



EU Research & Ulster University

Tim Brundle, Director of Research & Impact

tim@ulster.ac.uk

28th September 2017

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Overview

EU Research & Ulster

About Ulster

Research & Impact at Ulster

EU Research at Ulster

Strategy for Research Excellence

Northern Ireland & BREXIT



About Me

Tim Brundle

10 Years Research Management

10 Years IP Commercialisation

Government Advisory Roles

Company Directorships

Manages Ulster's Investments





From

€ 2m p/a

EU Research Awards in 2012

To

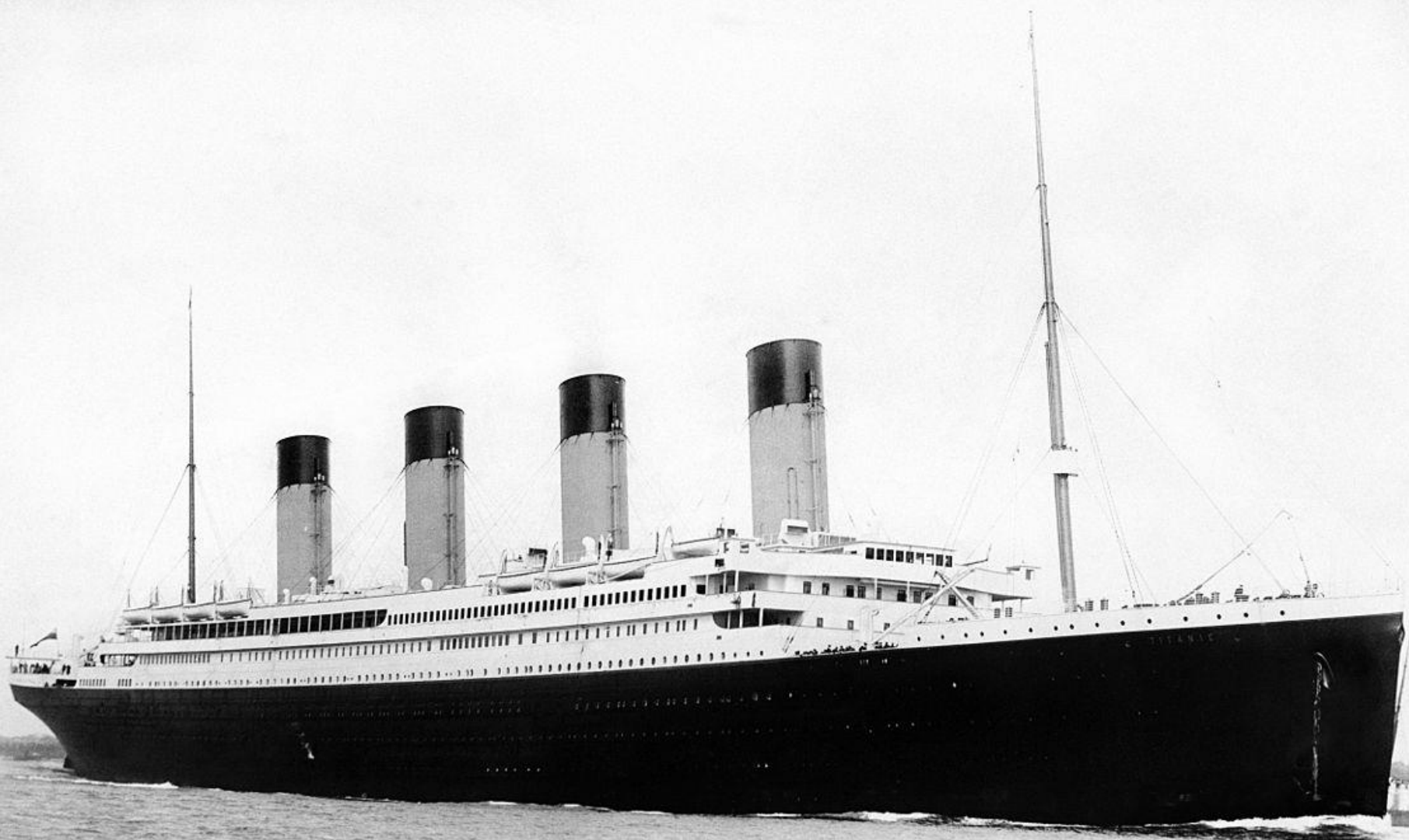
€ 25m p/a

EU Research Awards in 2017

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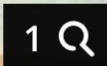








Northern Irish 'happiest people in UK' and it's official



People in Northern Ireland are the happiest in the UK, according to official statistics.

Popular

Belfast Ribs 'n' Bibs apology over 'beat the wife' £5 meal deal

[Northern Ireland](#)



Pictured: Herd of cows take stroll through Northern Ireland housing estate

[Northern Ireland](#)



Northern Ireland schoolboy crashed mum's car after 100mph chase

[Northern Ireland](#)



Ryanair suspends Belfast to London flights amid ongoing company problems

[Northern Ireland](#)



National Trust slams door on Giant's Causeway shop after 70 years

[Northern Ireland](#)



ADVERTISEMENT

Ryanair grounds Belfast flights for four months

🕒 2 hours ago | Northern Ireland | 💬 22



🔗 Share



Michael O'Leary apologised for what he called "sensible schedule changes"

About Ulster

In the top 2% of world universities (QS World Rankings 2017/18)

In the world's top 150 universities under 50 years old (Times Higher Education)

One of the top 200 most outward-looking institutions in the world (Times Higher Education)



Student Experience

1st in UK for Good Teachers
(International Student Barometer)

**5th in UK for international
student satisfaction**
(International Student Barometer)

**88% overall student
satisfaction – exceeding
national average of 86% (NSS)**





Research & Impact at Ulster University

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We're great researchers



100% of our biomedical research environment is judged as world-leading

Source: REF 2014



We are in the top 25% of all UK universities for overall research

Source: REF 2014



Last year alone, we were awarded 206 grants worth £14.8 million



invested each year in research

£3.1m
per year

is invested in innovation

#goingplaces

Ulster's Research Achievements



TOP 10

FOR BUILT ENVIRONMENT, BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES, ART AND DESIGN AND NURSING RESEARCH

**RESEARCH POWER:
REF 2014**

TOP 5

FOR **WORLD-LEADING** RESEARCH IN LAW, BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES, NURSING AND ART AND DESIGN

**RESEARCH OUTPUTS:
REF 2014**

TOP 10

FOR AN INTERNATIONALLY EXCELLENT, WORLD-LEADING RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT IN NURSING & HEALTH SCIENCES, BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES, ARCHITECTURE AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT, LAW, ART & DESIGN

RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT: REF 2014

TOP 10

OF UK UNIVERSITIES FOR ITS NUMBER OF INTERACTIONS WITH SMES

HEBCI 2014/15

TOP 23%

OF UK UNIVERSITIES FOR THE TOTAL INCOME GENERATED FROM ITS INTERACTIONS WITH BUSINESS AND THE COMMUNITY

HEBCI 2014/15

We're great business partners



innovative solutions
for business last year

We have provided more than 200
Knowledge Transfer Partnerships



We have created 20
spin-out companies
that employ over
290 staff and have
a turn over of
£28m



businesses per year access
our research and expertise

We provided
50,000
days of management
training last year



#goingplaces



EU Research at Ulster University

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Horizon 2020

Background

Budget of EUR 70,2 billion

From basic research to bringing ideas to the market

Focus on societal challenges EU society is facing

Promise of simplified access for all

Funding rate for all (70 - 100% of direct costs and 25% indirect)

Time to grant to be reduced by 100 days

More focus on bottom-up opportunities

Focus on Impact

Horizon 2020 structure



Northern Ireland's Strategy for Horizon 2020

Goal

The Northern Ireland Executive set a target to secure at least €145m from H2020

Represented an increase of 65% in NI's performance under Framework 7

Regular reports, charting Northern Ireland's progress against the €145m target are presented to the Northern Ireland Executive Committee on the Economy

Operational oversight of the Strategy via a Northern Ireland Horizon 2020 Steering Group which includes all the main organisations involved in Horizon 2020

Northern Ireland Strategy for Horizon 2020

Key Themes

Raising Awareness and Communication

Building Capacity and Partnerships

Influencing

Developing and Enhancing Networking

Project Development Support

Original Strategy for H2020 at Ulster

From 2013

Head of European Research Development based within
Ulster University's Research Office

Two H2020 NI Contact Points (EU thematic leads) based at
Ulster, focused on Connected Health and Energy

Overall aim of Ulster strategy was to double the average
annual drawdown from Horizon 2020 from £2m to £4m.



H2020 Work Programme, 1

Raising Awareness and Communication

- Information seminars / Thematic Workshops
- Meet your NICP day
- Launch event to showcase FP7 success
- Quarterly newsletter, web presence

Building Capacity and Partnerships




- **Assistance with finding partners**
- Facilitate mentoring support
- Support attendance at brokerage events
- Encourage registration of evaluators
- **Mapping our international network**

