

IMPERIAL

Science for Humanity in Practice.

Understanding the Policy Influence of
Imperial's SDG-Mapped Research.

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Acknowledgements

Overton

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Clark & Ozkan were the recipients of an [Overton Policy Grant](#) (2025-26), which funded this work.

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How to cite

Clark, R., & Ozkan, Y. (2026). *Science for Humanity in Practice: Understanding the Policy Influence of Imperial's SDG-Mapped Research*. Imperial College London. <https://doi.org/10.25560/138689>

Statement on the Use of Artificial Intelligence

This report was produced with the assistance of artificial intelligence tools at two stages of its development.

- First, AI was used as part of the editorial and quality assurance process. Specifically, to verify the internal consistency of the report by cross-checking quantitative claims against the underpinning data in Appendix B, and to identify any errors, or inconsistencies.
- Second, AI was used to enhance the narrative clarity of certain parts of the report. Specifically, to improve readability by avoiding jargon, and non-standard abbreviation. All AI-assisted text was reviewed, edited, and approved by the authors prior to publication. In all cases, the judgements, interpretations, and conclusions presented here, are those of the authors.

The AI tool used throughout this process was Claude Sonnet 4.6, developed by Anthropic, accessed via 'dAlsyl' - Imperial College London's secure AI platform. The authors retain full responsibility for the content of this report, including any errors or omissions that remain.

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Executive Summary

Science for Humanity

This report examines how Imperial College London’s research reaches policy audiences, and whether the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a useful framework through which to understand that relationship. We use the SDGs not simply as a way of classifying research, but as an analytical lens: one that allows us to trace research concerned with major societal challenges as it moves from academic publication into policy.

The analysis suggests that this lens is a useful one. Imperial research associated with the SDGs is substantially more likely to be cited in policy than research without an SDG association. Focusing on three areas of particular strength at Imperial — health, clean energy and climate action — also reveals a substantial and international policy footprint, while showing how differently research travels through different policy systems. The SDG framework therefore helps us both to map Imperial’s policy engagement and to identify some of the structures that shape it.

We analysed a dataset of 6,934 Imperial journal articles (that were drawn from a broader pool of 40,086 outputs mapped to SDGs 3, 7, and 13) that had been cited in at least one policy document tracked by Overton. This gave us a picture of which research is reaching policy audiences, who is citing it, from where, and how long it takes. The dataset connects three sources of evidence: Imperial’s own publication records, SDG classifications from Dimensions, and policy citation data from Overton.

The key findings from our report are as follows:

- SDG-linked research is significantly more likely to reach policy. Across Imperial’s output, 15.3% of SDG-aligned publications received at least one policy citation, compared with 6.4% of non-SDG-aligned work, and for the three SDGs at the centre of this study, the rate rises to 17.3%.
- Policy engagement remains the exception. Of Imperial’s 148,216 research outputs indexed in Dimensions (see Figure 2), only 9.1% appear in any policy document. The pipeline from research to policy is long, selective, and slow.
- It takes years, not months. The median gap between publication and first policy citation is 829 days, which is roughly two and a half years. This is a structural feature of the research-to-policy pathway, not an anomaly.
- Open access outputs dominate policy citations. 89.5% of policy citations in this dataset reference open access outputs. Research that can’t be freely read is research that is harder to cite.

- Imperial's policy reach is genuinely global, but concentrated. Policy documents citing Imperial's research originate from 134 country classifications and 1,431 institutions. The US and UK account for the largest share, but institutions from across Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Oceania also appear in the data.
- Internally, policy engagement is broad but led by Medicine. The Faculty of Medicine dominates the dataset, but meaningful policy-cited research originates from all four faculties, and from smaller units like the Centre for Environmental Policy, the Department of Mathematics, and the Business School.

Taken together, these findings confirm that Imperial's research is reaching policy audiences at scale and across a genuinely international landscape. They also raise questions worth sitting with: about the long lag between research and policy uptake, about the concentration of policy engagement within high-income countries, and about the extent to which current measures of research impact capture what is actually happening. Policy citation is a measure of documented engagement, not of influence or outcome.

This report is not simply a retrospective account of what Imperial's research has achieved. It is an attempt to map the research-to-policy pipeline with greater precision than is usually possible, and a test of whether the SDG framework, used carefully, can help institutions do that more systematically.

Approach

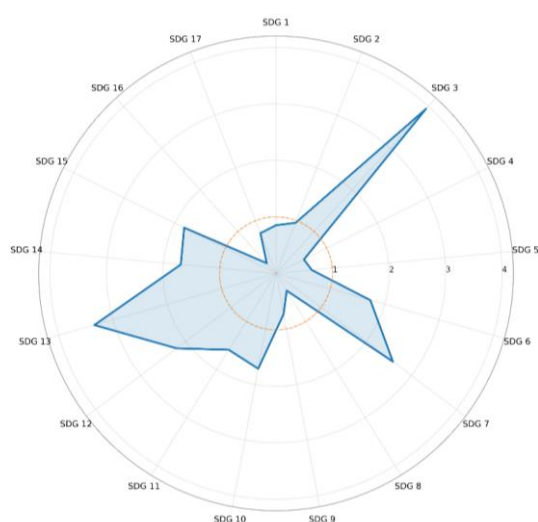
Focusing the Analysis

Imperial's research spans all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). To produce findings that were both meaningful and manageable, this study focused on 3 SDGs that are particularly prominent within Imperial's research portfolio:

- **SDG 3:** Good Health and Well-Being
- **SDG 7:** Affordable and Clean Energy
- **SDG 13:** Climate Action

These themes were selected through an initial scoping exercise that examined Imperial's research outputs over the previous 10 years. Using publication data drawn from [Imperial's Current Research Information System](#) (Symplectic Elements) and SDG classifications provided through [Dimensions](#), we assessed both the volume of SDG-linked research (see Appendix A, Fig. A.1) and Imperial's relative strengths across all goal areas (see Appendix A, Table A.2).

Figure 1 – Imperial's relative research strength across all SDG'



An index value above 1 indicates a greater concentration of Imperial research than the global average.

This analysis showed that SDGs 3, 7 and 13 represent some of the University's largest and most distinctive areas of SDG-related research activity. Together, they provide a useful lens through which to explore the relationship between research aligned to global challenges and evidence of policy influence.

Constructing the Analytical Dataset (*Imperial-SDGx3-Policy*)

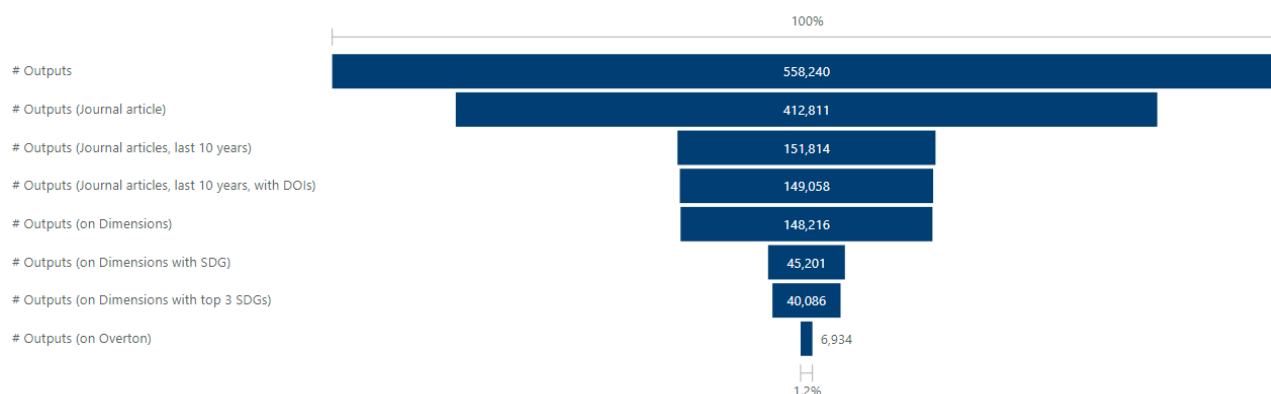
The central aim of our project is to understand how research outputs, from Imperial, and linked to SDG's 3, 7, and 13, are informing policy.

Figure 2 (below) sets out the process used to construct the dataset for this study. We began by extracting publication records from Imperial's Current Research Information System, Symplectic Elements (hereafter CRIS). The CRIS contains over 558,000 research outputs. To create a consistent and comparable pool of research outputs, this initial dataset was then filtered to include journal articles only, published between 2016 and 2025, and with a Digital Object Identifier (DOI). This left 149,058 journal articles, representing 26.7% of the original dataset.

These publication records were then matched to Dimensions by using its API, which provided the SDG classifications used in the analysis. We retained only those outputs that had been assigned at least 1 SDG tag (45,201), before narrowing the dataset further to the 3 SDGs selected for this study: SDG 3, Good Health and Well-Being; SDG 7, Affordable and Clean Energy; and SDG 13, Climate Action. In total, 40,086 research outputs were linked to these three SDGs, representing 7.18% of the original dataset.

This refined pool of SDGx3-mapped journal articles was then linked to Overton policy citation data through Overton's API. 6,934 out of 40,086 research outputs were found to have been cited in policy documents. This means that 17.3% of top three SDG-mapped Imperial outputs have been cited in policy. This final step allowed us to identify which of the selected Imperial outputs had been referenced in policy documents, and to analyse the organisations, sectors and geographies associated with that policy engagement. The resulting dataset therefore connects three forms of evidence: Imperial publication records, SDG classifications, and policy citations.

Figure 2 - Construction of the Analytical Dataset (*Imperial-SDGx3-Policy*)



*See Appendix B.0 for the underlying data

The funnel illustrates the selective nature of policy engagement. While Imperial produces a very large volume of research, only a comparatively small proportion of outputs are subsequently referenced within policy documents. This reflects a broader feature of the research ecosystem: policy influence is typically concentrated within a relatively small subset of research outputs, making it important to understand the characteristics of work that successfully travels beyond academia.

By linking this sub-set (SDGx3-mapped) of Imperial's research outputs to the policy documents that cite them, we were able to examine where the research is being referenced in policy, which types of organisations are drawing on it, and the geographical reach of that influence. Rather than focusing on individual examples alone, our project sought to build a broader evidence base that could reveal systemic patterns.

Interpreting the Findings

The findings presented in this report should be understood as evidence of an observed relationships between SDG-linked research and policy engagement, rather than definitive evidence of causation.

The SDG classifications used in this study are derived from Dimensions, which applies SDG tags using [automated classification methods](#). As a result, the analysis captures research that is associated with particular SDGs but cannot always determine whether researchers intentionally designed their work around those goals. As such, wherever we refer

to ‘SDG-aligned research’ or ‘SDGx3-mapped research’ this should be read as an observed relation rather than a designed one. Similarly, policy citations provide evidence that research has been recognised and used within policy-related documents, but they do not on their own demonstrate the extent to which that research influenced policy decisions or outcomes. Nevertheless, taken together, this data provides a valuable means of exploring how research connected to global challenges travels beyond academia and into wider policy conversations.

