INTRODUCTION

Queen’s Mission

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Since its founding, Queen’s University has had but one core goal: to educate and expand the intellectual horizons of its students in an environment of discovery, freedom of inquiry and sensitivity to the needs of society. This goal persists and must continue to be the animating principle of all that we do, now and into the future. Indeed the stated mission of Queen’s, most recently articulated in the Report on Principles and Priorities reflects the founding values of our university and continues to define our role and institutional aspirations:

QUEEN’S MISSION

The university will build on the strength that is Queen’s – students, faculty, staff and alumni – to be among the best internationally known universities in Canada recognized for:

• the exceptional quality of undergraduate and graduate students and programs in the arts, sciences and professions;
• the intellectual power and value of research and scholarship by faculty members and students;
• the exemplary service of the university and its graduates to the community, the nation and the community of nations.

In order to continue to fulfill this mission, Queen’s University must be able to address the change that a constantly evolving intellectual and societal context thrusts upon us.

QUEEN’S VISION

Enhancing such institutional engagement – with its students and with the society which supports it – defines the vision for Queen’s:

Through its commitment to creating an engaged community of learning characterized by academic excellence, innovation and inclusiveness of perspectives, Queen’s will be a university of choice for the most highly qualified students and faculty from across Canada and beyond and will be a national and international resource as its distinguished academic programs, research and scholarship serve the betterment of a global society.
VALUES AND PRINCIPLES

As we define a path for the future of Queens, we will stay true to the values that define us as a community. They are the foundation for all that we do, collectively and individually, at Queens – in our distinctive roles as students, faculty and staff; in the decisions and actions we take to advance our academic mission; in the relationships we build; and in our interactions with others on campus and in the broader community.

These values and principles, many of which are long-held, helped guide our founders and builders in shaping a university committed to the powerful ideals of inspired learning and discovery, informed and committed citizenship, and respect and dignity for all. Yet they also reflect our place and promise in today’s changing world.

1. Freedom of Inquiry and Exchange of Ideas

Academic freedom is deeply enshrined in the culture of our university. Its core tenets – freedom in research and publication, freedom in the classroom and freedom from censorship for speaking out – are basic to the university’s central purpose and ingrained in our history and traditions. Freedom of inquiry and expression carries with it responsibilities – to encourage open debate and dialogue, and to genuinely listen to and learn from the views of others. We must defend these freedoms of speech and inquiry even as we engage with those whose goals and objectives may differ greatly from our own.

2. Academic Excellence and Innovation

We strive to be a university that embraces change and is responsive to society’s needs while upholding rigorous standards of academic excellence and intellectual integrity in all of our teaching and research activities. Academic excellence is a core value that has helped us preserve the remarkable vitality of our research and teaching environments, and their relevance to the world. We value research in its most fundamental form, as faculty seek answers to new questions and expand the realms of knowledge in their fields. By fostering an environment of both discovery and innovation, we generate new knowledge for the betterment of society.

3. Supporting People

The people who work and study at Queens – students, faculty and staff – are our most important strength and are integral to the university’s success in realizing its vision. We must create an environment where the talents and potential of all members of the Queens community are nurtured and valued.
4. Engaging our Students
As a student-centred research university, we recognize our responsibilities to intellectually challenge our students, engage them actively in the learning process, and expand their personal and academic horizons by exposing them to a diverse community of scholars and a range of learning experiences, inside and outside the classroom.

5. Diversity and Equity Within our Community
We recognize that Queen’s is enriched intellectually, socially and culturally by the presence and participation of people from diverse backgrounds, from within Canada and around the world. Our student body, our faculty and staff, and our programs of learning and research benefit immeasurably when they reflect a diverse range of experience, nationalities and ethnicities, income levels, ages and cultures.

We also support the right of persons with disabilities to enjoy equal opportunity and to participate fully in the life of the university. We are committed to move towards a campus environment where no new barriers are created and existing ones are removed.

We cherish and fully support the diversity of human experience and background at Queen’s, and we actively foster the freedom of individuals to study, teach, work and carry out research without fear of harassment, intimidation or discrimination.

6. Distinctiveness
We are committed to fostering excellence and national leadership through strategic investment in areas of current and evolving institutional strength. While acknowledging the need of continuing support of a wide range of programs across the university, we must ensure that resources are committed to a number of new and continuing areas of distinctive strength and quality.

7. Governance
We support a culture at Queen’s of openness, integrity, shared responsibility and accountability, so that all members of our community have a say and a stake in our future.

8. Societal Responsibility
We recognize that, from our founding, Queen’s University owes a great debt to the public that has supported it. We are committed to seeking ways to bring our education and research programs to bear on challenges facing our various communities: local, provincial, national and global.

Responsible and engaged citizenship also encompasses our need to protect and sustain the environments in which we operate. We will strive to achieve environmental, economic and social sustainability as we foster academic excellence at Queen’s. We are committed to helping meet the needs of society while respecting and protecting the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

As we strive to balance academic excellence and social responsibility, we will be confronted with ever-changing external forces. In the next section we outline the demographic, societal, economic and political factors that will influence the post-secondary sector in the decade ahead. A complete discussion of these key influences is presented in Appendix A.