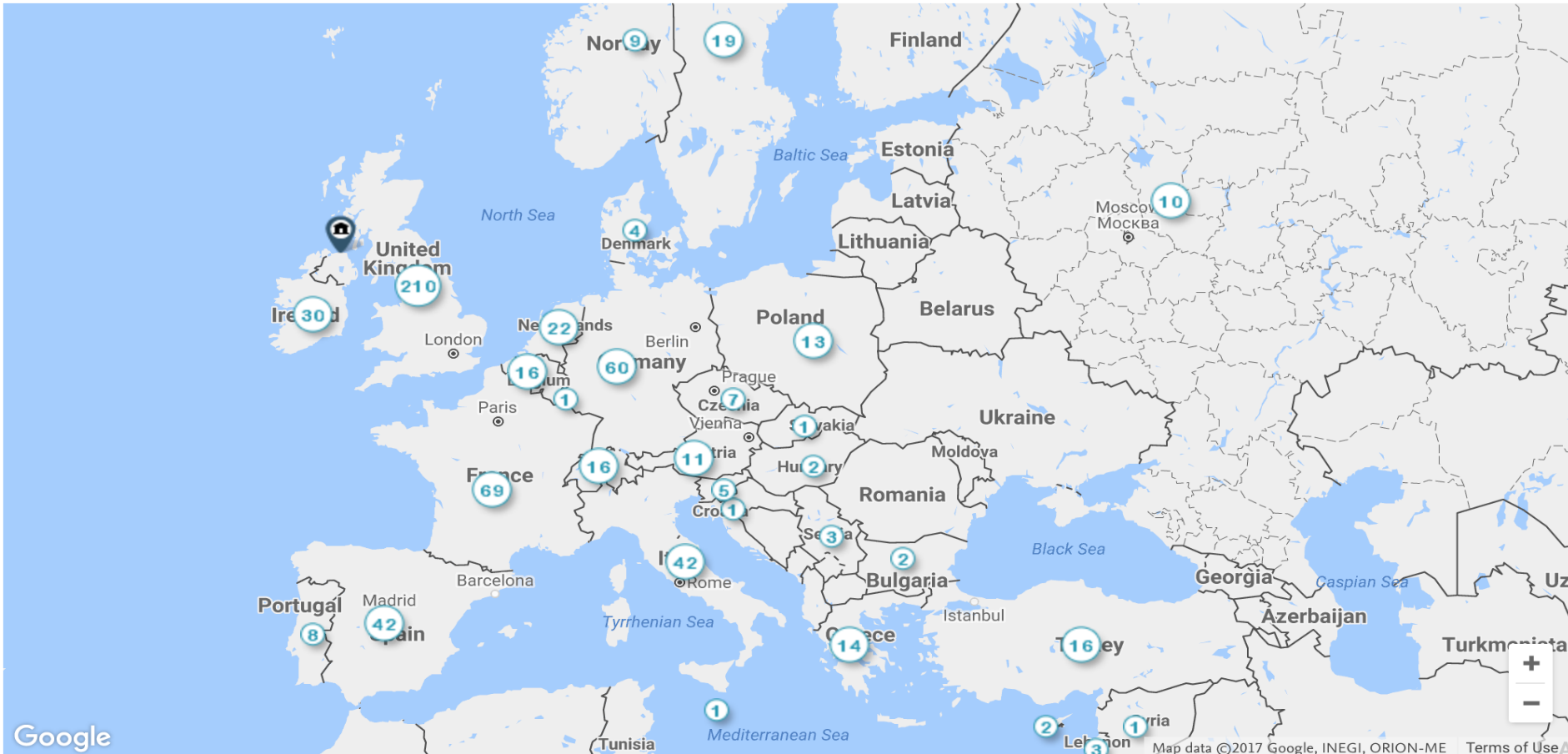
Building International Networks

Leveraging Existing Research Relationships

 633 collaborating institutions  2,224 co-authored publications

 Map  Table

Export  Shortcuts  [Find institution](#) 



H2020 Work Programme, 2

Influencing

- **Build relationships with UK and Ireland Contact Points**
- Influence work programmes for future calls
- Facilitate an exchange of experience between evaluators

Developing and Enhancing Networking

- Networking visits to Brussels to meet EU officials
- Seek appropriate opportunities to showcase Ulster
- Facilitate participation of researchers in EU networks

Building International Networks

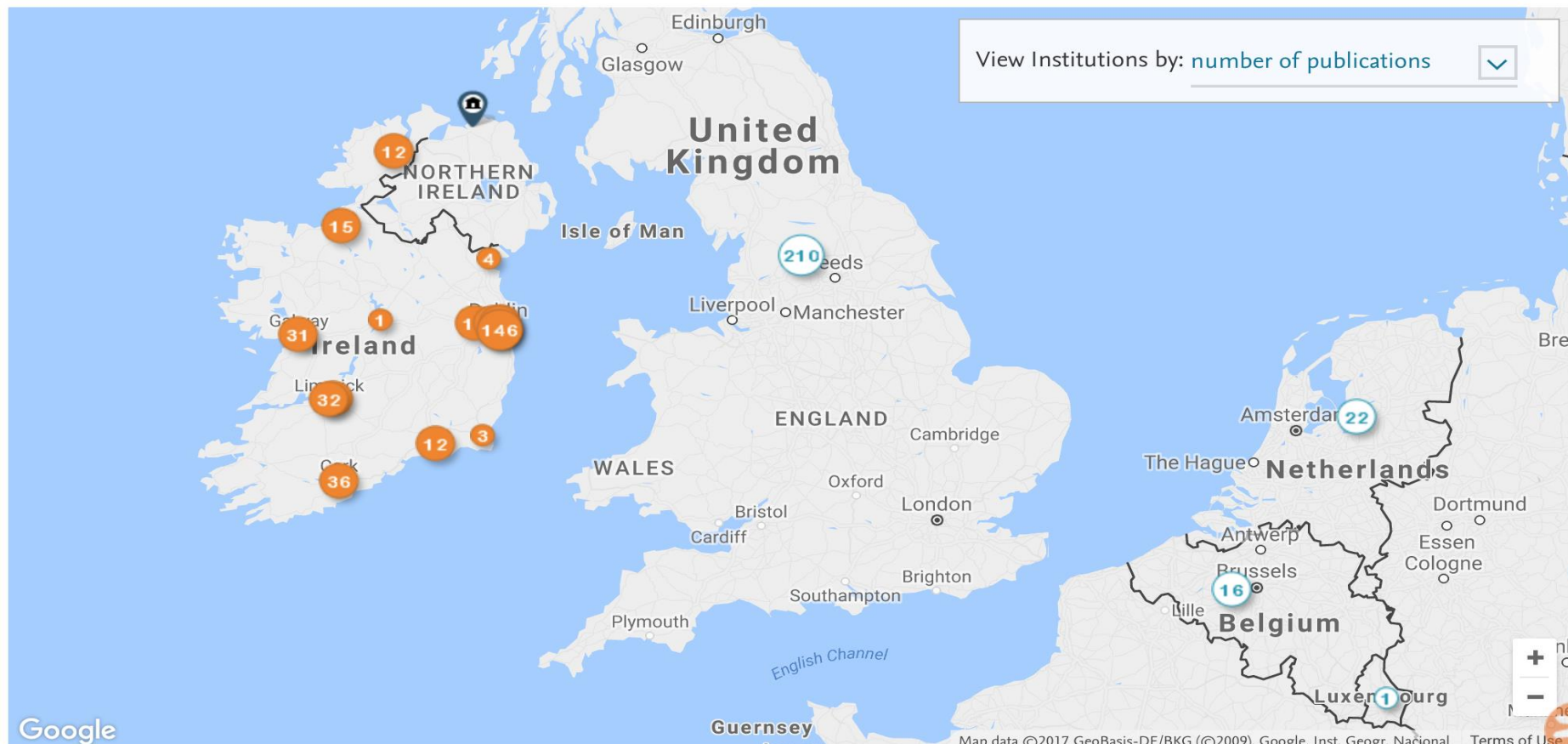
Establishing Preferred Partnerships

Europe Ireland All sectors | reset filter

30 collaborating institutions 498 co-authored publications

Map Table

Export Shortcuts Find institution



Successful projects with Ulster's participation

MIDAS Meaningful Integration of Data, Analytics and Services

- Awarded over €4.5 million
- Led by Ulster University
- Aims to develop a digital platform for healthcare policy makers
- Allows decision-makers to engage with healthcare data to better inform policy, reduce costs and improve health and wellbeing of the population
- Will bring together numerous stakeholders to investigate connecting patient data from European health authorities, with individual data collected from apps, sensors and social media



CONTEXT Collaborative Network for Training and Expertise in PsychoTraumatology

- Awarded €1,093,151.52
- Aims to conduct high quality, innovative research, build capacity and expertise, and foster innovative practice in the area of global psychotraumatology.
- Allows twelve doctoral researchers to study the psychological effects of exposure to traumatic life events amongst groups including refugees, asylum seekers and migrants who have entered Europe from conflict zones
- Ulster University is a partner in this project led by Trinity College Dublin



Further successful projects with Ulster's participation

DESIREE - Decision Support and Information Management System for Breast Cancer

MAGIC - Mobile assistance for groups & individuals within the community suffering from stroke

INPATH-TES - Phd on Innovations Pathways for Thermal Energy Storage

GAP - Gaming for Peace

ASGARD - Analysis System for Gathered Raw Data

ALICE - Accelerate Innovation in urban wastewater management for Climate change

GRAGE – Grey and green in Europe: elderly living in urban areas

ZikaPlan - Zika Preparedness Latin American Network

ACROSSING- Advanced Technologies and platform for smarter assistive living

CHESS – Connected health early stage research training system

SenseCare- Sensor Enabled Affective Computing for Enhancing Medical Care

IC-Health - Improving digital health literacy in Europe

EUROlinkCAT - Establishing a linked European Cohort of Children with Congenital Anomalies

Pathway - Technology enabled self-management of cardiovascular disease



Key Metrics for Ulster in Horizon 2020

Four Year Performance to 31st July 2017

No of applications submitted:	292
No of results received:	283
No of approved projects:	35, valued at €12 million
Ulster success rate:	12.3%



Special EU Programmes Body
Foras Um Chláir Speisialta An AE
Boord O Owre Ocht UE Projecks

PRESS RELEASE

Date: 5th January 2017

ULSTER UNIVERSITY AWARDED €23M WORTH OF EU FUNDING FOR THREE REVOLUTIONARY NEW PROJECTS

Over €23 million has been offered to Ulster University, under the EU's INTERREG VA Programme, for three truly innovative projects within the fields of Health & Life Science and Renewable Energy.