Further details on the data sources, analytical methods, limitations, and technical procedures used in this study are provided in Appendix A.

Findings and Analysis:

Part 1 - Characteristics of the Dataset

Key Terms

Terms	Definition
SDG-aligned	The 45,201 outputs that were tagged with at least one (of the 17) SDGs. See Figure 2.
Non-SDG-aligned	The 103,015 outputs that were not tagged with any (of the 17) SDGs. See Figure 2.
SDGx3-mapped	The 40,086 outputs that were tagged with at least one of SDG3, SDG7, SDG13. See Figure 2.

Highlights of the Dataset

The final dataset (*Imperial-SDGx3-Policy*) reveals several notable patterns regarding the relationship between SDGx3-mapped research, and policy engagement. The principal characteristics of the dataset are:

- 6,934 SDGx3-mapped outputs are cited in at least one policy document.
- 32,188 total policy citations for SDGx3-mapped outputs.
- Median lag of 829 days (~2.3 years) between publication and policy citation.

Finding 1: SDG-linked research is more likely to be cited in policy

Research that is associated with a Sustainable Development Goal is substantially more likely to find its way into policy documents than research without that connection. Across Imperial's output, 15.3% of SDG-aligned publications received at least one policy citation, compared with 6.4% of non-SDG-aligned publications: a difference that is striking when set against the [global average policy citation rate for research outputs](#) of around 5–6%.

The pattern becomes more pronounced when the lens narrows to the three SDGs at the centre of this study. Of the 40,086 outputs mapped to SDG 3, SDG 7, or SDG 13, 17.3% were cited in at least one policy document - a rate nearly three times the global norm. This does not establish a causal relationship: SDG classification reflects an observed association with a global challenge, not a deliberate design choice by the researcher. But the consistency of the pattern is nonetheless telling. Research that engages with questions of health, energy, and climate appears more likely to enter the conversations in which policy is made.

Finding 2: Policy engagement remains the exception rather than the norm

Only a small proportion of academic research ever appears in a policy document. Of the 148,216 Imperial research outputs indexed in Dimensions during the study period, 9.1% were cited in at least one policy document tracked by

Overton. Policy engagement, in other words, remains the exception rather than the norm. This reflects a broader truth about how knowledge moves through the world: slowly, selectively, and often through intermediaries rather than direct lines of influence. Against this backdrop, the substantially higher citation rates observed for Imperial's SDG-aligned research (discussed in the finding above) are particularly noteworthy, especially where that research is mapped to either SDG 3, 7, or 13.

Finding 3: Different SDGs exhibit different patterns of policy engagement

The three SDGs at the centre of this study do not behave identically within the policy landscape, and the differences between them are instructive.

SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being) dominates in sheer volume. The 5,680 Imperial outputs associated with this goal received 24,471 policy citations in total — 76% of all policy citations recorded across the combined dataset. This reflects both the scale of Imperial's biomedical and clinical research activity and the extraordinary density of the policy infrastructure surrounding global health: governments, regulators, public health agencies, and intergovernmental organisations all systematically consume and cite health research as a matter of institutional routine.

SDG 13 (Climate Action) tells a different story. Although only 941 outputs were cited in policy documents — far fewer than for SDG 3 — those outputs attracted an average of 7.15 policy citations each, the highest of the three SDGs and well above the dataset average of 4.64. In other words, individual climate-related outputs are being cited repeatedly and across multiple policy contexts. This likely reflects the exceptional international demand for climate evidence, driven by bodies such as the IPCC and national climate committees that draw intensively on a relatively concentrated body of research to underpin their assessments and recommendations.

SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) occupies a different position again. With 611 cited outputs and an average of 4.75 citations per output, it sits between the other two SDGs on most measures — more modest in absolute volume than SDG 3, and with a lower per-output citation intensity than SDG 13. This may reflect the more technically specialised nature of energy policy, where evidence is channelled through a narrower set of institutions.

Taken together, these contrasting profiles suggest that the relationship between research and policy is shaped not only by the quality or volume of research produced, but by the structure of the policy ecosystem into which it flows.

Finding 4: Policy influence takes time, and research typically enters policy discussions years after publication

Research rarely influences policy overnight. One of the clearest patterns in the dataset is the substantial interval between the publication of a research output and its first appearance in a policy document. Across the combined dataset, the median gap was 829 days — approximately two and a half years. The range across the three SDGs was relatively narrow: 805 days for SDG 3, 869 days for SDG 13, and 898 days for SDG 7, suggesting that this lag is a structural feature of the research-to-policy pathway rather than a quirk of any particular field.

This finding carries a practical implication that is easy to overlook. Assessments of research impact — whether for institutional reporting, REF2029, funding evaluation, or strategic planning — are often conducted on timescales that are simply too short to capture the moment at which research enters policy discussions. A paper published today may not appear in a policy document for two or three years; one published five years ago may only now be reaching its peak policy visibility. The median lag observed here reinforces the importance of taking a genuinely long-term view when evaluating the societal contribution of research, and of being cautious about drawing conclusions from snapshot assessments alone.

The variation between SDGs, though modest, is also consistent with the broader picture emerging from this study. SDG 3 research reaches policy audiences slightly faster than SDG 7 or SDG 13 research, which may reflect the more immediate and operationally urgent nature of health policy — where evidence is routinely sought to inform clinical guidelines, regulatory decisions, and public health responses on relatively short timescales.

Finding 5: Policy documents citing Imperial's SDG-mapped research overwhelmingly reference Open Access outputs

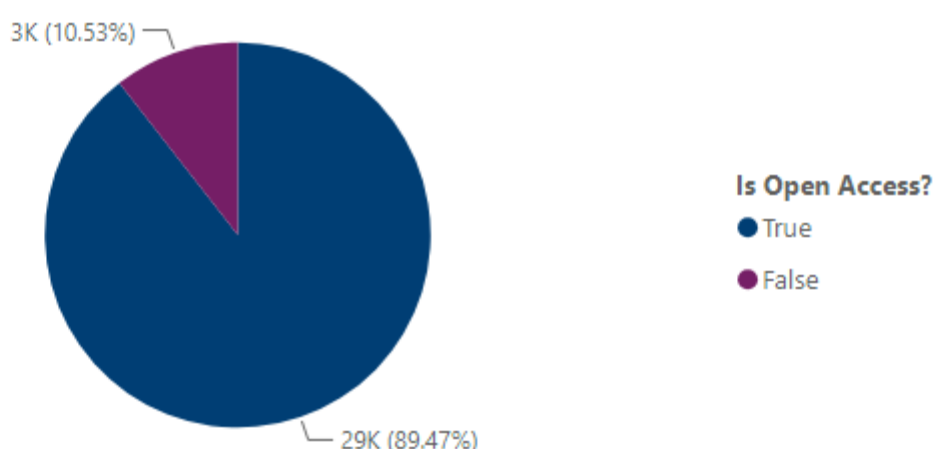
One of the more striking patterns in the dataset concerns accessibility. Of the 32,188 policy citations recorded across the combined dataset, 89.5% referenced research outputs that were available through Open Access routes — meaning that the vast majority of Imperial's policy-cited SDGx3-mapped research could be read, downloaded, and cited without a subscription paywall standing in the way.

This pattern is consistent across all three SDGs. For SDG 3, 4,984 of the 5,680 cited outputs were available open access; for SDG 7, 458 of 611; and for SDG 13, 783 of 941. In each case, open access outputs account for the substantial majority of policy-cited research.

It would be a step too far to conclude from this that open access causes higher policy citation rates. The relationship is almost certainly more complex: research on globally urgent topics may be more likely to be published open access precisely because funders and institutions prioritise accessibility for high-impact work, and that same research may independently attract policy attention for other reasons. Nevertheless, the association is clear and worth taking seriously. Policy documents are frequently produced by organisations — governments, think tanks, intergovernmental bodies — that operate outside the subscription-based academic publishing system. For analysts and policymakers in those organisations, a paper that can be read immediately and freely is simply easier to cite than one locked behind a journal paywall. Open access, in this sense, may not guarantee policy influence, but it removes one practical obstacle to it.

This finding sits comfortably within the broader direction of travel in research policy. The sustained push towards open access publishing — driven by funder mandates, institutional commitments, and a growing consensus about the public value of publicly funded research — appears, on this evidence, to be creating conditions that are genuinely more favourable to research reaching policy audiences.

Figure 3 – Policy citations of SDGx3 Mapped outputs by OA Status



Findings and Analysis: Part 2 - The External Policy Landscape

Policy citing Imperial.

The findings presented in Part 1 establish that SDG-mapped research is more likely to reach policy audiences than research without that connection. Part 2 examines the nature of that policy audience in greater detail — the kinds of institutions involved, where in the world they are located, and the subjects of the documents in which Imperial's research appears.

The scale of what follows is worth pausing on. Across the three SDGs, 6,934 Imperial research outputs were cited in policy documents indexed by Overton, generating 32,188 recorded policy citations — an average of 4.64 citations per cited output. Those citations came from 1,431 distinct policy institutions operating across 134 country classifications. This is not a narrow or parochial picture. It is evidence of research engagement distributed across a genuinely international policy ecosystem, and it is that ecosystem — its institutions, its geography, and its thematic concerns — that the following findings explore.

Finding 6: Policy Institution Type

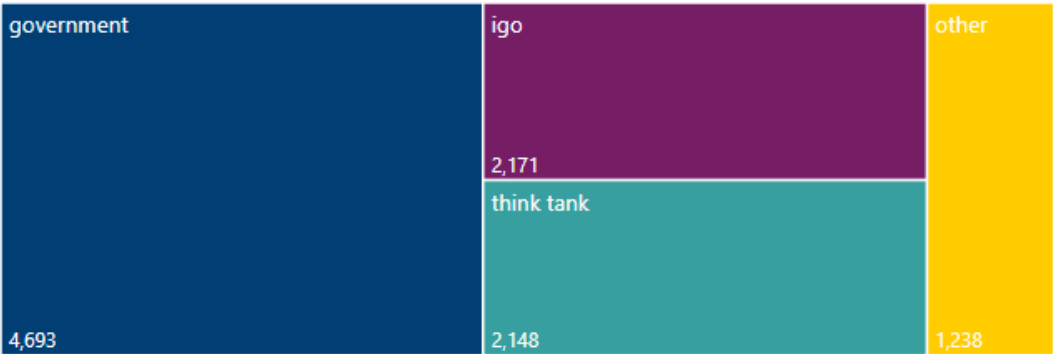
The organisations citing Imperial's SDGx3-mapped research span the full institutional range of the global policy ecosystem. Governments account for the largest share, with 4,693 Imperial research outputs cited by government bodies across the three SDGs. But governments are far from the whole story. A further 2,171 outputs were cited by intergovernmental organisations, 2,148 by think tanks, and 1,238 by other policy bodies — together representing a policy audience that extends well beyond national ministries and legislatures into the organisations that synthesise evidence, coordinate international action, and shape the frameworks within which governments make decisions.

