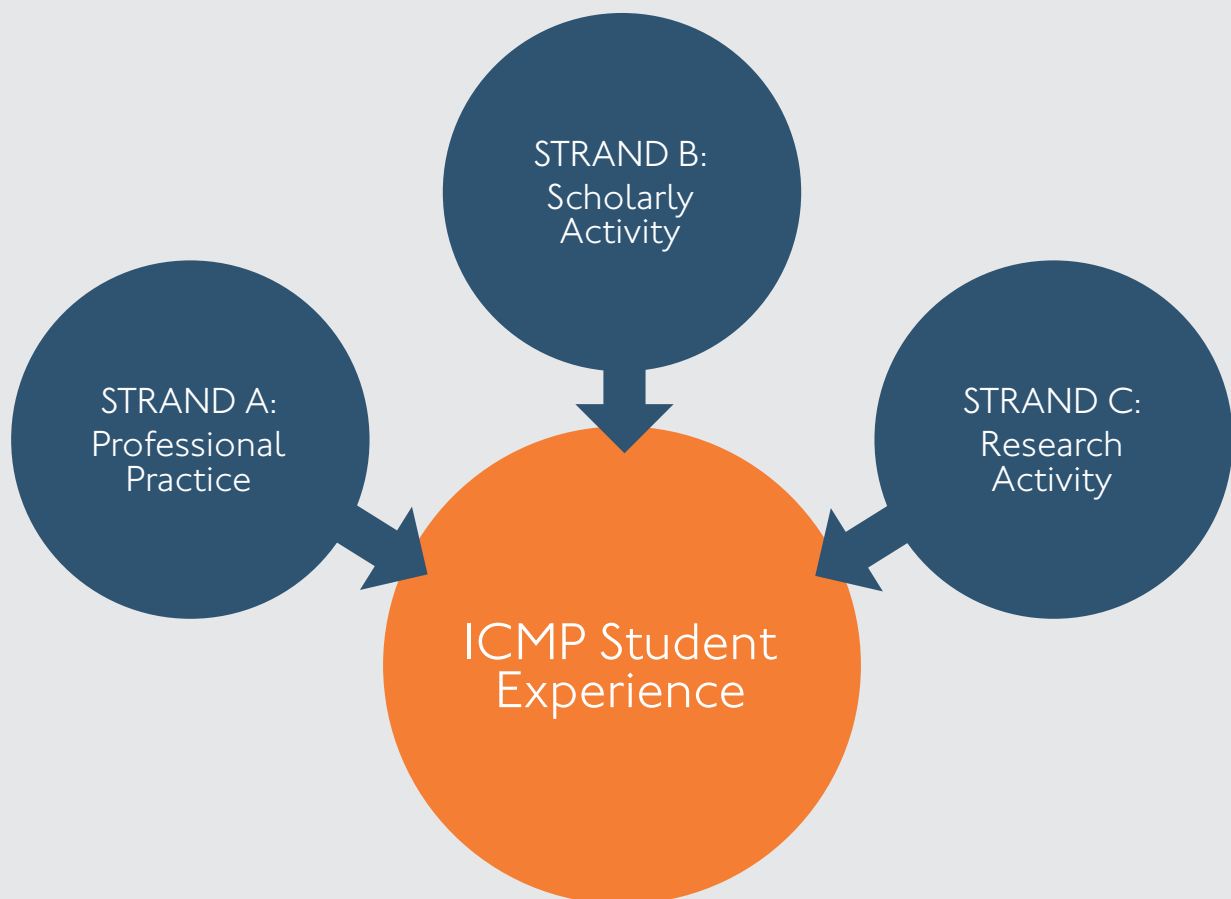
- a. Strengthen the **culture of scholarship** at ICMP by recognising and valuing the full range of research, scholarly and professional activity that exists in the institution.
- b. Effectively **collate, promote and publicise** the full range of activity in which our faculty engage.
- c. Establish **stronger links** between research, professional practice and scholarly thinking, and how this can inform the student experience.
- d. Evaluate and understand the **impact** of research scholarly and professional practice on pedagogical effectiveness and student experience.
- e. Develop ways to **support and nurture** professional development in research, scholarly and professional practice.