Ulster's participation in INTERREG projects

<p>Ulster leading the following three projects:</p> <p>CPM: Centre for Personalised Medicine, Clinical Decision Making and Patient Safety</p>	<p>Aim to establish a Centre for Personalised Medicine; Clinical Decision Making and Patient Safety (CPM) which will enhance the regional capability while serving as a magnet for regional and FDI industry to create innovative products and new optimised care pathway tools in priority disease areas for patients and commercial benefit.</p>
<p>SPIRE 2: Storage platform for the Integration of Renewable Energy</p>	<p>Ais to increase the regions Research and Innovation (R&I) by creating a cross border Virtual Research Graduate School in the area of Mass Energy Storage (MES).</p>
<p>ECME: Eastern Corridor Medical Engineering Centre</p>	<p>Aim to collate information to use in the fight against disease. Will collect all-Ireland data on cardiovascular and respiratory disease to help develop early detection systems. It will also investigate the use of wearable technologies to record and monitor patient vital signs outside of a hospital setting.</p>
<p>Ulster University partnered project:</p> <p>North West Centre for Advanced Manufacturing</p>	<p>Aims to see the development of a virtual cross border Centre for Advanced Manufacturing with a focus on four thematic areas;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sustainable Manufacturing• Additive Manufacturing• Polymers• Nano-Manufacturing