This broad institutional spread is consistent across all three SDGs, though the balance shifts in ways that reflect the distinctive policy cultures surrounding each goal. For SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), governments and intergovernmental organisations dominate — a pattern that mirrors the dense, institutionalised infrastructure of global health policy, in which bodies like the WHO, national health agencies, and regulatory authorities routinely draw on academic research to underpin clinical guidance and public health recommendations.

For SDG 13 (Climate Action), think tanks emerge as the second largest citing institution type, ahead of intergovernmental organisations. This reflects the prominent role of policy research institutes, environmental think tanks, and bodies such as the OECD in synthesising climate evidence and translating it into policy-relevant analysis. SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) shows a similar pattern, with think tanks again ranking ahead of IGOs — consistent with the significant role of energy policy institutes and technology-focused research organisations in shaping the clean energy transition agenda.

What these patterns reveal, when taken together, is that Imperial's research is not simply reaching policymakers through a single channel. It is being drawn upon by the full range of institutions responsible for generating, synthesising, and applying policy evidence — from national governments to international bodies to the independent organisations that increasingly shape the evidence base on which formal policy decisions rest.

Figure 4 - Policy citations of SDGx3 Mapped outputs by Policy Institution Type



Finding 7: Policy Institution Sources

While Imperial's SDGx3-mapped research is cited by a wide range of organisations, policy engagement is not evenly spread. A relatively small number of major national and international institutions account for a disproportionate share of the citations — and the identity of those institutions is itself revealing.

The World Health Organization is the single largest citing organisation in the dataset, with 3,284 policy documents referencing Imperial's research and generating 12,282 policy citations in total. The scale of the WHO's engagement reflects its central role in synthesising global health evidence and translating it into the guidance, recommendations, and technical standards that health systems around the world rely upon. Closely behind, Guidelines in PubMed Central — the repository through which clinical practice guidelines are formally published and indexed — accounts for a further 1,648 documents and 8,079 citations, underscoring the extent to which Imperial's health research is reaching the formal clinical guidance infrastructure, not only the broader policy world.

Other prominent citing organisations include the Publications Office of the European Union (938 documents, 9,463 citations), the World Bank (713 documents, 8,282 citations), the OECD (651 documents, 7,670 citations), the UK Government (567 documents, 6,911 citations), and the United Nations (322 documents, 5,966 citations). Together, these organisations illustrate the range of institutions through which Imperial's research enters policy conversations — from supranational bodies setting international standards to national governments making domestic policy decisions.

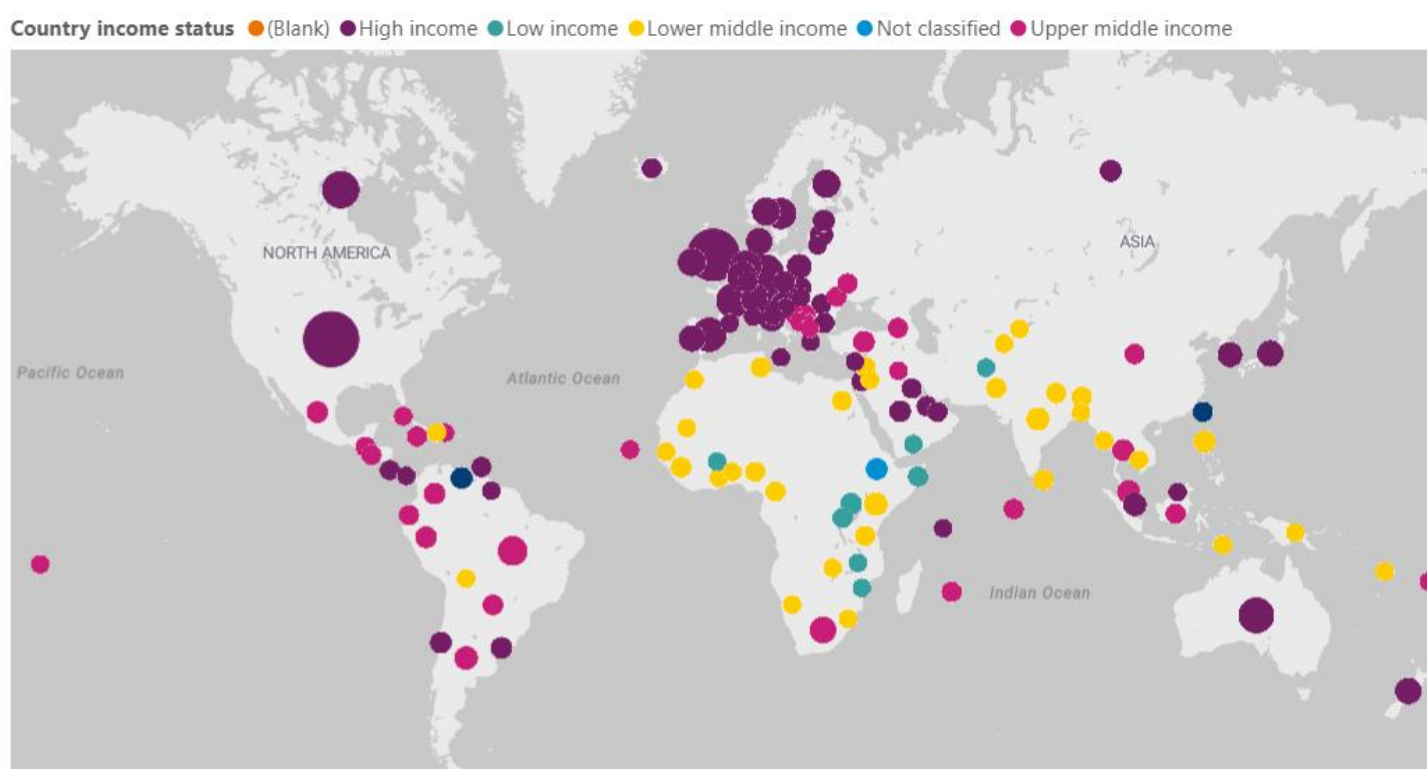
One entry in the top ten is perhaps unexpected: the State of New South Wales, with 271 policy documents and 3,750 citations, ranks among the largest citing organisations across the combined dataset. Its prominence is a reminder that policy engagement does not flow exclusively through global institutions — regional and subnational governments, particularly those with well-developed evidence synthesis functions, are also significant consumers of academic research.

Distinct patterns emerge across the three SDGs. For SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), the leading citing organisations are those at the heart of the global public health infrastructure: the WHO, PubMed Central clinical guidelines, the CDC, the Publications Office of the EU, and the UK Government. For SDG 13 (Climate Action), the picture shifts towards organisations engaged in international environmental governance and economic policy — the Publications Office of the EU, the OECD, the World Bank, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the EU's Joint Research Centre. For SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), the EU again features prominently alongside the US National Renewable Energy Laboratory, UK Parliament Select Committee Publications, and the World Bank — a group that reflects the intersection of energy policy, technological development, and economic regulation.

These patterns point to something important about how research travels into policy. Imperial's SDGx3-mapped research is not simply reaching individual policymakers; it is being cited by the organisations that produce the evidence syntheses, technical assessments, and formal guidance documents that subsequently inform policy across multiple jurisdictions and national boundaries.

Finding 8: Geography

Figure 5 - Policy citations of SDGx3 Mapped outputs by Location



Imperial's SDGx3-mapped research is cited in policy documents originating from 134 distinct country classifications — a figure that speaks to the genuinely international reach of the University's policy engagement.

The geographic distribution is, however, far from uniform. The United States and the United Kingdom together account for the largest concentrations of citing institutions, with 5,375 and 4,241 policy documents respectively, each drawing on 239 distinct policy institutes. The European Union — represented here as an institutional classification in its own right, rather than EU member states individually — contributes a further 1,965 documents from 21 institutions. Germany, Canada, Australia, Spain, and France also feature prominently, each generating hundreds of policy documents that reference Imperial's research.

This concentration among high-income, research-intensive nations is not surprising. These are the countries with the most developed policy infrastructures, the largest evidence synthesis capacities, and the most established connections between academic research and formal policymaking. That Imperial's research features so extensively within their policy

documents is a reflection of both the University's research strengths and the depth of its engagement with the international institutions — the WHO, the World Bank, the OECD, the UN — that these countries host and fund.

Yet the dataset extends considerably further. Policy documents citing Imperial's research originate from across Europe, Asia, Africa, Latin America, and Oceania. Brazil, South Africa, India, Kenya, Colombia, and Singapore all appear in the data, as do lower-income countries including Uganda, Rwanda, and Nepal. The number of citing institutions in these countries is smaller, and the volume of policy documents more modest — but their presence in the dataset is meaningful. It demonstrates that Imperial's research is reaching policy audiences in parts of the world where the challenges addressed by SDG 3, SDG 7, and SDG 13 are often most acutely felt.

The overall picture is one of a research portfolio with a genuinely global policy footprint — concentrated, as one might expect, within the well-established evidence networks of North America, Europe, and major intergovernmental organisations, but extending into a far broader and more diverse set of policy contexts than that concentration alone might suggest.

Finding 9: Geography by Income

Examining the geographic distribution of policy documents through the lens of World Bank income classification reveals an important pattern. Of the 22,102 policy documents citing Imperial's SDGx3-mapped research across the combined dataset, 20,564 — 93% — originate from high-income countries. A further 1,140 come from upper-middle-income countries, 293 from lower-middle-income countries, and just 78 from low-income countries.

This concentration is consistent across all three SDGs, and it reflects a structural reality of the global policy landscape: the countries with the most developed research and policymaking infrastructures are, overwhelmingly, the world's wealthiest. The capacity to produce formal policy documents that systematically cite academic research is itself unevenly distributed — and that inequality shapes what this dataset can and cannot tell us about the global reach of Imperial's research influence.

The variation between SDGs is nonetheless instructive. For SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), the concentration in high-income countries is particularly pronounced: of the 1,888 policy documents in the SDG 7 dataset, 1,789 originate from high-income countries, and there are no low-income country policy documents at all. The formal policy conversation about clean energy transition, at least as captured by Overton, appears to be almost entirely confined to wealthier nations — a finding with significant implications for questions of energy equity and the extent to which the global south is shaping, rather than simply receiving, the clean energy agenda.

For SDG 13 (Climate Action), low-income country engagement is present but very limited, with just 4 policy documents. SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being) shows the broadest distribution across income groups in absolute terms, with policy documents originating from upper-middle-, lower-middle-, and low-income countries in greater numbers than either of the other two SDGs. This is partly a function of scale — SDG 3 is by far the largest component of the dataset — and the data do not, on their own, establish that health research is proportionally more likely to inform policy in lower-income countries than research associated with SDGs 7 or 13. What they do suggest is that the health policy infrastructure in lower- and middle-income countries is more developed, relative to other policy domains, than the equivalent infrastructure for energy or climate policy.

