The School of Nursing and Midwifery at RGU is committed to advancing scholarship through teaching and research. The following pages give brief overviews of our research and opportunities for study. Weblinks are included to provide more information depending on your interests.

**Our Research Aim**
To engage with key partners to develop, deliver and disseminate high quality research that is of value to society, those using health and social care services, and the professions of nursing and midwifery

**Our Research Objectives**
1. To build on existing research strengths by focusing work programmatically around three key thematic areas
2. To build research capability and capacity by proactively nurturing staff and student research development, and by considered appointments of new staff
3. To proactively collaborate with external partners and internal partners to ensure research quality and relevance
4. To increase research income year on year in line with the targets in the School plan
5. To increase the quality and quantity of published research outputs in line with REF 2020 targets in order to ensure a substantive nursing and midwifery contribution
6. Within the context of our overarching scholarship model, to develop mechanisms to ensure our research informs our teaching and practice, and in turn our learning activities inform our research

**Staff**
All of our academic staff are committed to using best research evidence and many of our staff are involved in carrying out research. Details can be found here: [http://www.rgu.ac.uk/about/faculties-schools-and-departments/faculty-of-health-and-social-care/school-of-nursing-and-midwifery](http://www.rgu.ac.uk/about/faculties-schools-and-departments/faculty-of-health-and-social-care/school-of-nursing-and-midwifery). Enquiries about research projects and opportunities should be directed first to Dr Colin Macduff, Head of Research and Scholarly Activity: c.macduff@rgu.ac.uk
Key thematic areas

We have three key thematic areas for research, covering a range of sub-themes:

**COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLBEING**

1. Bereavement research
   Research into bereavement and bereavement care is a key area of interest in the School. A range of studies have been completed, published and have influenced Scottish Government policy for the NHS. Recent work has included a study of the socio-economic costs of bereavement in Scotland. This was a collaborative study with researchers from other universities and Cruse Bereavement Care Scotland. Follow the link to read the report for this study:

2. Mental health research
   Forensic and acute mental health nursing practices are areas of interest within the School. Studies completed and disseminated to date have influenced local, national and international healthcare practice. Currently, collaborative work is on-going with colleagues and clinical partners who have a particular interest in the use of enhanced observation as an intervention in acute mental health care and the impact on nurses' health and wellbeing. Click on the links to read the following studies:
   - [Are Nurses Empowered to Make Decisions about Levels of Patient Observation in Mental Health?](http://www.nursingtimes.net/nursing-practice/specialisms/mental-health/are-nurses-empowered-to-make-decisions-about-levels-of-patient-observation-in-mental-health/5012399.article)

3. Maternal/child health research
   A range of research into maternal and child health is ongoing. One current project is examining decision making about mode of birth after caesarean section: prediction scores using local population data. Caesarean Section (CS) rates in Scotland are a public health concern with as many as one in four women giving birth this way. Contemporary data indicate that over 50% are electively performed and a high proportion of these are repeat procedures. The aim of this study, which is being carried out in partnership with the University of Aberdeen, is to develop an internally validated prediction scoring model which would allow women to receive person centred information about their likelihood of achieving a vaginal birth after CS.
   Web link: [www.abdn.ac.uk/iahs/research/obsgynae/amnd/index.php](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/iahs/research/obsgynae/amnd/index.php)

**POLICY, EDUCATION AND PRACTICE**

4. The School and Faculty has a sustained interest in interprofessional education research. Details can be accessed at [http://www.ipe.org.uk/](http://www.ipe.org.uk/)
   One recent project entitled: "Interagency adult support and protection practice of police and health and social care professionals: a realistic evaluation approach" was a Scotland-wide study, funded by the Scottish Institute of Policing Research. Examining the 'state of play' for professionals working across organisational boundaries, it explored their knowledge and skills in partnership working, information sharing, and an understanding of organisational processes in order to create effective channels of communication. Within the context health and social care integration (Scotland Act 2014), the study identified key performance indicators for professionals working in this area of public protection.
   Web link: [www.abdn.ac.uk/ihas/research/obsgynae/amnd/index.php](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/ihas/research/obsgynae/amnd/index.php)

**PATIENT EXPERIENCE/SAFETY**

5. Healthcare associated infections
   The School is also active in this field. Between 2011 and 2013 our School led the Visualising the Invisible project ([http://www.visinvis.org](http://www.visinvis.org)) which explored how healthcare staff visualise pathogens and how dynamic visualisation may help in this field. This AHRC funded multidisciplinary partnership involving nursing, art and design and microbiology broke new ground. The Vision On project ([http://visionon.org](http://visionon.org)) led by our partners in Glasgow School of Art, now builds on this work to test a staff training tool for the prevention of healthcare associated infections.
Research degrees

The School has a vibrant community of post graduate research students and there are opportunities to study for Research Masters, PhD and Professional Doctorates in topics related to our main themes. Further details can be found at:

https://www.rgu.ac.uk/research/graduate-schools/applying-for-a-research-degree

https://www.rgu.ac.uk/health-professions/study-options/postgraduate-research/doctorate-for-professional-practice1

We welcome enquiries about studying here. Please contact Dr Sundari Joseph, Research Degrees Co-ordinator, for further information: s.joseph@rgu.ac.uk

Recent doctoral graduates include:

Dr Ziying Shuai: An analysis of policy to practice developments in NMHAPs in Scotland 2005-2010
https://openair.rgu.ac.uk/handle/10059/1175

Dr Elaine Allan: Nursing by the long stretch of the arm: an exploration of community nursing middle managers’ experiences of role enactment within Community Health Partnerships in three regions of Scotland

Dr Steve Smith: Becoming: An analysis of narratives describing the experiences of nurses who have undertaken training in solution focused brief therapy

The School has been instrumental in founding the new International Network for Electronic Theses and Dissertations in Nursing (INETDIN) which aims to be the key global site for knowledge about nursing e-theses and dissertations.