EU Investment at Ulster University

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European Investment Bank

New Belfast Campus

Expanding the heart of the city

Vibrant Cathedral Quarter

£250m project backed by the EIB

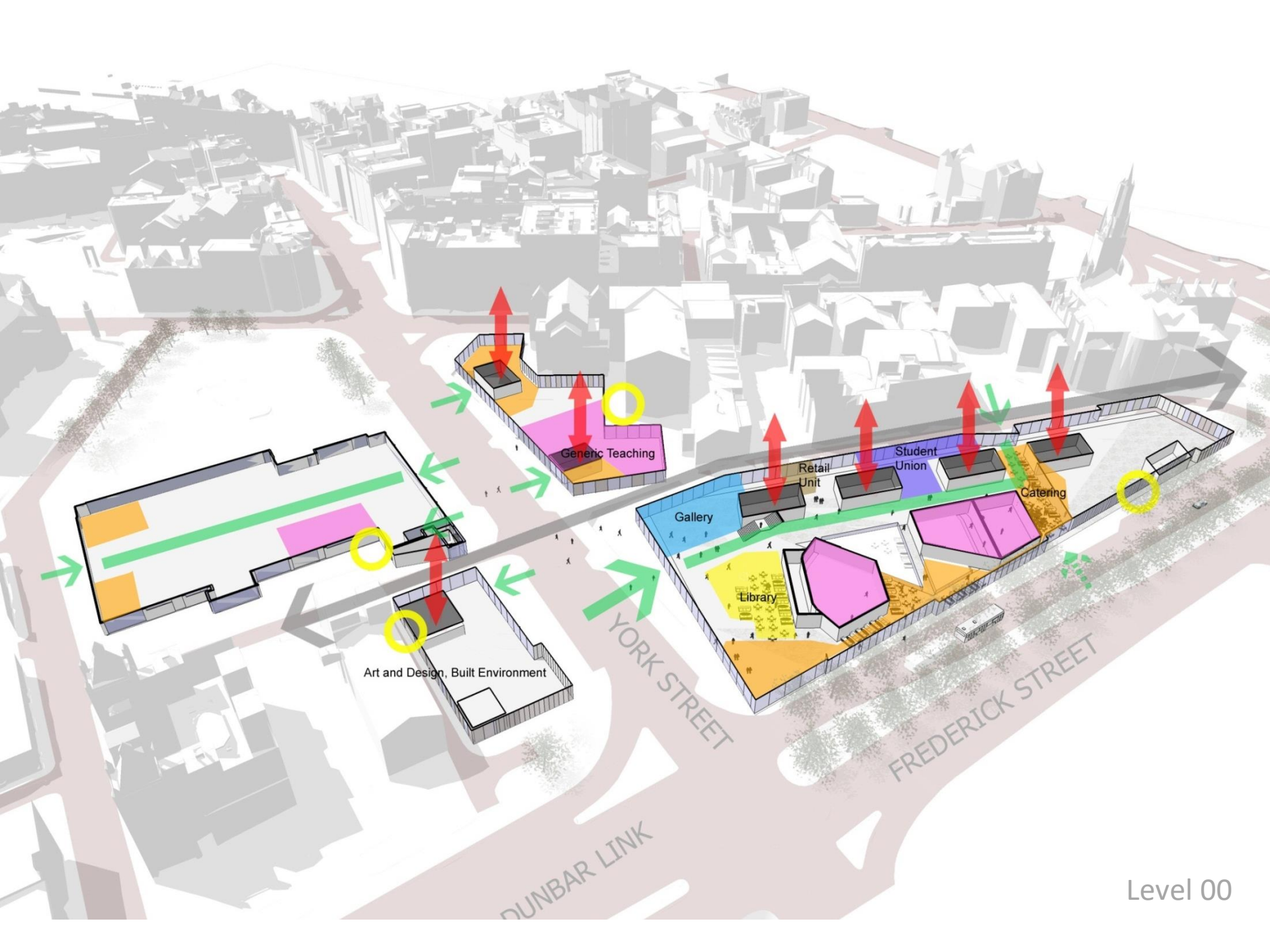
75,000sqm campus

15,000 students and staff

World leading Research & Impact Facilities







Generic Teaching

Retail Unit

Student Union

Catering

Gallery

Library

Art and Design, Built Environment

YORK STREET

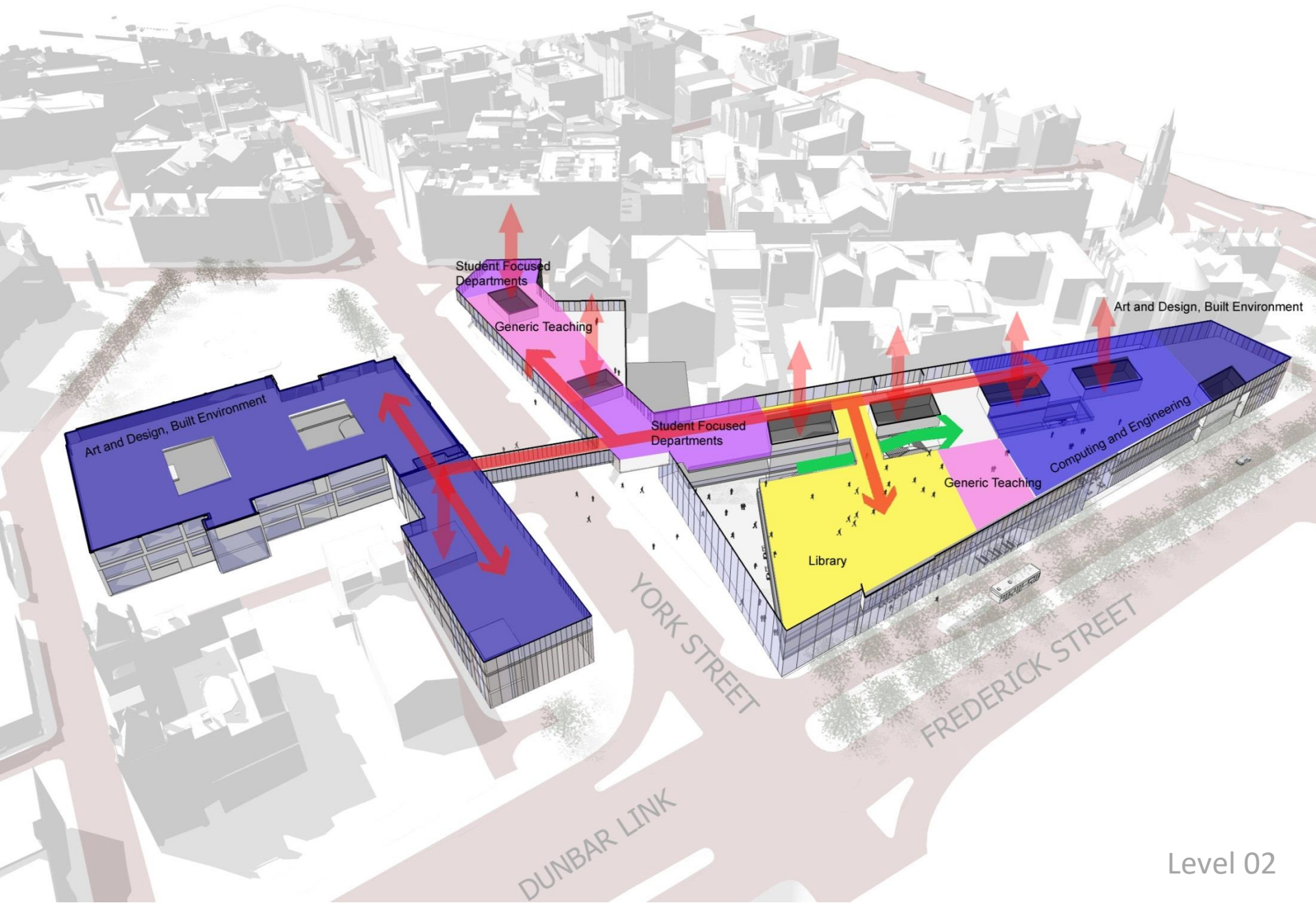
FREDERICK STREET

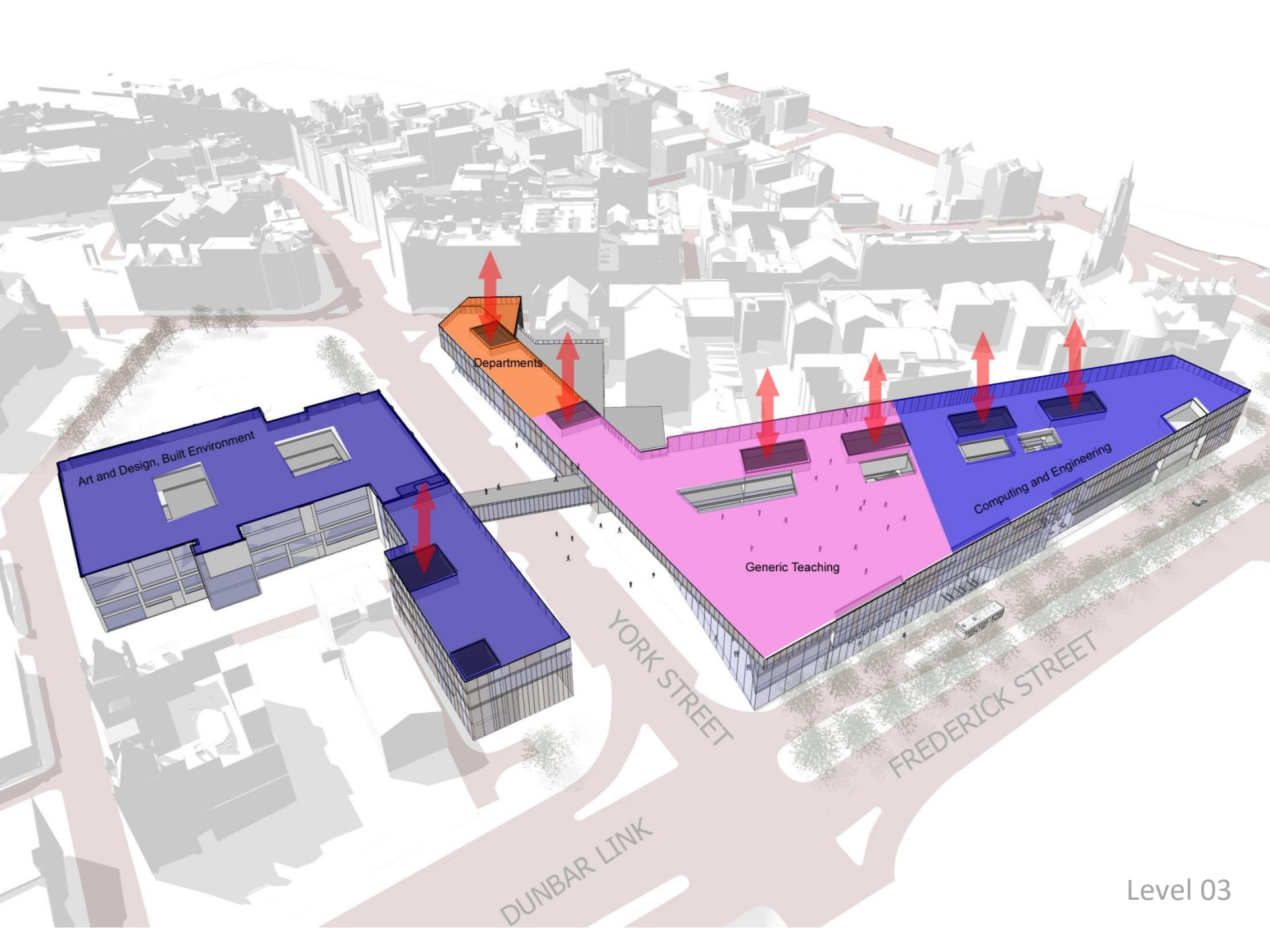
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Level 00