The overall picture is one of significant geographic concentration. Imperial's SDGx3-mapped research is reaching a genuinely global policy audience in the sense that citations originate from across the income spectrum — but much of that engagement is concentrated within the policy systems of the world's wealthiest nations. This is not a criticism of the research or of the University; it reflects the structure of the global policy landscape itself. It does, however, raise questions worth pursuing: about how research on challenges that disproportionately affect lower-income countries can be made more accessible and useful to the policymakers in those countries, and about the extent to which current measures of policy engagement capture the full picture of research influence.

Finding 10: Policy Document Subject Area

The policy documents citing Imperial's SDGx3-mapped research span a remarkably broad range of subject areas — broader, in fact, than the thematic scope of the three SDGs under study might lead one to expect. This breadth is itself a finding. Research aligned with global challenges does not stay neatly within the policy domain most obviously associated with those challenges; it travels into adjacent and sometimes unexpected policy conversations.

A note on the data before proceeding: the subject classifications used here describe the policy documents in which Imperial's research is cited, *not the research itself*. A paper on climate modelling (mapped to SDG 13) may appear in a health policy document; a study of infectious disease (mapped to SDG 3) may be cited in an education context. The categories therefore reveal something about the range of policy audiences engaging with Imperial's research, rather than

about the content of the research *per se*. It is also worth noting that individual policy documents may be assigned to more than one subject area, meaning the totals across categories exceed the number of unique policy documents in the dataset. Additionally, subject area classifications are not available for all cited outputs — 735 of the 6,934 cited outputs in the dataset have not been assigned a subject classification by Overton, and the figures below should be interpreted in that light.

Health is, unsurprisingly, the largest subject category, with 18,268 policy documents citing 4,821 Imperial research outputs. This reflects both the scale of Imperial's biomedical research activity and the voracious appetite of health policy systems for academic evidence. Science and Technology is the second largest category, with 10,932 policy documents — a figure that underscores the extent to which Imperial's research is informing technical and regulatory policy well beyond the health domain. Environment accounts for a further 6,795 policy documents, reflecting the prominence of climate and environmental research within the dataset.

More unexpected, perhaps, is the scale of engagement within the Education category: 2,421 policy documents cite 1,119 Imperial research outputs in an education policy context, despite none of the three SDGs under study being directly education focused. This suggests that research on health, energy, and climate is being drawn upon within education policy discussions — perhaps in relation to science education, health literacy, or the role of research evidence in curriculum development — in ways that extend well beyond the immediate thematic focus of the work.

Smaller but consistent levels of engagement are evident across a further range of subjects, including weather (813 policy documents), politics (639), labour (568), and society (198). The presence of conflicts, war and peace (100 policy documents) as a subject category is a reminder that research on global challenges — infectious disease, climate, energy security — intersects with questions of geopolitical stability in ways that formal policy increasingly recognises.

Taken together, these subject area patterns reinforce one of the central arguments of this report. Research aligned with major societal challenges does not influence a single, bounded policy domain — it radiates outward into a wide and interconnected policy ecosystem. The SDGs themselves are designed to reflect the interdependence of global challenges, and the subject area data suggest that Imperial's research is being recognised and used in precisely that spirit.

Findings and Analysis:

Part 3 - Imperial from Within

Faculties, Departments, Outputs

Parts 1 and 2 of this report have looked outward — at the policy ecosystem that cites Imperial's research, the institutions within it, and the geographies it spans. Part 3 turns the lens inward, to ask where within Imperial this policy-engaged research originates.

The purpose of this section is not to rank academic units or to suggest that policy citation is the primary measure of research quality. It is, rather, to understand how policy-engaged SDG research is distributed across Imperial's faculties, departments, and research communities — and what that distribution reveals about the University's broader research character. The findings draw on faculty and departmental publication data from the Imperial-SDGx3-Policy dataset, contextualised, where relevant, against indicative academic staffing figures drawn from HESA 2024/25 data.

Finding 11: Policy-engaged SDG research is distributed across Imperial's faculties, but is concentrated within the Faculty of Medicine

Research (SDGx3-mapped) that has been cited in policy documents originates from across all four of Imperial's faculties, as well as from some staff working in Professional & Academic Services.

That said, the distribution is far from uniform, and the Faculty of Medicine dominates the dataset. Its 5,154 research outputs generated 22,390 policy citations — more than three times the total of any other faculty and representing the overwhelming majority of the University's overall policy citation profile. This concentration reflects two reinforcing factors: the sheer scale of Imperial's biomedical and clinical research activity, and the extraordinary density of the policy infrastructure that surrounds global health. The Faculty of Medicine's shorter median publication-to-policy citation interval

— 794 days, compared with a range of 864–961 days for the other faculties — is consistent with this picture: health policy moves relatively quickly to incorporate new research evidence.

The Faculty of Natural Sciences is the second largest contributor, with 916 outputs and 6,552 policy citations, followed by the Faculty of Engineering with 744 outputs and 3,090 citations. Although smaller in absolute volume, both faculties demonstrate substantial and meaningful engagement within policy literature — particularly in relation to environmental science, climate research, and energy systems, where Imperial's research strengths align closely with some of the most active areas of international policy development.

Imperial College Business School, though the smallest of the four faculties by research output volume, contributes 192 outputs that together generated 1,601 policy citations. Its presence in the data is significant: the Business School's outputs include some of the most highly policy-cited research in the entire dataset — a point explored further in Finding 13 — and its median citation lag of 864 days is shorter than that of either Engineering or Natural Sciences, suggesting that its research reaches policy audiences relatively efficiently when it does so.

A further 433 outputs generating 2,872 policy citations are associated with Professional & Academic Services staff. This is a notable figure — it demonstrates that policy-engaged research at Imperial extends beyond its four faculties into the broader institutional community, and that staff working outside traditional academic departments are contributing meaningfully to the University's policy engagement profile.

Taken together, these findings present a picture of an institution whose policy engagement is genuinely broad in character, even as it is strongly shaped by the scale and international prominence of its medical research.

Finding 12: Policy engagement is concentrated within a relatively small number of departments, reflecting Imperial's established research strengths

Zooming in from faculty to department level reveals a more differentiated picture — and one that rewards close attention. Policy-cited research originates from a wide range of Imperial's departments and centres, but a relatively small number account for a disproportionate share of the University's overall policy engagement. Scale matters here, but it is not the whole story: some of the most striking policy citation profiles belong to comparatively small units whose research sits at the precise intersection of academic rigour and policy relevance.

The School of Public Health is the largest contributor by some distance, with 2,434 policy-cited outputs generating 12,479 policy citations — nearly three times the total of the next largest department. This reflects the central role of population health, epidemiology, and public health research within international policy discussions, and the School's position as one of the leading centres for this work globally. Its median citation lag of 835 days is broadly consistent with the dataset average, suggesting a steady and sustained flow of research into policy rather than a concentration around particular moments or outputs.

The National Heart and Lung Institute (928 outputs, 4,053 policy citations) and the Department of Infectious Disease (748 outputs, 3,699 policy citations) are the next largest contributors within the Faculty of Medicine. Both demonstrate not only high volumes of policy-cited research but notably short median citation lags — 573 and 659 days respectively — suggesting that research from these departments reaches policy audiences more rapidly than the dataset average. For infectious disease research in particular, the COVID-19 pandemic likely accelerated this process considerably, compressing the usual timeline between publication and policy citation in ways that may not be representative of the longer-term pattern.

Outside the Faculty of Medicine, the Centre for Environmental Policy stands out as one of the most striking entries in the dataset. With 470 outputs generating 4,264 policy citations, it achieves a policy citation intensity of approximately 9.1 citations per output — among the highest of any unit in the top twenty and nearly double the dataset average of 4.64. This intensity reflects the Centre's explicit mission to connect environmental research with policy practice, and its position within networks of climate, energy, and environmental governance that systematically draw on academic evidence. Its median citation lag of 1,008 days — the longest in the top twenty — suggests that its research tends to enter policy discussions through longer-term evidence synthesis processes rather than immediate uptake, consistent with the slower-moving nature of environmental and climate policy relative to health policy.

The Grantham Institute for Climate Change (141 outputs, 927 policy citations, average 6.57 citations per output) and the Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering (132 outputs, 767 policy citations) further illustrate the importance of environmental and climate research within Imperial's broader policy engagement profile. Together with the Centre for Environmental Policy and the Department of Chemical Engineering (220 outputs, 1,191 policy citations), these units demonstrate that Imperial's engineering and environmental researchers are contributing meaningfully to the policy conversations surrounding SDG 7 and SDG 13, even if their absolute output volumes are smaller than those of the medical departments.

Perhaps the most unexpected finding at departmental level concerns the Department of Mathematics. With just 77 outputs in the dataset, it generates 700 policy citations — an average of approximately 9.1 citations per output, matching the Centre for Environmental Policy for the highest citation intensity in the top twenty. This is a remarkable figure for a department not typically associated with direct policy engagement, and it suggests that a small number of highly influential mathematical and statistical outputs — likely relating to modelling, risk assessment, or epidemiological methods — are being cited extensively across multiple policy contexts.

The Business School (192 outputs, 1,601 policy citations), the Department of Physics (99 outputs, 378 policy citations), and the Department of Mathematics together illustrate a broader point: policy engagement at Imperial is not confined to the biomedical and environmental sciences. Research from across the disciplinary spectrum — including mathematics, physics, economics, and finance — is finding its way into policy documents, often in ways that reflect the interdisciplinary nature of the challenges that the SDGs address.

What emerges from this departmental analysis is a portrait of policy engagement that is simultaneously concentrated and diverse. A handful of large biomedical departments dominate in terms of sheer volume. But alongside them, a set of smaller, more specialised units — the Centre for Environmental Policy, the Grantham Institute, the Department of Mathematics, and the Business School — achieve citation intensities that speak to the particular policy relevance of their work. Scale and disciplinary focus both matter; but they operate in different ways, and the most policy-visible research does not always come from the largest departments.

Finding 13: The University's most policy-visible research outputs

The final dimension of this analysis concerns the individual research outputs that have achieved the greatest policy visibility within the dataset. Examining the top twenty outputs ranked by policy citation reveals a consistent and telling pattern: the most frequently cited research addresses challenges of unmistakable global significance — pandemic disease, climate change, the global burden of illness, energy transition, and environmental risk.

At the top of the ranking, by a considerable margin, sits *The Shared Socioeconomic Pathways and their energy, land use, and greenhouse gas emissions implications: An overview*, with 554 policy citations. The next-ranked output has 197 — less than 36% of that total. The Shared Socioeconomic Pathways are a set of internationally adopted scenarios used to model future climate and energy trajectories, and their extraordinary policy citation count reflects their foundational role in climate and energy policy development worldwide. They are not simply a research output that has been noticed by policymakers; they are part of the scaffolding on which international climate policy is built.

