Introduction to King’s College London

• One of the top 25 universities in the world, situated at the heart of London
• Over 25,200 FTE students in 2016/17 so far... from 150 countries worldwide
• 161 undergraduate courses, 282 postgraduate taught courses, 85 postgraduate research courses
• 8 Faculties, 9 Directorates, 4 Institutes, 5 Campuses; new Management & Business Faculty in September 2017
• Partners in a the largest Academic Health Science Centre in Europe bringing together 3 NHS Foundation trusts with the university to stimulate translational research and provide world-class education and training
**King’s vision for the future: Vision 2029**

*Our mission is to make the world a better place*

**Educate to inspire and improve**
A recognised community of learners in which students and staff across disciplines collaborate and connect to change the world

**Research to inform and innovate**
Home to the most able and innovative researchers delivering valuable insight and ground-breaking discovery in state of the art infrastructure

**Serve to shape and transform**
Known as the university that makes a significant and innovative contribution to society and to business, beyond education and research

**An international community that serves the world**
Making a significant difference on the world stage

**A civic university at the heart of London**
Of London, not just in London: Regarded throughout the world as London’s leading civic university
By 2029, King’s will be regarded throughout the world as London’s leading civic university.

To achieve this, we will:

• Strengthen our connections with and porosity to London’s businesses, policy makers, agencies and institutions, leveraging their potential in the student and academic experience so that our graduates take away the best possible life opportunities and our research creates social, cultural and economic value
• Deepen our relationships with our home boroughs, collaborating locally to support the communities around us and to generate knowledge that may have relevance across the city, the country and the world
• Partner effectively across the capital’s broader HE community to address London-wide issues.
Why London? Context and drivers

• By 2030, 6 out of 10 people will be urban dwellers – SDG 11 identifies the objective of making ‘cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable’

• Reconsideration of the role and responsibilities of universities in context of EU referendum result in the UK and populist/‘anti-expert’ rhetoric worldwide

• In the UK, some devolution of powers to major cities, and a growing emphasis on ‘place’ within national politics and new industrial strategy

• At King’s, strong message from staff and students that they wish to be more and better connected to the city
Building on existing success [www.kcl.ac.uk/london](www.kcl.ac.uk/london)

- Ground-breaking research tackling the city’s challenges, e.g. air quality research currently informing the Mayor’s plans to tackle pollution

- Collaborative education and placement opportunities which enable students to make the most of London’s opportunities, e.g. MA in Cultural Management with the Southbank Centre, or MA in 18th Century Studies with the British Library

- Outreach activities e.g. Dentistry Students’ SMILE Society, the SHINE Mentoring, King’s Maths School

- Highly successful ‘boundary spanning’ professional services teams – including four dedicated ‘Institutes’ (Culture, Policy, Entrepreneurship, Commercialisation) designed to promote porosity, knowledge exchange and innovation
Culture at King’s: Inspiring connections in London and beyond

• Promoting, provoking and enabling research partnerships across disciplines and involving the cultural sector

• Enriching the student experience by opening doors and providing opportunities

• Serving the needs of cultural communities in London and beyond through enquiry and dissemination of research

• Engaging the public through arts and culture
The university includes, and is connected to, a variety of dedicated venues that provide flexible exhibition, performance and event space for staff, students and cultural partners.
How does King’s engage with the city beyond its walls?

**List of Engagement Purposes**

- Achieve more widespread and tangible impact
- Help achieve the university’s community/social mission
- Inject new/innovative ideas and perspectives from the external environment into research
- Enhance the students’ experience, including opportunities for informal and external learning
- Attract new or additional income sources
- Widen participation amongst local communities
- Help build the university’s identity and distinctiveness through its location

**List of Engagement Activities**

- Collaborative research projects
- Commissioned research
- Staff secondments
- Public lectures, events, exhibitions
- Adult and lifelong learning
- Internships and placements
- Capacity building
- Knowledge exchange and sharing
- Public relations and media
- Making university assets/services available for public use
- Community outreach/volunteering
- Fundraising and sponsorship

Consultation process on King’s and London (Autumn 2016)
Current challenges and opportunities for the future

1. There is currently a large amount of engagement activity conducted across the university, but it lacks coherence and visibility.

2. There is a perception that King’s has strong relationships in the sectors of health, culture, central government and education.

3. Relationships are often *ad hominem* and as a result connections are lost with changes in personnel.

4. Absence of clear objectives for engagement make it difficult to prioritise or conduct activities in a strategic or targeted manner.

5. Space for engagement is limited and often of poor quality.

6. There are a number of successful ‘portal’ units currently in place to connect King’s with some London sectors.

7. A central coordinating ‘hub’ would benefit future engagement, and should be responsible for the following:
   - creating a clear front door
   - connecting different parts of the university, including existing portals, to minimize duplication and maximize impact
   - horizon scanning to identify and understand possible opportunities
   - brokering relationships, signposting, and ensuring appropriate and timely follow up
   - providing specialist skills and best practice guidance to support faculties and directorates
   - offering training and opportunities for capability development
   - leading and facilitating pan-university London initiatives
   - helping King’s to tell its engagement story

8. King’s should strengthen its role in its home boroughs, contributing more strategically and systematically to local communities.