Level 01





Art and Design, Built Environment

Departments

Generic Teaching

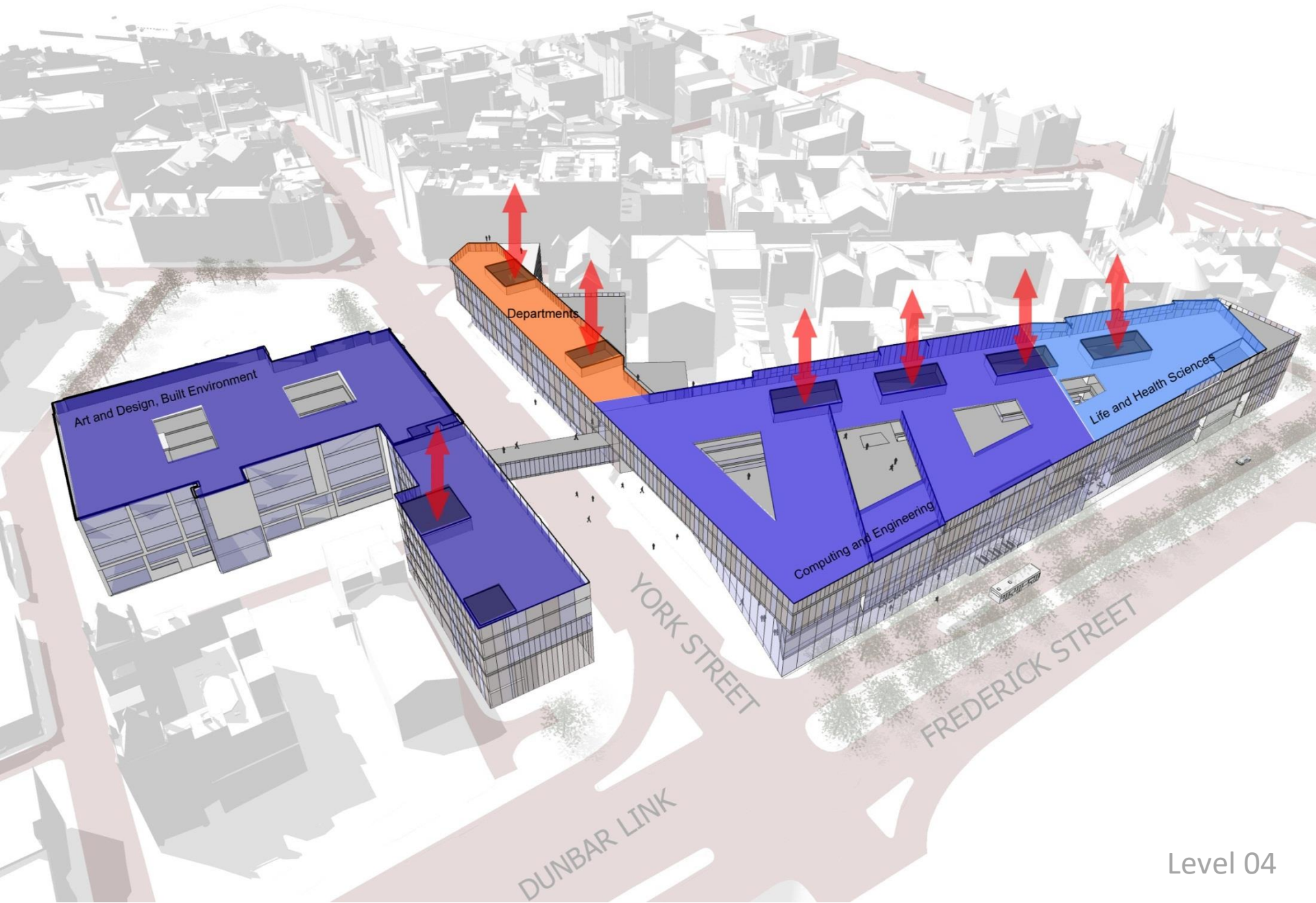
Computing and Engineering

YORK STREET

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Level 03



Art and Design, Built Environment

Departments

Computing and Engineering

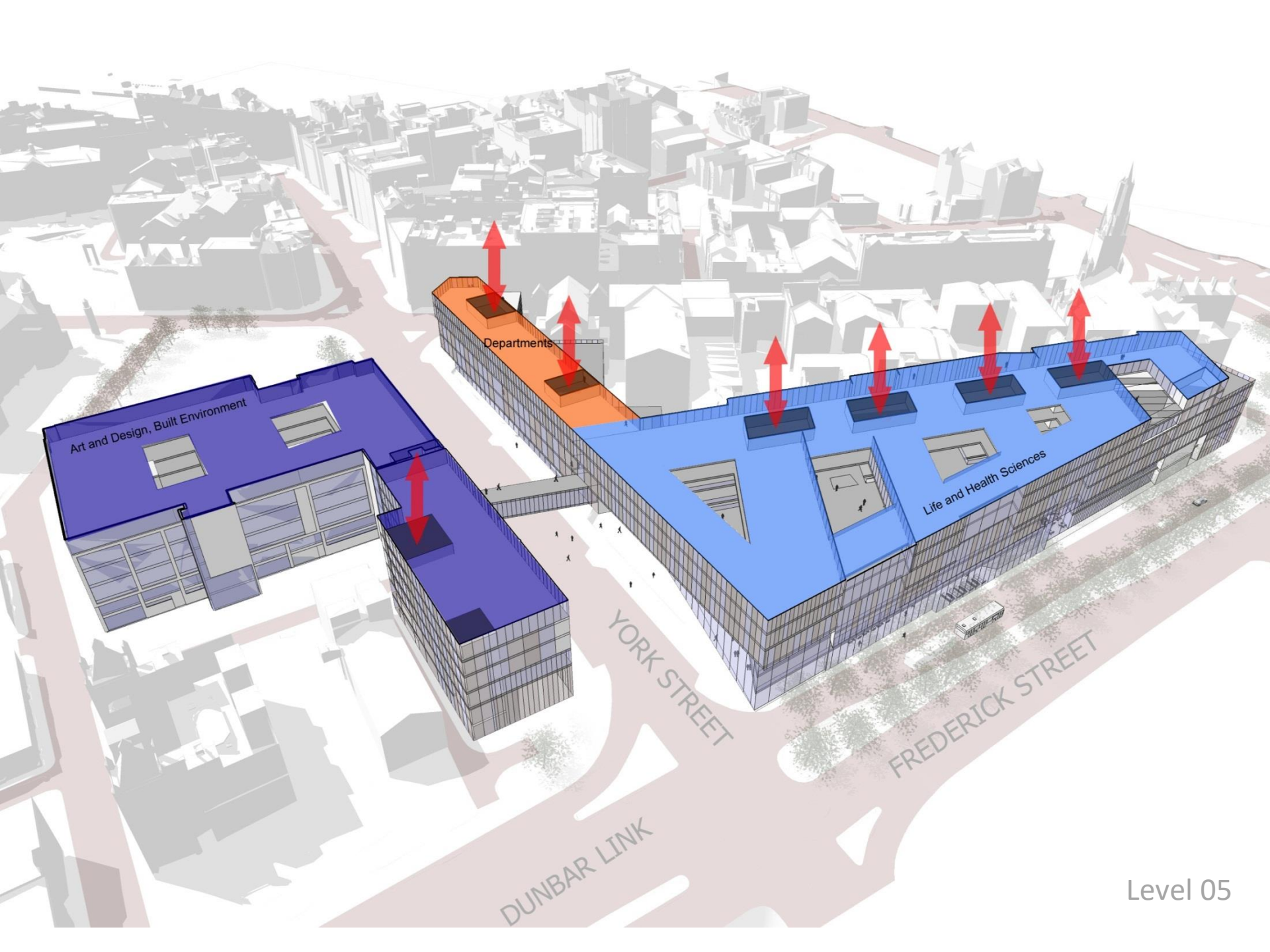
Life and Health Sciences

YORK STREET

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Level 04



Art and Design, Built Environment

Departments

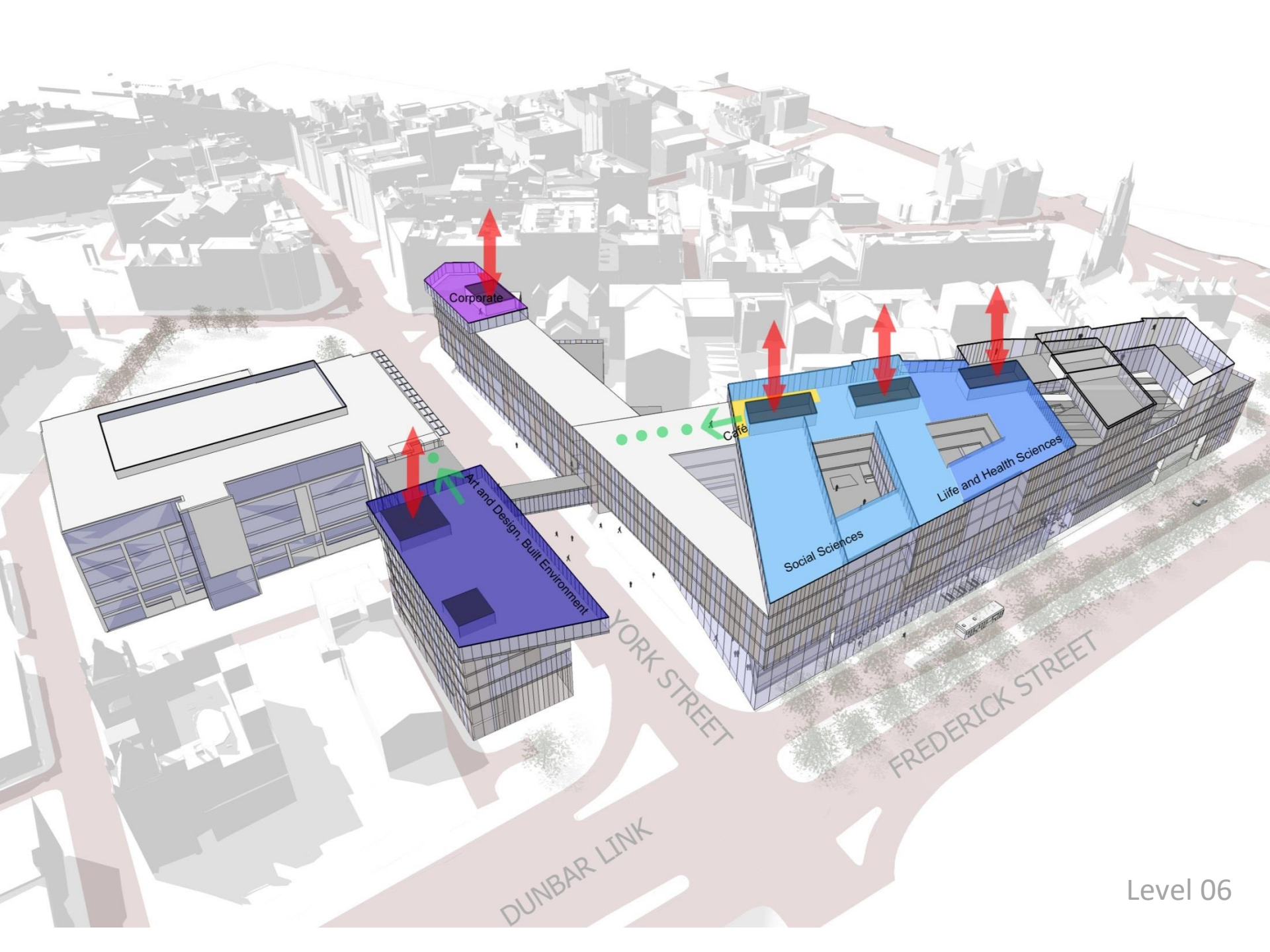
Life and Health Sciences

YORK STREET

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Level 05

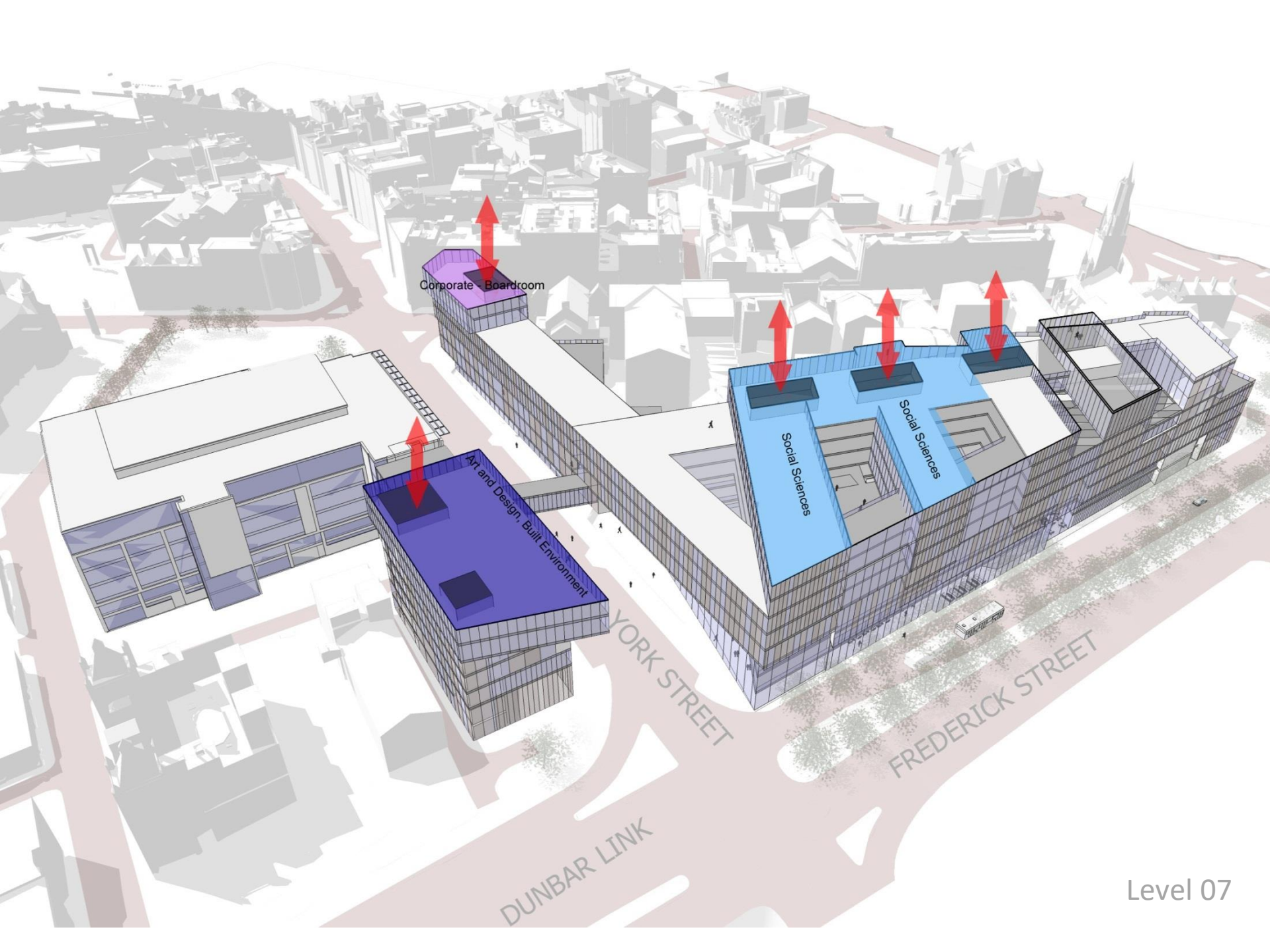


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Level 06



Corporate Boardroom

Art and Design, Built Environment

Social Sciences

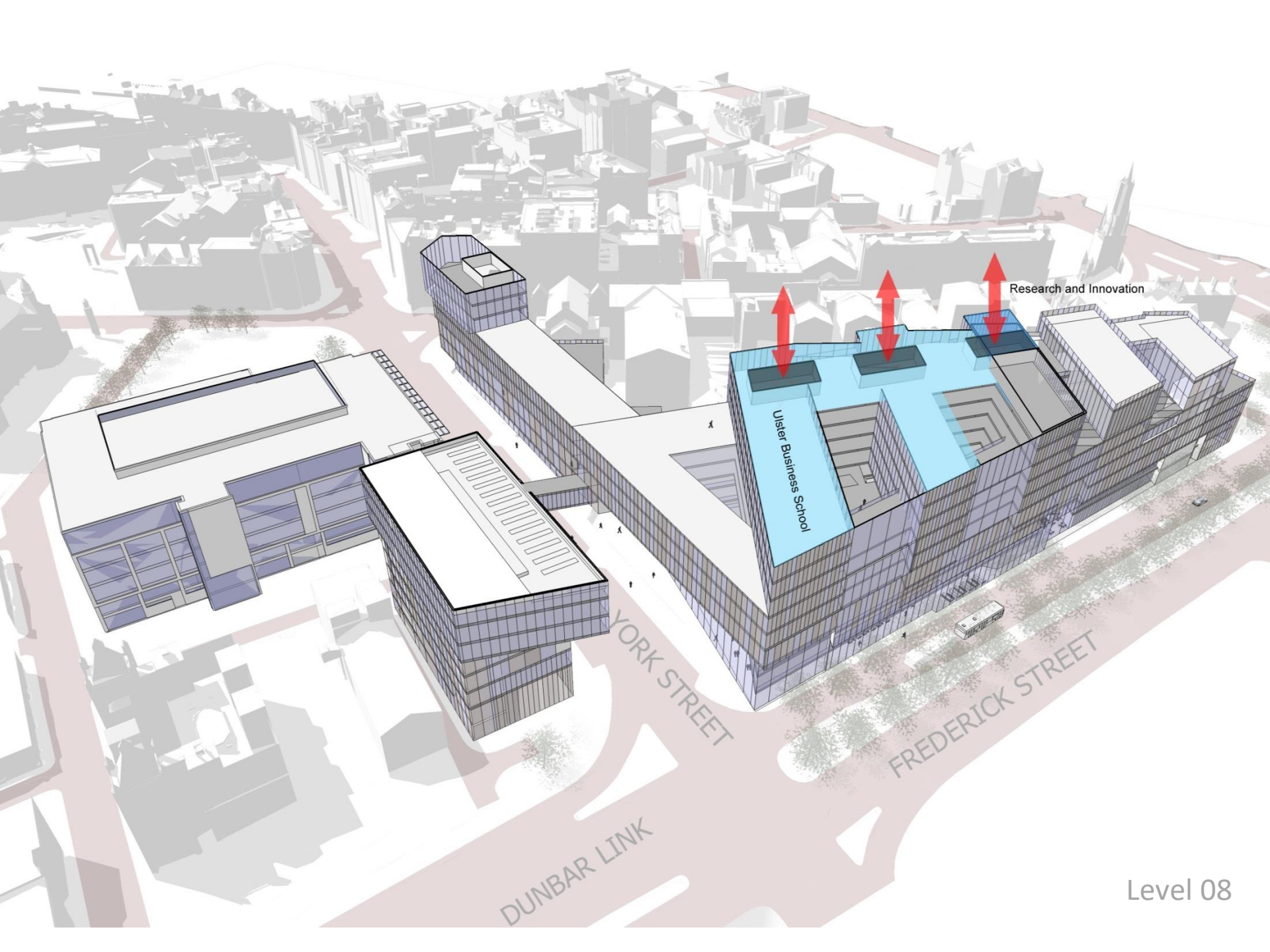
Social Sciences