Several outputs in the top twenty are components of the Global Burden of Disease (GBD) study — one of the largest and most influential international research collaborations in public health. At least four GBD outputs appear in the top twenty, covering the global burden of risk factors, diseases, injuries, and mental illness across hundreds of countries and decades. Their prominence in the dataset is a reminder that Imperial's most policy-visible research often emerges not from single-institution studies but from large-scale international collaborations in which Imperial researchers play leading roles.

COVID-19 research features prominently, as one would expect. Papers on early transmission dynamics, the B.1.1.7 variant, the AstraZeneca vaccine trial, dexamethasone treatment, and the severity of coronavirus disease all appear in the top twenty — a concentration that reflects both the exceptional policy urgency of the pandemic and the speed with which Imperial's researchers contributed evidence that policymakers needed in real time. The PROUD trial on HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (154 citations, 2016) is a notable counterpoint: the oldest output in the top twenty, it has continued to accumulate policy citations for nearly a decade, illustrating the long-term nature of policy influence discussed in Finding 4.

The 2018 Lancet Countdown on health and climate change (119 citations) is another output of particular interest. An explicitly interdisciplinary piece sitting at the intersection of SDG 3 and SDG 13, it reflects Imperial's engagement with the growing body of research that treats health and climate not as separate challenges but as deeply interconnected ones — and its policy citation profile suggests that this framing is resonating within policy communities.

Two outputs from Imperial College Business School also appear in the top twenty: *Do investors care about carbon risk?* (197 citations) and *The Impact of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme on Regulated Firms* (125 citations). Both address the economic and financial dimensions of climate and environmental policy — areas where the intersection of business research and global challenge is increasingly recognised by policymakers. Their presence in the top twenty is a striking illustration of the point made in Findings 11 and 12: that Imperial's policy-engaged research extends well beyond its laboratory and clinical sciences.

Viewed as a whole, the top twenty outputs reinforce one of the central observations of this report. The research that achieves the greatest policy visibility is research that speaks directly to challenges that are internationally recognised, urgently felt, and require evidence that can inform decisions across multiple jurisdictions simultaneously. Climate scenarios, pandemic modelling, global disease burden, vaccine efficacy, energy transition pathways — these are not niche concerns. They are the questions that governments, international organisations, and policymakers around the world are actively seeking answers to. That Imperial's research appears so consistently at the top of this ranking is not simply a reflection of research quality. It is a reflection of the University's sustained commitment to working on problems that matter — and of the growing recognition, within policy communities worldwide, that this work has something important to say.

Discussion

Situating the Report

This report does not exist in isolation. It is part of a growing body of work — from researchers, publishers, and international organisations — that is attempting to understand, measure, and strengthen the relationship between academic research and global policy.

The most directly comparable study is a [joint analysis by Springer Nature and Overton](#), published in September 2025, which examined how research is driving progress on the SDGs across the global publishing landscape. Using the same Overton platform that underpins this report, that study found that SDG-linked policy documents are more likely to cite scholarly research than non-SDG-linked policy documents; that open access outputs are cited more frequently and more quickly; and that think tanks, NGOs, and intergovernmental organisations serve as the primary knowledge brokers between research and policy. Each of these findings is consistent with — and in some cases reinforced by — the institutional-level evidence presented here. Where the Springer Nature/Overton analysis provides a macro-level picture of the research-to-policy relationship, this report offers a detailed institutional portrait: not simply whether Imperial's SDG-mapped research reaches policy audiences, but which research, from which parts of the University, is reaching which institutions, in which countries.

This work also connects to the broader international effort to align academic publishing with the Sustainable Development Goals. The [UN SDG Publishers Compact](#) — a voluntary initiative through which publishers commit to supporting the SDGs — has identified the measurement and benchmarking of research impact as a priority area for the field. The methodology developed for this project offers one approach to that challenge: a replicable, data-driven framework for understanding the policy reach of SDG-mapped research at institutional level.

Internally, this report is offered as a contribution to Imperial's [Science for Humanity strategy](#) — and in particular to its Amplifying Impact pillar, which commits the University to accelerating the journey from discovery to real-world influence. The findings presented here provide empirical evidence that this journey is already well underway. They also connect directly to the work of the [Imperial Policy Forum](#), whose mission to bridge the gap between Imperial's research and the policy conversations that matter is supported and evidenced by the data in this report.

Reflecting on the findings

The findings in this report tell a story that is worth stepping back to read whole — because the patterns that emerge across 13 findings, 6,934 research outputs, and 134 country classifications add up to something more interesting than the sum of their parts.

Research and policy are connected — but the connection is neither simple nor fast

The most fundamental observation of this study is perhaps the most obvious: policy influence is rare, slow, and concentrated. Of the 148,216 Imperial research outputs indexed in Dimensions during the study period, only a small fraction was cited in any policy document at all. Of those that were, the median time between publication and citation was 829 days. And within that already-select group, a handful of outputs — climate scenarios, pandemic models, global burden of disease studies — account for a disproportionate share of the total citation count.

None of this should be discouraging. It reflects a structural reality of how knowledge moves through the world: gradually, selectively, and through networks of intermediaries that most researchers never directly encounter. What it does suggest is that institutions serious about policy engagement need to think in years, not months — and that the frameworks used to measure and reward research impact need to catch up with that reality.

SDG-aligned research travels further — and the data shows why

One of the clearest findings in this report is that research associated with a Sustainable Development Goal is substantially more likely to reach a policy audience than research without that connection. Research mapped to SDG 3, SDG 7, or SDG 13 was cited in policy at nearly three times the global average rate. This is not simply because these are important topics — it is because they are topics for which a dense, institutionalised policy infrastructure already exists, actively seeking evidence to underpin its work.

The WHO, the World Bank, the OECD, the UNFCCC, the EU's Publications Office — these organisations do not wait passively for research to find them. They systematically synthesise academic evidence, and they cite it extensively. Research that speaks to the challenges these organisations are mandated to address enters their documents not by accident but by design. The SDG framework, for all its limitations as an analytical tool, appears to be identifying something real: a cluster of research activity that is genuinely more likely to matter to the people making decisions about the world's most pressing problems.

Imperial's policy engagement is broad — but its story is still half-told

The internal picture that emerges from this analysis is of a university with a genuinely wide policy engagement profile. The Faculty of Medicine dominates the dataset, as one would expect from one of the world's leading biomedical research institutions operating within an extraordinarily well-developed global health policy ecosystem. But alongside that dominance, a more varied and surprising picture emerges.

The Centre for Environmental Policy and the Department of Mathematics both achieve policy citation intensities nearly double the dataset average. Two Business School outputs on carbon risk and emissions trading sit among the twenty most policy-cited papers in the entire dataset. Research from Engineering, Natural Sciences, and Professional & Academic Services all appears in policy documents originating from across the income spectrum and across the institutional range of the global policy ecosystem.

And yet much of this engagement is invisible to the tools used to measure it. Overton captures formal citation — the moment a research output is explicitly referenced in an indexed policy document. It does not capture the evidence session, the ministerial briefing, the expert advisory role, or the dataset quietly underpinning a regulator's model. Imperial's true policy footprint is almost certainly considerably larger than this analysis can show. That is not a limitation of this study alone — it is a challenge for the field of research impact assessment more broadly.

Open access is not just a principle — it is a pathway

The finding that 89.5% of policy citations in this dataset reference open access outputs deserves more attention than it typically receives in discussions of OA policy. The case for open access is usually made on grounds of equity and public value — research funded by the public should be readable by the public. Those arguments are sound. But this study adds a more pragmatic dimension: research that cannot be freely accessed is research that is harder to cite, and policy analysts working outside the subscription-based academic publishing system will, all else being equal, find it easier to build on work they can actually read. Open access, in this light, is not merely the right thing to do. It is a practical precondition for the kind of policy engagement this report has been measuring.

What the data cannot tell us

It would be a mistake to close this discussion without acknowledging what this analysis cannot do. Policy citation is a measure of documented engagement, not of influence or impact. A research output cited in a policy document has been noticed — but that tells us nothing about whether it changed a decision, improved an outcome, or contributed to a better world. The most important questions about Imperial's policy influence remain to be answered through qualitative, case-by-case impact assessment that no bibliometric tool can replace.

What this study can do — and what we hope it does — is provide a foundation. A map of where Imperial's research is reaching policy audiences, which institutions are engaging with it, and where the University's policy engagement is strongest and most distinctive. From that foundation, the harder and more important work of understanding what difference that research is making can begin.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Suggested Next Steps

This report has examined the policy engagement of Imperial's SDG-mapped research across three Sustainable Development Goals, drawing on a dataset of 6,934 research outputs cited in 32,188 policy documents by 1,431 institutions across 134 country classifications. The findings confirm that Imperial's research is engaging with policy at genuine scale and across a genuinely international landscape — and they raise a set of questions about how the University can build on this foundation. The recommendations that follow are offered in that spirit. They are not a critique of what currently exists, but a set of propositions about where targeted investment, infrastructure, and cultural change could meaningfully extend Imperial's policy engagement and its capacity to understand and demonstrate it.

1. Build a Live Policy Engagement Dashboard

The analytical infrastructure developed for this project — connecting Symplectic Elements, Dimensions, and Overton through a Power BI semantic model — has value well beyond a single report. We recommend developing it into a permanent, live reporting environment that gives researchers, departments, and faculties ongoing access to their policy citation data. The groundwork already exists. The recommendation is to make it sustainable, accessible, and institutionally embedded.

2. Strengthen the Institutional Commitment to Open Access

The finding that 89.5% of policy citations in this dataset reference open access outputs is one of the most directly actionable in the report. Imperial already has strong OA infrastructure and policy. We recommend that this commitment be communicated explicitly in the context of policy engagement — making the case to researchers that open access publication is not only the right thing to do, but a practical step towards ensuring their work can be found and cited by the policy audiences most likely to act on it.

3. Imperial Policy Forum

Imperial's Policy Forum already provides a valuable institutional home for policy engagement activity. The findings of this report suggest both an opportunity and a rationale for expanding its reach. With a substantial and identifiable community of researchers whose work is engaging with policy at scale — spread across all four faculties and a wide range of departments — the Forum is well placed to grow into a more prominent institutional resource: deepening its support for the production of policy briefs, white papers, and evidence submissions; connecting researchers whose policy engagement profiles are strong but who may not yet be visible within existing networks; and building the kind of sustained, trust-based relationships with external policy partners that are often the most effective vehicle for translating research into genuine policy influence.

4. Recognise and Reward Policy Engagement

One of the most persistent barriers to policy engagement is the mismatch between what is rewarded in academic careers and what policy influence actually requires. We recommend that Imperial review its promotion criteria, workload models, and performance review processes to ensure that policy engagement is genuinely valued alongside traditional academic outputs — supported by the kind of documented, institutional evidence that this report has begun to provide.