3. Strands of Activity



Research, scholarly and professional practice at ICMP is inclusive and wide ranging, drawing together the professional, scholarly and academic expertise from across our faculty. The strategy is structured around three distinct, clearly defined and overlapping strands of activity that feed directly into the enhancement of the student experience:



A. Professional Practice

Professional practice is the lifeblood of ICMP. Almost without exception, ICMP faculty colleagues are engaging in professional practice, and it is the duty of ICMP faculty to bring their professional and industry experience into the classroom. It is essential that this is maintained and exploited. Professional practice at ICMP is defined as:

- Practicing in the relevant field or professional context
- Practicing in industry
- Practicing in the community or education settings
- The full range of performance activity such as tours, gigs and recordings
- Creative outputs in the public domain such as recorded artefacts, published scores, performances, broadcasts, and exhibitions
- Recording or writing credits
- Journalism and publication in the popular press

B. Scholarly Activity

Scholarly activity is all-encompassing and wide-ranging. It incorporates all aspects of research activity and professional practice and, in essence, it is the synthesis of critical thinking and application in context. It is essential that ICMP, its programmes, and the student experience do not exist in a vacuum. Scholarly activity, therefore, focuses on bringing knowledge and awareness of a wide range of concerns, concepts and issues into ICMP through critical engagement with the outside world, including research and professional practice. Scholarly activity at ICMP is defined as:

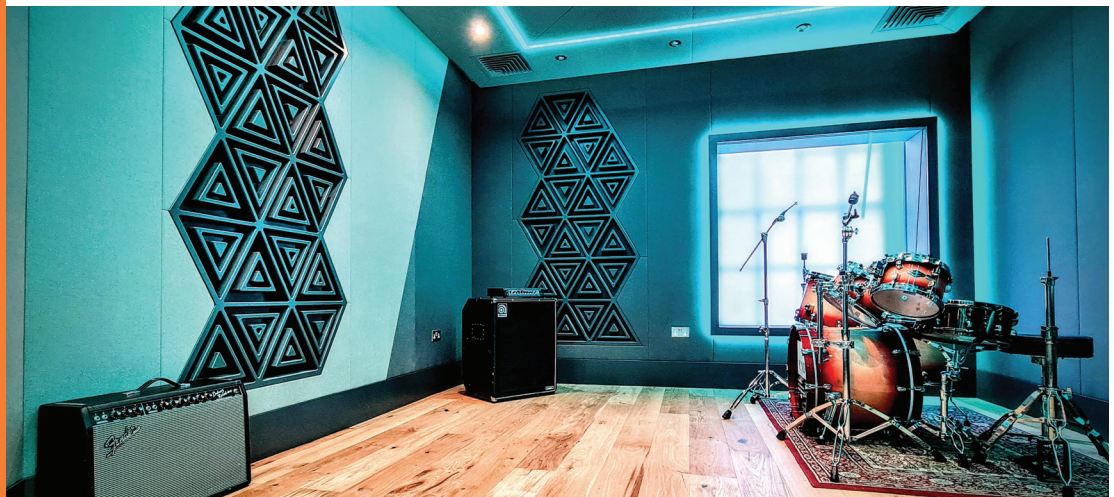
- Research activity as defined in this strategy
- Professional practice as defined in this strategy
- Engaging with external networks and events
- Membership of internal and external committees and boards
- Membership and engagement with professional associations
- Attendance at conferences and professional development workshops
- Study for academic or professional qualifications
- External examining and review
- Curriculum and programme development, internal and external
- Consultancy
- Contributing to professional development and training for others
- Publication in professional journals
- Preparation and application for HEA fellowship
- Preparation and application for ICMP Professorship Scheme
- Sharing research and scholarly activity across the ICMP community
- Sharing best practice in the academic community, internal and external
- Guest lectures and workshops

C. Research Activity

ICMP is not a research-intensive institution, does not submit to the Research Excellence Framework, and does not typically have access to the UK research funding councils. Formal modes of research are therefore restricted. Despite this, a number of faculty colleagues have doctoral qualifications and engage in formal programmes of research, peer-reviewed publication and research conference dissemination. This work is highly valued and this strategy aims to better connect it with the broader scholarly endeavour of the institution.