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Research and Innovation

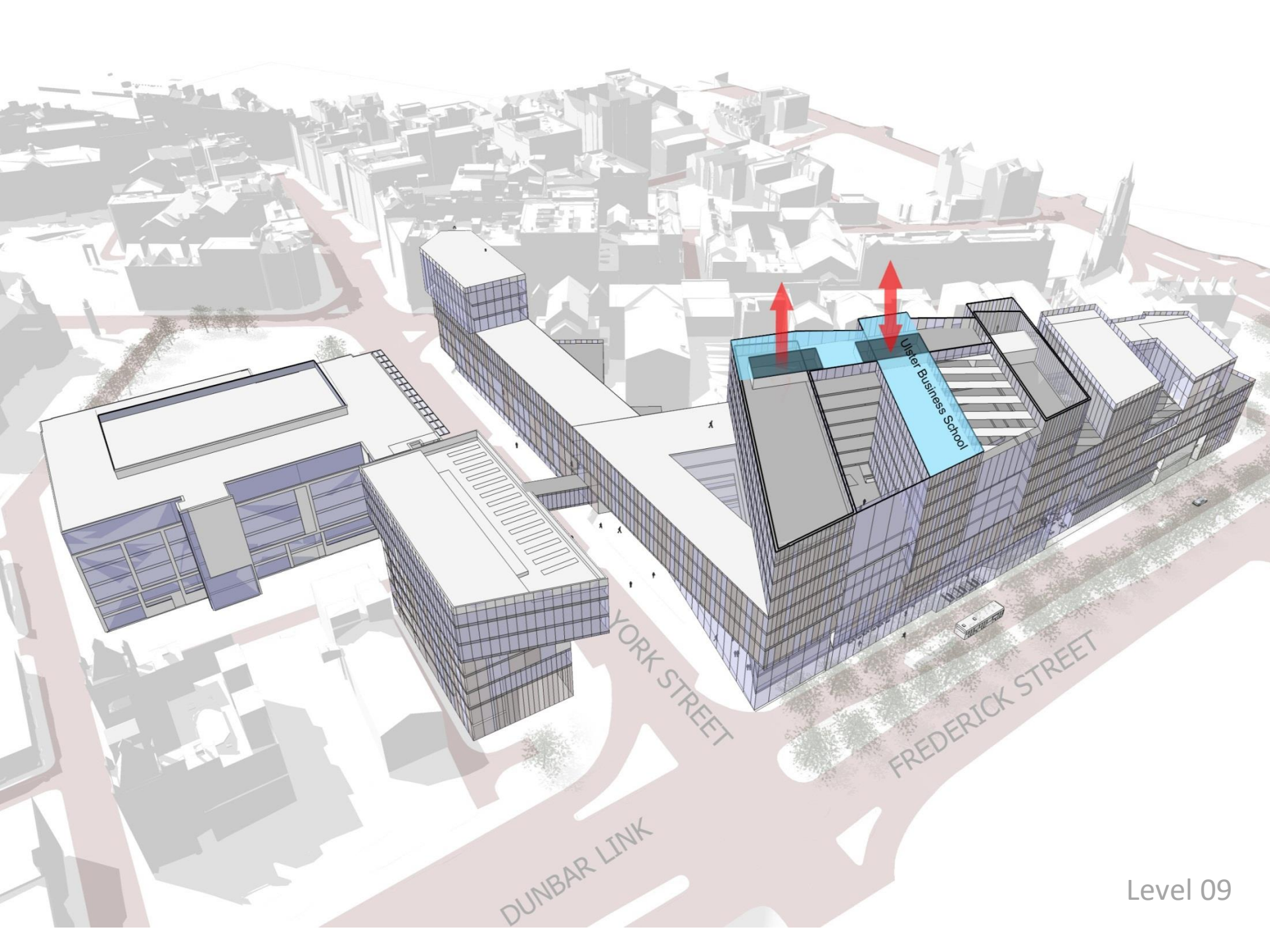
Ulster Business School

YORK STREET

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Level 08

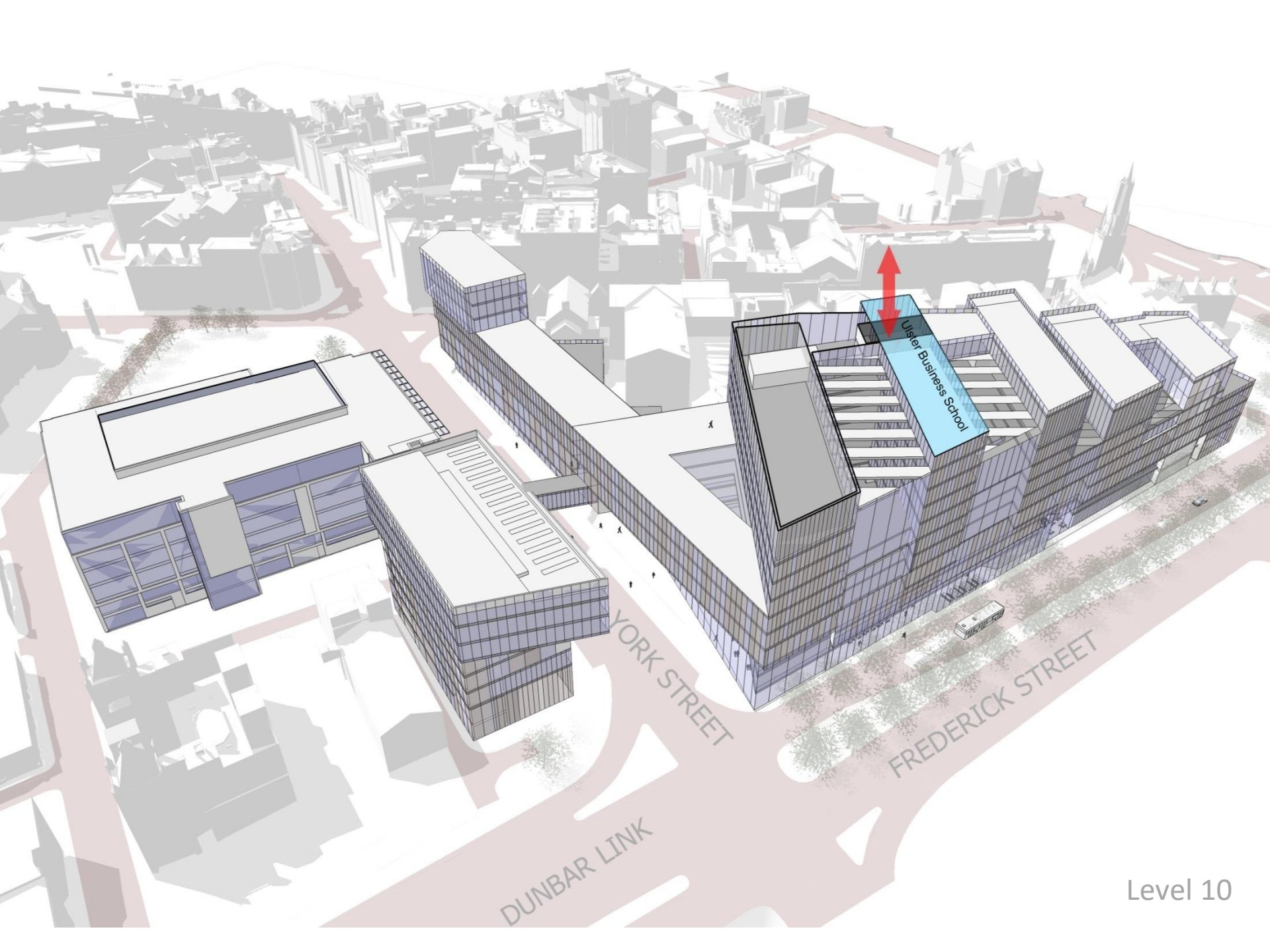


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Usher Business School

Level 09



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Level 10



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FREDERICK STREET

Level 11



Reorganising for Success in Research

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A Vision for Research at Ulster

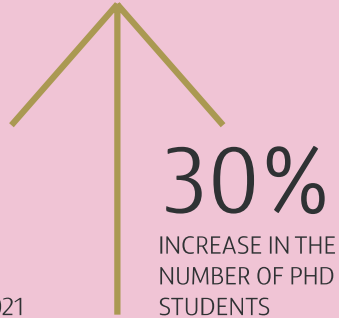
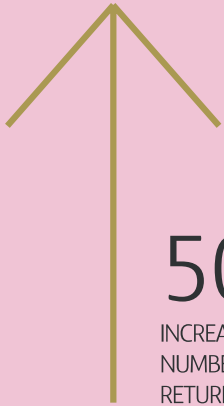
Five & Fifty Strategy 2016

As Northern Ireland's civic university, Ulster University will deliver outstanding research and teaching that encourages the innovation, leadership and vision needed to help our community thrive.