Appendix A: Methodology

Focusing the Analysis

The first stage of the project involved identifying which Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) would form the focus of the analysis. Because Imperial's research portfolio spans all 17 SDGs, it was necessary to apply a transparent and evidence-based process for selecting a smaller number of goals for detailed investigation.

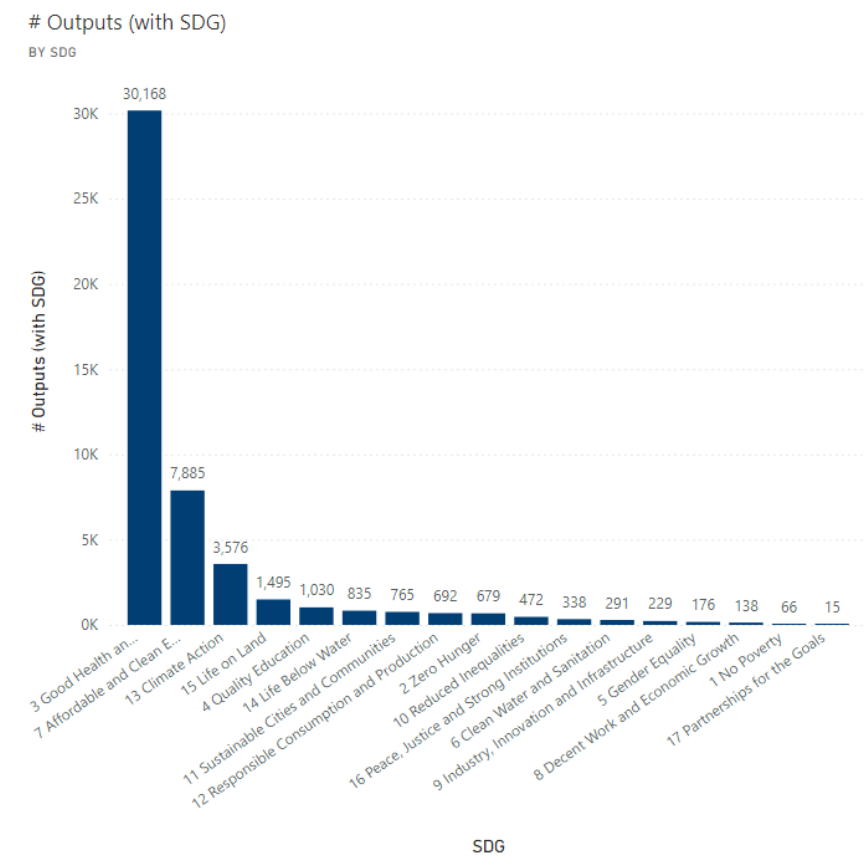
The analysis began with a publication dataset comprising journal articles published between 2016 and 2025. Journal articles were selected because they represent the largest and most consistently indexed category of scholarly output within both Dimensions and Overton. The study period was chosen to align with the availability of contemporary publication and policy citation data while allowing sufficient time for research outputs to be recognised and cited within policy documents.

The set of DOIs retrieved from CRIS was searched on the Dimensions database to map outputs to SDGs by using its Author Programming Interface (API). Using the SDG classifications provided by Dimensions, publication counts were calculated for each of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, enabling an assessment of the overall distribution of Imperial's SDG-related research activity.

Figure A.1 shows the distribution of Imperial journal articles across the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The figure provides a measure of research volume, indicating the number of outputs that Dimensions associated with each SDG. Because individual publications can be assigned to more than one SDG, the totals shown are not mutually exclusive and may exceed the total number of unique publications in the dataset.

The analysis demonstrates that Imperial contributes research across the full breadth of the SDG framework, although publication activity is concentrated in a smaller number of goals. In particular, SDGs 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), and 13 (Climate Action) emerge as major areas of activity within the University's research portfolio.

Figure A.1 – Distribution journal articles by SDG



Publication volume alone does not necessarily indicate institutional strength or strategic specialisation. Large research-intensive universities often produce substantial volumes of research across many fields simply because of their scale. To identify areas in which Imperial demonstrates a distinctive concentration of activity, a second measure was calculated: the SDG Index.

The SDG Index compares Imperial's share of publications within a given SDG against the corresponding share observed across all publications indexed in Dimensions. An index value greater than 1 indicates that Imperial publishes proportionally more research in that SDG than is observed globally, while a value below 1 indicates a comparatively lower concentration of activity.

The SDG Index was calculated using the following formula:

$$\text{Imperial SDG Share} = \frac{\text{Imperial outputs contributing to a specific SDG (Dimensions)}}{\text{Total Imperial outputs indexed in Dimensions}}$$

$$\text{Global SDG Share} = \frac{\text{Global outputs contributing to the same SDG (Dimensions)}}{\text{Total outputs indexed in Dimensions}}$$

$$\text{SDG Index} = \frac{\text{Imperial SDG Share}}{\text{Global SDG Share}}$$

Table A.2 presents Imperial's SDG Index scores across the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The index therefore provides a complementary perspective to publication volume. While Figure 1.1 identifies where Imperial publishes extensively, Figure 1.2 identifies where Imperial demonstrates distinctive strengths relative to the wider research landscape. Taken together, these measures informed the selection of SDGs 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), and 13 (Climate Action) as the focus of the study.

Table A.2 - Imperial's relative research strength across the Sustainable Development Goals

SDG Index	SDG Number	Relative Research Strength
1 No Poverty	1	0.851647385
2 Zero Hunger	2	0.960138905
3 Good Health and Well Being	3	3.941416018
4 Quality Education	4	0.55081944
5 Gender Equality	5	0.637160157
6 Clean Water and Sanitation	6	1.735467202
7 Affordable and Clean Energy	7	2.592107811
8 Decent Work and Economic Growth	8	0.358742063
9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	9	0.732198915
10 Reduced Inequalities	10	1.716350335
11 Sustainable Cities and Communities	11	1.59017943
12 Responsible Consumption and Production	12	2.202154728
13 Climate Action	13	3.342069776

14 Life Below Water	14	1.692181848
15 Life on Land	15	1.814812852
16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	16	0.243546101
17 Partnerships for the Goals	17	0.763592129

For relative research strength, an index value above 1 indicates a greater concentration of Imperial research than the global average.

Constructing the Dataset

The analytical dataset used in this study was constructed by combining publication data from Imperial College London's Current Research Information System (CRIS), Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) classifications from Dimensions, and policy citation data from Overton. The process consisted of six stages.

1. Extracting Imperial Research Outputs

The starting point for the analysis was Imperial's Research Outcomes Reporting (ROR) dashboard, a Power BI reporting environment directly integrated with the University's Current Research Information System (Symplectic Elements) and HR data. As the institutional system of record for research outputs, Symplectic Elements provided the most comprehensive and authoritative source of publication data available for the project.

A complete export of Imperial research outputs was generated and subsequently filtered to include only journal articles published between 2016 and 2025 with an associated Digital Object Identifier (DOI). Restricting the dataset to outputs with DOIs enabled reliable matching across external databases and ensured consistency throughout the analysis. Preliminary benchmarking against other major bibliographic databases confirmed that Symplectic Elements provided the most complete coverage of Imperial's research outputs during the study period.

Data Source	Number of Outputs
Symplectic Elements (ROR)	179,702
OpenAlex	146,600
Web of Science	138,569
Scopus (SciVal)	136,771
Dimensions	131,535

2. Mapping Outputs to the Sustainable Development Goals

The filtered publication dataset was then matched against Dimensions using DOI-based queries via the Dimensions API. Dimensions was selected because it provides a mature and widely adopted SDG classification framework, assigning one or more SDGs to research outputs using machine-learning techniques and publication metadata. For each publication, the corresponding SDG classifications were retrieved and appended to the dataset.

Outputs that had not been assigned an SDG classification by Dimensions were excluded from subsequent stages of the analysis.

3. Identifying the Study Sample

The dataset was further filtered down based on the top three SDGs to do the final search on Overton for finding policy citations.

- SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being
- SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy
- SDG 13: Climate Action

4. Identifying Policy Citations

The DOIs in the publication dataset were then matched against the Overton Index using Overton's API.

Overton tracks citations from policy documents to academic research across a wide range of organisations, including governments, intergovernmental organisations, think tanks, charities and non-governmental organisations. DOI matching was used throughout to maximise precision and minimise ambiguity when linking research outputs to policy citations.

5. Constructing the Analytical Dataset

Policy citation records and SDG-mapped outputs were merged with the publication in Imperial's internal Research Outcomes Reporting to create a unified analytical semantic model on Power BI linking:

- Research outputs
- SDG classifications
- Policy citations
- Citing organisations
- Publication metadata
- Internal organisational information, including department and faculty affiliations

This Power BI semantic model enabled analysis at multiple levels, including individual outputs, SDGs, departments, faculties, policy organisations and geographical regions.

Some summary statistics and descriptive analyses were generated using Overton's Summary Report functionality, supplemented by additional analysis undertaken within Microsoft Fabric/Power BI.

6. Data, Collection, Storage and Dissemination Environment

The data was collected, processed, and stored within Microsoft Fabric environment. The Research Outcomes Reporting data was already available in Fabric. Fabric Notebooks were used to collect data from Dimensions and Altmetric. The data was transformed by Fabric Gen2 Dataflows. All intermediate and final datasets were stored in Fabric Lakehouse to support internal reporting and dashboard development.

The final analytical dataset was subsequently integrated into Power BI for visualisation and exploratory analysis.

Data Availability Statement

Ozkan, Y., & Clark, R. (2026). Dataset: Science for Humanity in Practice. Understanding the Policy Influence of Imperial's SDG-Mapped Research [Data set]. Imperial College London. <https://doi.org/10.82186/eb29k-xfb93>

Appendix B: Underpinning Data

Highlights of the Dataset

This appendix contains the summary tables underpinning the findings presented in the main report. The tables are reproduced in full to provide transparency regarding the analytical dataset and to support interpretation of the findings discussed throughout Findings and Analysis. Unless otherwise stated, all tables are derived from the Imperial-SDGx3-Policy dataset.