Research activity at ICMP is defined as:

- Master's or doctoral research projects
- Post-doctoral research projects
- Funded research projects
- Individual research projects including action research and practice-based research
- Collaborative research projects with other academic institutions or industry partner
- Commissioned research, enquiry or reporting for industry partners
- Doctoral supervision and examination
- Membership of editorial boards
- Publication in academic press and peer-reviewed journals
- *Practice as Research* outputs including recorded artefacts, published scores, performances, broadcasts, and exhibitions
- Dissemination of research at conferences or guest lectures
- Application for research grants and funding





4. Faculty Engagement



It is expected that *all* colleagues on faculty engage in scholarly activity, whether as researchers or professional practitioners, or through any of the other forms of scholarly practice as defined here. Most colleagues will, by the very nature of ICMP's faculty constitution, engage in Strand A as professional practitioners, and this is an expectation of the Attributes of the ICMP Teacher. Colleagues in the core academic team are expected to engage extensively with Strand B alongside Strand A.

A smaller number of faculty colleagues will engage with Strand C, with senior academics expected to engage across all three strands. There are no restrictions however, and ICMP is committed to supporting colleagues in developing their practice across all three strands. This is not necessarily limited to faculty or colleagues in academic posts and where appropriate extends right across ICMP departments.

5. Actions & Measures

ACTION	MEASURE
<p>a. Continue to expand and deliver an annual series of RSPP seminars delivered by core and hourly paid faculty</p>	<p>RSPP Seminar Series published annually; staff engagement metrics and analysis of breadth reported to RSPP Committee</p>
<p>b. Continue to host an annual conference programme to include LTA Conference, RSPP Conference, and themed biennial international subject conference</p>	<p>Annual Conference programme delivered; staff engagement metrics and analysis of conference content reported to RSPP Committee</p>
<p>c. Continue to promote and implement the ICMP Professorship scheme, and improve the external PR value of the professoriate</p>	<p>Increasing number of colleagues awarded with Professor or Associate Professor title; PR/comms plan and evidence of outputs</p>
<p>d. Continue to promote and extend the Seed Funding Scheme, and complement with a Major Project Scheme to foster progression of ideas and larger-scale research activity</p>	<p>Seed Funding / Major Project application rates and engagement metrics; dissemination of outcomes of ICMP funded research activity</p>
<p>e. Continue promoting and supporting annual cohort of HEA/AdvanceHE Fellowship applications</p>	<p>Annual cohort reported and improved metrics on HEA/AdvanceHE fellowship across faculty</p>
<p>f. Review and develop the Researcher Development Mentoring scheme and ongoing programme of support for aspiring and early career researchers</p>	<p>Increasing numbers of colleagues engaging in mentorship scheme and associated activity with evidence of outcome (eg, Professorship Application, HEA Fellowship, publications, conference activity, PG or Doctoral study)</p>

ACTION	MEASURE
<p>g. Establish relevant research networks, groups, or other communities of practice around ICMP research interests, to include external participants alongside ICMP colleagues</p>	<p>ICMP hosted events or networks and engagement metrics</p>
<p>h. Identify collaborative and/or industry partner research project opportunities with intention to formally contribute to funded projects as research associates</p>	<p>Successful engagement with funding bids and/or implementation of collaborative research projects with other academic institutions or industry partners</p>
<p>i. Improve mechanisms for maintaining and reporting an accurate record of all research activity, scholarly activity, professional practice and outputs as defined in this Strategy</p>	<p>Detailed and accurate reporting into RSPP Committee, Academic Board and externally as appropriate</p>
<p>j. Clarify and specify the expectations for research, scholarly and professional practice within the newly emerging ICMP Schools</p>	<p>Delegation of RSPP co-ordination to Heads of School</p>
<p>k. School-level RSPP Plans to be designed and published, aligned with this strategy and actions</p>	<p>School-level RSPP Plans received and approved by the RSPP Committee</p>
<p>l. Establish an international RSPP engagement plan focussed initially around our existing partner institutions and established relationships</p>	<p>International RSPP engagement plan received and approved by RSPP Committee, with ongoing reporting/review and evidence of successful outcomes</p>
<p>m. Identify and Invest in relevant membership organisations/networks, and provide greater opportunities for colleagues to engage in external scholarly events, networks and conference</p>	<p>Memberships established; year-on-year increase in CPD and research budgets</p>