Ulster University's R&I Strategy will
empower our people
to undertake interdisciplinary research in a
supportive environment
to produce
**internationally excellent and
world leading outputs**
with
transformative impact.

For our people

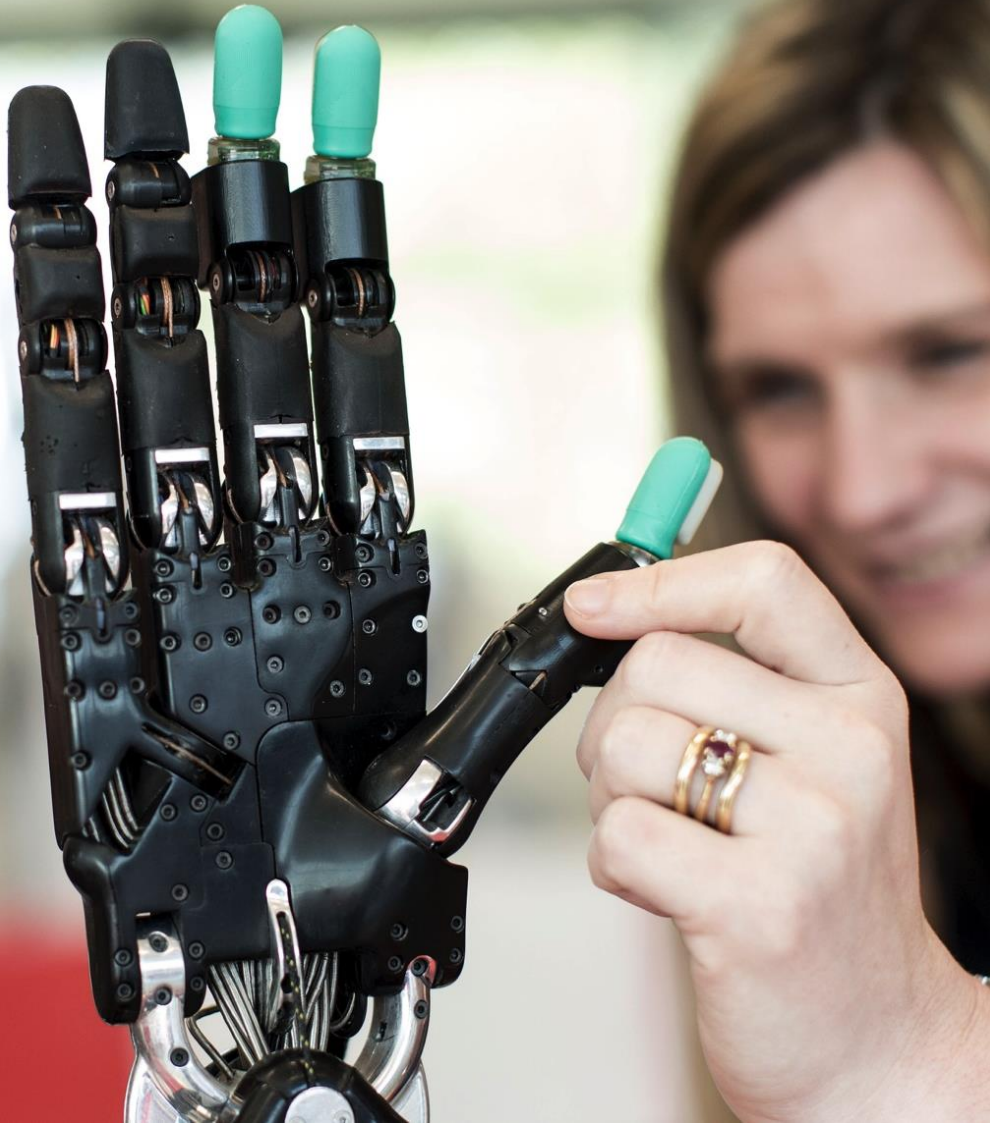


Supporting Actions:

- Recruitment
- Recognition
- Support
- Training



For our Outputs



Supporting Actions:

- **Maximise Quality**
- **Increase Research Income**
- **Develop Partnerships**
- **Mentoring and Support**

For our research focus

The 4 strategic research themes will be as follows:

Social Renewal, with a strong focus on Peace, Conflict and Transition, Educational Attainment, Social and Economic Policy, Entrepreneurship;

Sustainability, with a strong focus on Urban Renewal, Energy, Environmental Sustainability, Infrastructure, Digital Futures, Computing, Engineering, Composites;

Healthy Communities, with a strong focus on Health Innovation and Policy, Mental Health, Physical Activity and Exercise, Smart Aging and Smart Homes; and

Creativity and Culture, with a strong focus on the Creative economy, Cultural diversity, the business of creativity.

- **Achieve international recognition in strategic research themes addressing large scale interdisciplinary global challenges**
- **Develop partnerships with national and international centres of research excellence**

For our Research Environment



- **Establish Ulster University Doctoral College**
- **Dedicated Research Spaces**
- **World-class Professional Services and Infrastructure**
- **Research Administration Support**

For our Impact

By 2022:

- Translate our research into value for the economy, society, culture, public policy or services, health, the environment and quality of life beyond academia.

TOP 25% of UK Universities within the next REF assessment for 4* and 3* research impact

TOP 20% of UK Universities within the 2021 HESA HE-BCI Survey league for its HEIF-determining metrics.