B.0 Summary Statistics

Table B.0. Constructing the analytical dataset

Step	No. Outputs
Total Outputs on CRIS	558240
Outputs (Journal article)	412811
Outputs (Journal article, 2016 to 2025)	151814
Outputs (Journal article, 2016 to 2025, with DOI)	149058
Outputs (Journal article, 2016 to 2025, with DOI, on Dimensions)	148216
Outputs (Journal article, 2016 to 2025, with DOI, on Dimensions, with SDG)	45201
Outputs (Journal article, 2016 to 2025, with DOI, on Dimensions, with top 3 SDGs)	40086
Outputs (Journal article, 2016 to 2025, with DOI, on Dimensions, with top 3 SDGs, on Overton)	6934

B.1 Summary Statistics

Table B1. Summary characteristics of the Imperial-SDGx3-Policy analytical dataset

Metric	Value
Research outputs cited in policy	6,934
Policy citations	32,188
Average policy citations per cited output	4.64
Median publication-to-policy citation interval (days)	829
Policy institutions	1,431
Policy institution country classifications	134

B.2 Policy Citation Summary by Sustainable Development Goal

Table B2. Policy engagement metrics for the three Sustainable Development Goals included in the study

Sustainable Development Goal	Policy citations	Cited research outputs	Average policy citations per cited output	Median publication-to-policy interval (days)
SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-Being	24,471	5,680	4.31	805
SDG 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy	2,902	611	4.75	898
SDG 13 – Climate Action	6,727	941	7.15	869
All three SDGs	32,188	6,934	4.64	829

B.3 Open Access Status of Policy-Cited Research

Table B3. Open Access status of Imperial research outputs cited in policy documents

Sustainable Development Goal	Closed Access	Open Access	Total cited outputs
SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-Being	696	4,984	5,680

SDG 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy	153	458	611
SDG 13 – Climate Action	158	783	941
Total	1,007	6,225	7,232*

*Research outputs may be associated with more than one SDG. Totals therefore exceed the number of unique outputs in the combined dataset.

B.4 Policy Institution Type

Table B4. Imperial research outputs cited by policy institution type (All three SDGs)

Policy institution type	Cited research outputs
Government	4,693
Intergovernmental organisation (IGO)	2,171
Think tank	2,148
Other	1,238

Table B5. Imperial SDG 3 research outputs cited by policy institution type

Policy institution type	Cited research outputs
Government	3,872
Intergovernmental organisation (IGO)	1,695
Think tank	1,489
Other	1,176

Table B6. Imperial SDG 7 research outputs cited by policy institution type

Policy institution type	Cited research outputs
Government	407
Think tank	302
Intergovernmental organisation (IGO)	190
Other	24

Table B7. Imperial SDG 13 research outputs cited by policy institution type

Policy institution type	Cited research outputs
Government	610
Think tank	520
Intergovernmental organisation (IGO)	401
Other	54

B.5 Leading Policy Organisations

Table B8. Leading policy organisations citing Imperial's SDG-mapped research (All three SDGs)

Policy organisation	Policy documents	Policy citations	Jurisdiction
World Health Organization	3,284	12,282	Intergovernmental organisation
Guidelines in PubMed Central	1,648	8,079	United States
Publications Office of the European Union	938	9,463	European Union
World Bank	713	8,282	Intergovernmental organisation
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)	651	7,670	Intergovernmental organisation
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)	569	5,190	United States
UK Government	567	6,911	United Kingdom
UK Parliament Select Committee Publications	494	4,256	United Kingdom
United Nations	322	5,966	Intergovernmental organisation
State of New South Wales	271	3,750	Australia

Table B9. Leading policy organisations citing Imperial SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being) research

Policy organisation	Policy documents	Policy citations	Jurisdiction
World Health Organization	3,236	11,909	Intergovernmental organisation

Guidelines in PubMed Central	1,647	8,078	United States
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)	549	5,099	United States
Publications Office of the European Union	522	5,683	European Union
UK Government	456	5,114	United Kingdom

Table B10. Leading policy organisations citing Imperial SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) research

Policy organisation	Policy documents	Policy citations	Jurisdiction
Publications Office of the European Union	211	1,391	European Union
Joint Research Centre	102	992	European Union
National Renewable Energy Laboratory	92	670	United States
UK Parliament Select Committee Publications	82	560	United Kingdom
World Bank	78	770	Intergovernmental organisation

Table B11. Leading policy organisations citing Imperial SDG 13 (Climate Action) research

Policy organisation	Policy documents	Policy citations	Jurisdiction
Publications Office of the European Union	321	3,398	European Union
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)	237	3,108	Intergovernmental organisation
World Bank	187	2,772	Intergovernmental organisation
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	144	2,605	Intergovernmental organisation
Joint Research Centre	135	2,208	European Union

B.6 Geographic Distribution of Policy Institutions

Table B12. Geographic distribution of policy institutions citing Imperial's SDG-mapped research

Policy institution country	Country income status	Policy Documents	Policy Institutes
USA	High income	5375	239
UK	High income	4241	239
EU	High income	1965	21
Germany	High income	1557	76
Canada	High income	1295	57
Australia	High income	1185	55
Spain	High income	966	33
France	High income	918	43
Netherlands	High income	520	35
Sweden	High income	518	62
Switzerland	High income	482	22
Brazil	Upper middle income	430	17
Belgium	High income	409	32
Ireland	High income	372	34
Norway	High income	319	29
Finland	High income	303	17
Japan	High income	260	9
South Africa	Upper middle income	228	15
Denmark	High income	219	18
Italy	High income	211	10
New Zealand	High income	200	37

Portugal	High income	192	7
South Korea	High income	171	18
Austria	High income	155	11
Poland	High income	118	5
Malaysia	Upper middle income	79	2
India	Lower middle income	72	8
Argentina	Upper middle income	69	6
Latvia	High income	63	2
Singapore	High income	63	4
Kenya	Lower middle income	58	8
Turkey	Upper middle income	55	2
Chile	High income	54	6
Colombia	Upper middle income	54	8
Slovakia	High income	52	2
Uruguay	High income	48	3
Thailand	Upper middle income	47	3
Uganda	Low income	45	2
Czech Republic	High income	44	3
Estonia	High income	33	4
Slovenia	High income	32	3
Russia	High income	31	2
Mexico	Upper middle income	29	4
Peru	Upper middle income	29	4
Venezuela		29	1
Ethiopia	Not classified	27	1
Saudi Arabia	High income	25	2
Philippines	Lower middle income	22	2
Iceland	High income	20	3
Israel	High income	20	4
Tanzania	Lower middle income	20	2
Sri Lanka	Lower middle income	19	1
Rwanda	Low income	18	2
Luxembourg	High income	17	2
China	Upper middle income	15	7
Romania	High income	15	1
Georgia	Upper middle income	14	1
Nigeria	Lower middle income	14	4
Lebanon	Lower middle income	13	1
Paraguay	Upper middle income	13	1
Egypt	Lower middle income	10	3
Indonesia	Upper middle income	10	6
Mauritius	Upper middle income	9	1
Qatar	High income	9	1
Taiwan		9	1
Nepal	Lower middle income	8	2
Bulgaria	High income	7	1
Cameroon	Lower middle income	7	1

Costa Rica	High income	7	1
Guinea	Lower middle income	6	1
Moldova	Upper middle income	6	1
Serbia	Upper middle income	6	1
Ecuador	Upper middle income	5	2
Guatemala	Upper middle income	5	1
Jamaica	Upper middle income	5	2
Trinidad and Tobago	High income	5	1
Bhutan	Lower middle income	4	1
El Salvador	Upper middle income	4	1
Kuwait	High income	4	1
Maldives	Upper middle income	4	1
Pakistan	Lower middle income	4	1
Somalia	Low income	4	1
Tunisia	Lower middle income	4	1
Ukraine	Upper middle income	4	1
United Arab Emirates	High income	4	1
Afghanistan	Low income	3	1
Andorra	High income	3	1
Bolivia	Lower middle income	3	3
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Upper middle income	3	1
Brunei	High income	3	1
Cape Verde	Upper middle income	3	1
Dominican Republic	Upper middle income	3	1
Ghana	Lower middle income	3	2
Greece	High income	3	2
Guyana	High income	3	1
Malawi	Low income	3	1
Myanmar	Lower middle income	3	1
Burkina Faso	Low income	2	1
Croatia	High income	2	1
Cyprus	High income	2	1
Hungary	High income	2	1
Kosovo	Upper middle income	2	1
Kyrgyzstan	Lower middle income	2	1
Lithuania	High income	2	2
Montenegro	Upper middle income	2	2
Namibia	Lower middle income	2	1
North Macedonia	Upper middle income	2	1
Papua New Guinea	Lower middle income	2	2
Samoa	Upper middle income	2	1
Tajikistan	Lower middle income	2	1
Timor Leste	Lower middle income	2	1
Yemen	Low income	2	1
Zambia	Lower middle income	2	1
Bangladesh	Lower middle income	1	1
Benin	Lower middle income	1	1

Cambodia	Lower middle income	1	1
Cuba	Upper middle income	1	1
Eswatini	Lower middle income	1	1
Fiji	Upper middle income	1	1
Haiti	Lower middle income	1	1
Iraq	Upper middle income	1	1
Jordan	Lower middle income	1	1
Malta	High income	1	1
Mauritania	Lower middle income	1	1
Monaco	High income	1	1
Morocco	Lower middle income	1	1
Mozambique	Low income	1	1
Palestine	Lower middle income	1	1
Panama	High income	1	1
San Marino	High income	1	1
Senegal	Lower middle income	1	1
Seychelles	High income	1	1
Vanuatu	Lower middle income	1	1

B.7 Policy Documents by World Bank Income Classification

Table B13. Policy documents citing Imperial's SDG-mapped research by World Bank income classification (All three SDGs)

World Bank income classification	Policy documents
High income	20,564
Upper middle income	1,140
Lower middle income	293
Low income	78
Not classified	27
Total	22,102

Table B14. Policy documents citing Imperial SDG 3 research by World Bank income classification

World Bank income classification	Policy documents
High income	15,834
Upper middle income	915
Lower middle income	233
Low income	74
Not classified	27
Total	17,083

Table B15. Policy documents citing Imperial SDG 7 research by World Bank income classification

World Bank income classification	Policy documents
High income	1,789
Upper middle income	87
Lower middle income	12
Total	1,888

Table B16. Policy documents citing Imperial SDG 13 research by World Bank income classification

World Bank income classification	Policy documents
High income	4,113
Upper middle income	182
Lower middle income	55
Low income	4
Total	4,354

B.8 Subject Areas of Policy Documents

Table B17. Subject classification of policy documents citing Imperial's SDG-mapped research

Policy document subject area	Cited research outputs	Policy documents
Health	4,821	18,268
Science and technology	3,624	10,932
Environment	1,354	6,795
Education	1,119	2,421
Weather	297	813
Politics	366	639
Labour	306	568
Society	143	198
Conflicts, war and peace	78	100
Prices	30	43
Sport	10	13
Religion and belief	8	9
Economy, business, and finance	3	3
Crime, law and justice	1	1
Total	6,199	27,394

B.9 Internal to Imperial

Table B18a. Indicative figures of Imperial Academic (excluding a-typical) FTE by Faculty, using HESA 2024/25 data (cost centre group)

Faculty	Approx. Academic FTE
Medicine	1700
Engineering	1280
Natural Science	1060
Business School	170

Table B18b. Distribution of SDG-mapped research (All three SDGs) by Faculty

Faculty Name	# Outputs (on Overton)	Policy Citations (SDG-Mapped Outputs)	Median of Output-Policy Publication Date Difference (Days)
Faculty of Medicine	5,154	22,390	794
Faculty of Natural Sciences	916	6,552	883
Faculty of Engineering	744	3,090	899
Professional & Academic Services	433	2,872	961
Business School	192	1,601	864

Table B19. Distribution of SDG-mapped research (All three SDGs) by internal divisions (i.e. departments, schools, centres etc). Showing top 20 ranked by number of outputs.

