



Key findings from the multi-disciplinary capacity development research project

Tips for conducting cross-disciplinary research

A recent MUDI literature review identified four groups of inter-related actions to facilitate cross-disciplinary research

Individuals

- Identify your own motives and believe in the value of cross-disciplinary research
- Be receptive to new ideas, deal with the unknown, tolerate ambiguity
- Gain cross-disciplinary research **experience** through networking and mentorship/menteeship
- Take time to understand other disciplines and team members
- Foster team-work through good communication, negotiation, interpersonal relationships, time management and leadership skills

Academic Institutions

- Implement incentives that value cross-disciplinary research
- Provide administrative support and tools for good crossdisciplinary research management and coordination
- Provide seed money, and identify external funds, for crossdisciplinary research and its dissemination
- Facilitate **spaces** for researchers from multiple disciplines to work and meet

Practical actions for fostering crossdisciplinary research

Research Funders

- Commission research on crossdisciplinary communication and coordination
- Recognise that cross-disciplinary research projects may need their own metrics
- Ensure the process for reviewing cross-disciplinary proposals is fit for purpose
- Encourage academic institutions and publishers to recognise and promote cross-disciplinary research

Research Team Leaders

- Define research problems collaboratively to produce a common theoretical framework, a shared understanding and a common language
- Develop a **clear vision** with an explicit goal of knowledge integration across disciplines
- Establish a cross-disciplinary team that includes clearly defined roles, rules and boundaries
- Engage local stakeholders and develop working relationships through transparency, trustworthiness, fair recognition and realistic goals
- Build **trust** and minimize academic and discipline hierarchy
- Encourage team-level reflection on both the process and outcomes of crossdisciplinary research



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