From Strategy to Research Management

Aligning resources



Benchmarking, Process Optimisation



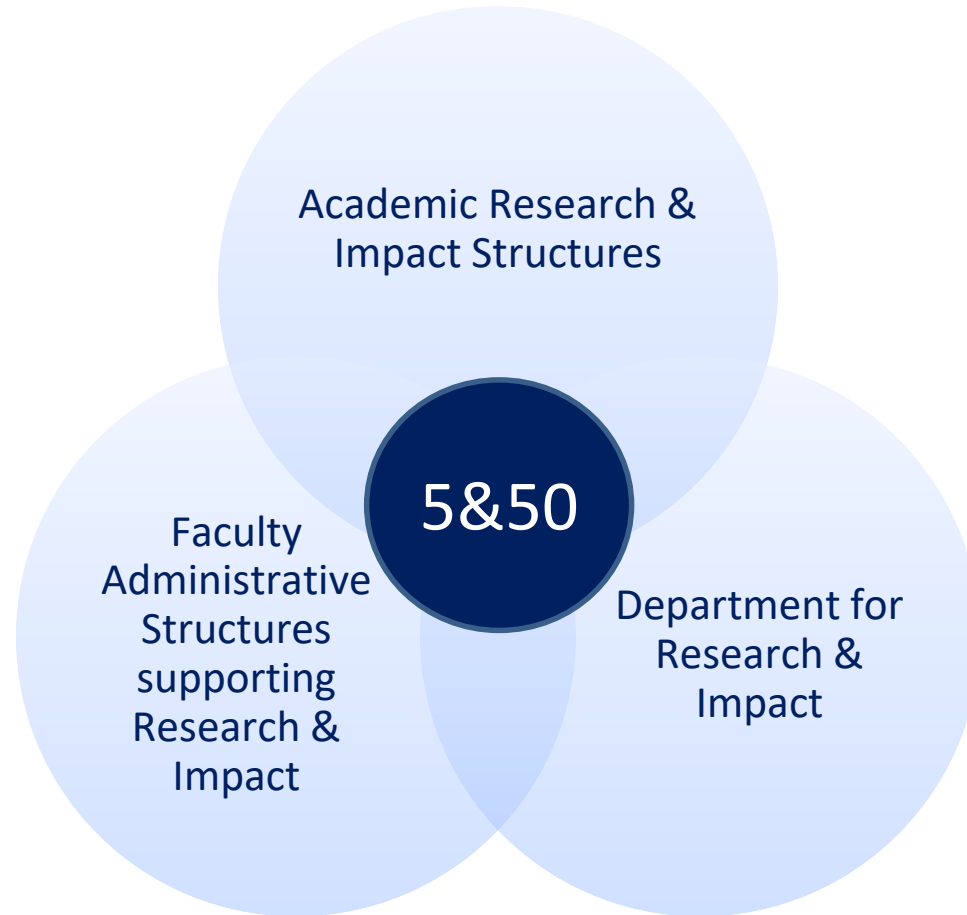
Department for Research & Impact

Individual Expectations, Annual Plans



Structures Supporting Research & Impact

Tripartite Relationships



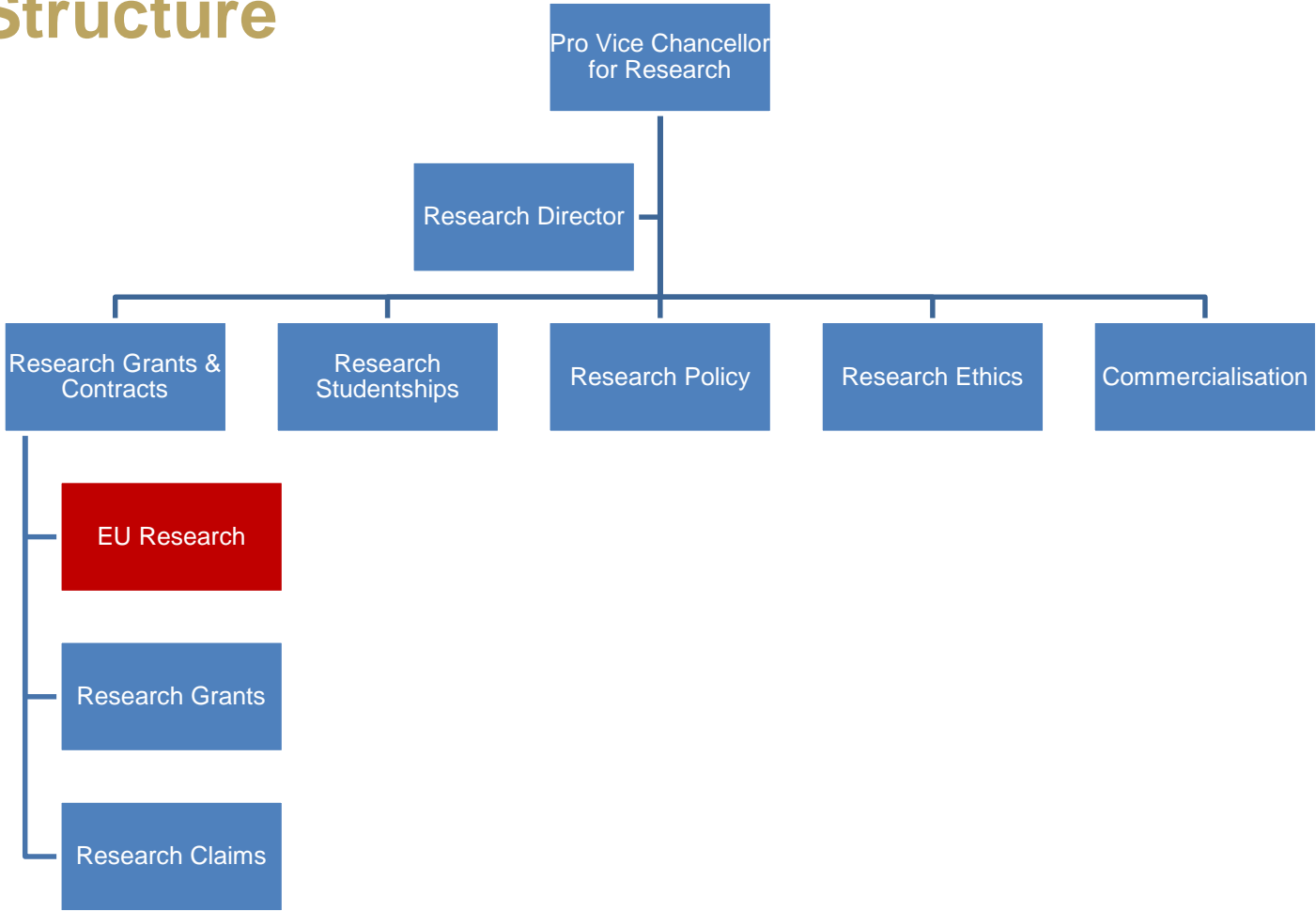
Structures Supporting Research & Impact

Reorganising & restructuring

The right people, in the right roles, within the right teams, at the right grades, with the right relationships between them, focused on delivery of strategy.

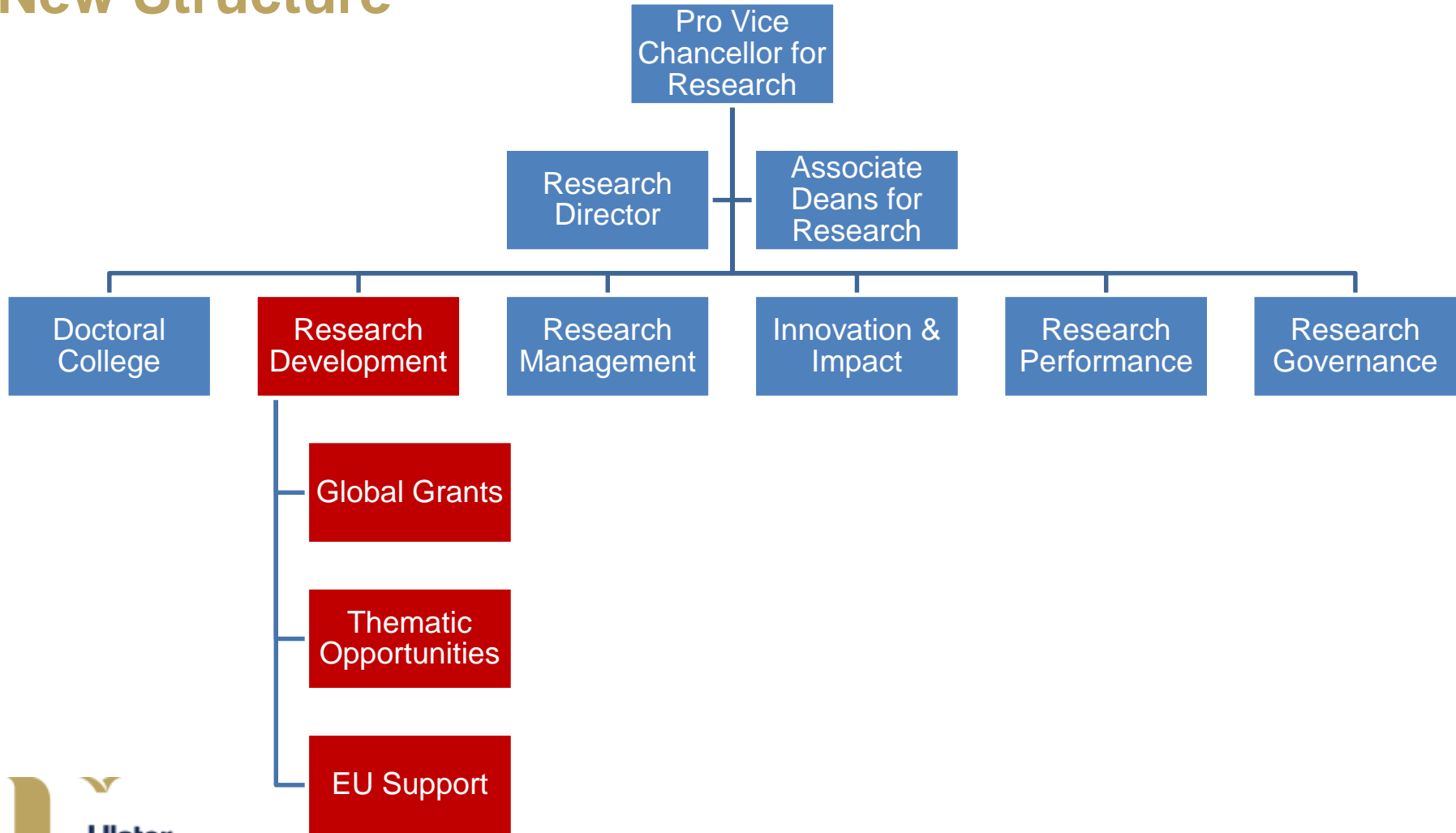
Research Office

2012 Structure

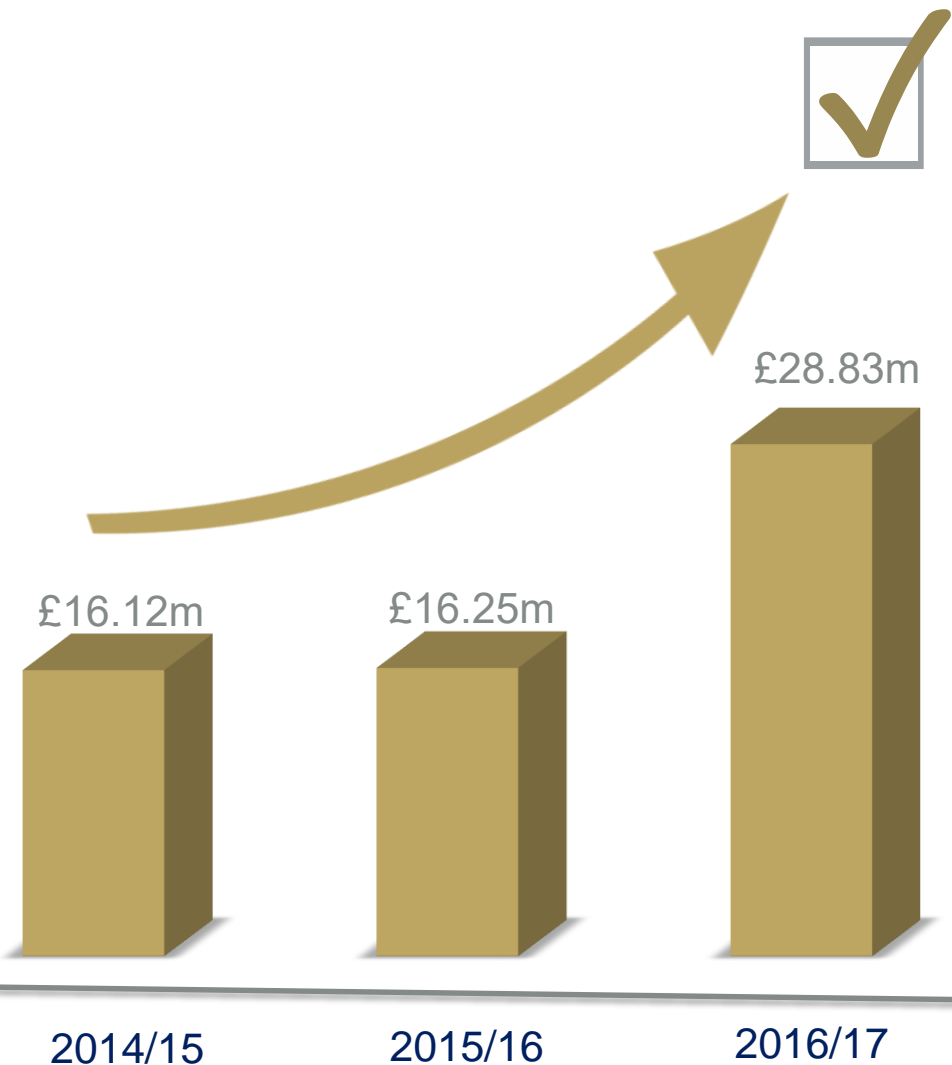


Department for Research & Impact

New Structure



Research Grant Awards



£3.33m

achieved above target
in the year 2016/17



**£28.83m in grant
awards in 2016/17**



From

€ 2m_{p/a}

EU Research Awards in 2012

To

€ 25m_{p/a}

EU Research Awards in 2017

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Key Learning Points

1. Align to Strategy
2. Government Commitment
3. Establish Dedicated Resource
4. Invest in Relationships
5. University Collaboration Agreement
6. Look to International Partners
7. Research Themes for Business
8. Portfolio Approach to Funding
9. Reorganise for Success
10. Celebrate Success





BREXIT & Northern Ireland

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BREXIT Leadership Research Forum

Politicians, business, community engaged

Focus on:

- Regional Migration Policy
- Workforce Development Strategy
- Frictionless border and trade relationship
- Developing regional political leadership
- Establishing UK/ROI common interests
- Clarifying NI's constitutional position
- Understanding risks and opportunities
- Promoting innovation and research





Q&A

Tim Brundle, Director of Research & Impact

tim@ulster.ac.uk

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