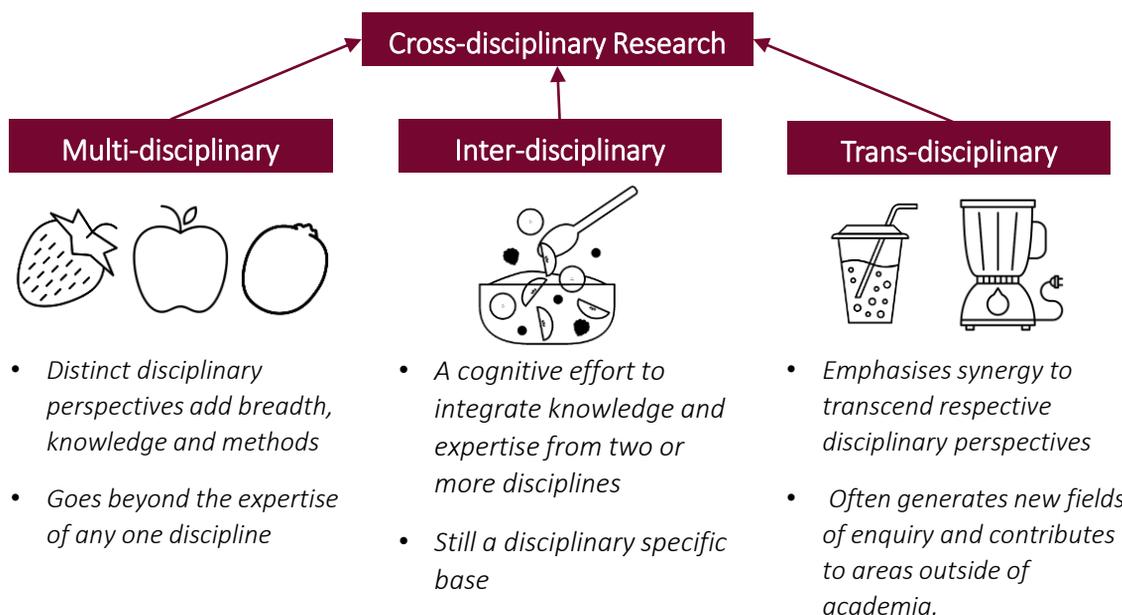


## What is cross-disciplinary research?

Cross-disciplinary research (i.e., multi-, inter-, trans-disciplinary research) has been increasingly recognised for its importance in generating new knowledge and promoting scientific innovation in the design of solutions to complex societal problems and has been growing globally in popularity among researchers and funders. Existing definitions of multi-, inter-, trans- and cross-disciplinary research are inconsistent and poorly understood, making communications and skills development around cross-disciplinary research difficult. Here we present our understanding of cross-disciplinary research approaches.

### Defining cross-disciplinary research

Cross-disciplinary research is an **umbrella term to cover multi-, inter-, and trans-disciplinary** research. It combines and can integrate methods and theories drawn from **two or more disciplines**. Its *richness* comes from the **number** of research disciplines involved, the **diversity** of research disciplines, the **creativity** and **novelty** of the combination of research disciplines, and the level of disciplinary **integration** achieved.



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All icons from the noun project: Teewara soontorn, Iadhina, sobinergey, Julia, Danil Polshin, Iconika

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