Department Name	# Outputs (on Overton)	Policy Citations (SDG-Mapped Outputs)	Median of Output-Policy Publication Date Difference (Days)
School of Public Health	2,434	12,479	835
National Heart and Lung Institute	928	4,053	573
Department of Surgery & Cancer	795	2,865	678
Department of Infectious Disease	748	3,699	659
Centre for Environmental Policy	470	4,264	1008
Department of Metabolism, Digestion and Reproduction	415	1,791	523
	414	2,742	958
Department of Brain Sciences	350	1,594	765
Department of Chemical Engineering	220	1,191	848

Business School	192	1,601	864
Department of Life Sciences	168	703	952
The Grantham Institute for Climate Change	141	927	681
Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering	132	767	980
Department of Electrical & Electronic Engineering	117	291	835
Education	110	485	853
Department of Immunology and Inflammation	104	306	449
Institute of Global Health Innovation	104	429	511
Department of Physics	99	378	891
Department of Mathematics	77	700	354

Table B20. Top 20 SDG-mapped research outputs (All three SDGs) ranked by policy citation.

Output Title	Policy Citations (SDG-Mapped Outputs)	Publication Year	DOI
The Shared Socioeconomic Pathways and their energy, land use, and greenhouse gas emissions implications: An overview	554	2017	10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2016.05.009
**Do investors care about carbon risk?	197	2021	10.1016/j.jfineco.2021.05.008
A familial cluster of pneumonia associated with the 2019 novel coronavirus indicating person-to-person transmission: a study of a family cluster	177	2020	10.1016/s0140-6736(20)30154-9
Estimates and 25-year trends of the global burden of disease attributable to ambient air pollution: an analysis of data from the Global Burden of Diseases Study 2015	168	2017	10.1016/s0140-6736(17)30505-6
Estimated transmissibility and impact of SARS-CoV-2 lineage B.1.1.7 in England	167	2021	10.1126/science.abg3055
Pre-exposure prophylaxis to prevent the acquisition of HIV-1 infection (PROUD): effectiveness results from the pilot phase of a pragmatic open-label randomised trial	154	2016	10.1016/s0140-6736(15)00056-2
A low energy demand scenario for meeting the 1.5°C target and sustainable development goals without negative emission technologies	148	2018	10.1038/s41560-018-0172-6
Safety and efficacy of the ChAdOx1 nCoV-19 vaccine (AZD1222) against SARS-CoV-2: an interim analysis of four randomised controlled trials in Brazil, South Africa, and the UK	146	2021	10.1016/s0140-6736(20)32661-1
Energy system transformations for limiting end-of-century warming to below 1.5 °C	142	2016	10.1038/nclimate2572
Global burden of 87 risk factors in 204 countries and territories, 1990-2019: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2019	133	2020	10.1016/s0140-6736(20)30752-2
Global, regional, and national comparative risk assessment of 84 behavioural, environmental and occupational, and metabolic risks or clusters of risks, 1990-2016: a systematic analysis for the Global	133	2017	10.1016/s0140-6736(17)32366-8
Dexamethasone in Hospitalized Patients with Covid-19	128	2021	10.1056/nejmoa2021436
Dexamethasone in Hospitalized Patients with Covid-19.	128	2021	10.1056/nejmoa2021436
**The Impact of the European Union Emissions Trading Scheme on Regulated Firms: What Is the Evidence after Ten Years?	125	2016	10.1093/reep/rev016

The 2018 report of the Lancet Countdown on health and climate change: shaping the health of nations for centuries to come	119	2018	10.1016/s0140-6736(18)32594-7
Substantial undocumented infection facilitates the rapid dissemination of novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2)	103	2020	10.1126/science.abb3221
Global burden of 369 diseases and injuries in 204 countries and territories, 1990-2019: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2019	100	2020	10.1016/s0140-6736(20)30925-9
Estimates of the severity of coronavirus disease 2019: a model-based analysis	99	2020	10.1016/s1473-3099(20)30243-7
Global hotspots and correlates of emerging zoonotic diseases	97	2017	10.1038/s41467-017-00923-8
Estimating the true global burden of mental illness	96	2016	10.1016/s2215-0366(15)00505-2

**authors from Business School

Appendix C: Dashboard

Overview of our Power BI Dashboard

This appendix contains images of the Power BI Dashboard that we developed to analyse our data set.



Policy Citations - Location

This page provides an overview of the geographic distribution of institutions whose policy documents cite Imperial's SDG-mapped research outputs, as indexed by the Overton database. Click 'i' icon to see the methodology.



Policy Citations (SDG-Mapped Outputs)

32,188

Avg Policy Citations (SDG-Mapped Outputs)

4.64

Policy Institute Countries

134

Policy Institutes

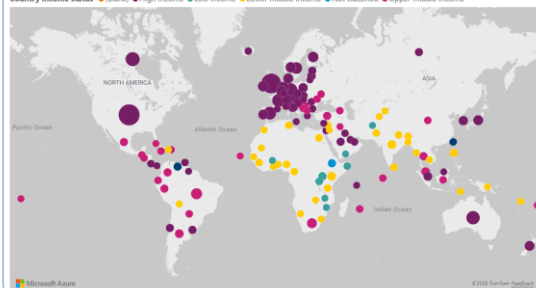
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Country income status # Citing Policy Documents

High income	20,564
Upper middle income	1,148
Lower middle income	293
Low income	78
Not classified	27
Total	22,102

Citing Policy Documents and # Policy Institutes by Policy institution country and Country income status

Country income status (Blank) High income Low income Lower middle income Not classified Upper middle income



Policy Documents by Their Sources

This page provides an overview of sources and types of policy documents citing Imperial's SDG-mapped research outputs, as indexed by the Overton database. Click 'i' icon to see the methodology.

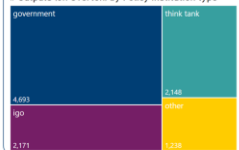


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13 Climate Action	3 Good Health and Well-Being	7 Affordable and Clean Energy
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Policy source institute	# Outputs (on Overton)	# Policy Documents	Policy Citations (SDG-Mapped Outputs)	Policy institution country
World Health Organization	1,091	3,284	12,282	IGO
Guidelines in PubMed Central	1,019	1,648	8,079	USA
Publications Office of the European Union	478	938	9,463	EU
The UK Government	384	567	6,911	UK
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)	355	569	5,190	USA
UK Parliament Select Committee Publications	348	494	4,256	UK
World Bank	344	713	8,282	IGO
OECD	302	651	7,670	IGO
United Nations	222	322	5,966	IGO
State of New South Wales	216	271	3,750	Australia
NICE	212	275	1,534	UK
Australian Policy Online	211	301	6,034	Australia
NHS Trusts	203	278	1,739	UK
Canada's Drug Agency	192	224	1,748	Canada
Government of Switzerland	182	398	4,228	Switzerland
Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)	181	406	4,121	IGO
Joint Research Centre	179	273	4,756	EU

Outputs (on Overton) by Policy institution type



Outputs by Policy institute subtype

Policy institution subtype	# Outputs (on Overton)
healthcare agency	2,660
aggregator	1,200
agency	895
research center	840
development bank	448
university affiliated	377
city	207
legislative research	193
Total	4,847

Policy Documents Classifications and Subject Areas

This page provides an overview of classifications and subject areas of policy documents citing Imperial's SDG-mapped research outputs, as indexed by the Overton database. Click 'i' icon to see the methodology.



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13 Climate Action	3 Good Health and Well-Being	7 Affordable and Clean Energy
-------------------	------------------------------	-------------------------------

Policy document subject area	# Outputs (on Overton)	# Policy Documents
health	4,821	18,268
science and technology	3,624	10,932
environment	1,354	6,795
education	1,119	2,421
politics	366	639
labour	306	548
weather	297	813
society	143	198
conflicts, war and peace	78	100
prices	30	43
sport	10	13
religion and belief	8	9
economy, business and finance	3	3
crime, law and justice	1	1
Total	6,199	27,394

Policy document classification	# Outputs (on Overton)	# Policy Documents
health	4,821	18,268
health>diseases and conditions	4,277	15,051
science and technology	3,624	10,932
health>diseases and conditions>illness	1,908	4,646
environment	1,354	6,795
science and technology>natural science>biology	1,164	2,193
education	1,119	2,421
science and technology>biomedical	949	1,889
science>pharmacology	817	3,162
economy, business and finance>economic	780	2,000
sector>energy and resource	775	1,190
health>diseases and conditions>communicable	775	1,190
disease>virus disease	775	1,190
health>health treatment>medicine	644	1,994
economy, business and finance>economy	605	925
health>health treatment	550	959
science and technology>natural	6,878	31,591
Total	6,878	31,591

Policy Citations by Imperial Faculty/Department

This page provides an overview on author faculty/departamental affiliations of Imperial's SDG-mapped research outputs cited in policy, as indexed by the Overton database. Click 'i' icon to see the methodology.



SDG

All

Faculty Name

All

Department Name

Department of Mathematics

Outputs (on Overton) by Policy institution type



Faculty Name # Outputs (on Overton) Policy Citations (SDG-Mapped Outputs) Median of Output-Policy Publication Date Difference (Days)

Faculty of Natural Sciences	77	700	354
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Policy source institute	# Outputs (on Overton)	# Policy Documents	Policy Citations (SDG-Mapped Outputs)	Policy institution country
World Health Organization	21	65	390	IGO
World Bank	12	33	348	IGO
The UK Government	9	20	220	UK
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)	8	10	79	USA
Guidelines in PubMed Central	8	13	324	USA
NBER	8	27	246	USA
Publications Office of the European Union	8	24	364	EU
Institute of Development Studies	7	15	323	UK
United Nations	7	10	167	IGO

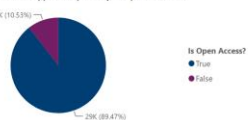
Department Name	# Outputs (on Overton)	Policy Citations (SDG-Mapped Outputs)	Median of Output-Policy Publication Date Difference (Days)
Department of Mathematics	77	700	354

Policy Citations by Output Open Access Status

This page provides an overview of the open access status of Imperial's SDG-mapped research outputs cited in policy, as indexed by the Overton database. Click 'i' icon to see the methodology.



Policy Citations (SDG-Mapped Outputs) by Is Open Access?



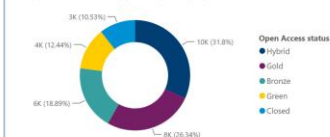
Policy-Output Publication Date Difference by OA status

Is Open Access?	Median of Output-Policy Publication Date Difference (Days)
False	1054
True	806

Outputs cited in Policy by OA Status (True: OA, False: Non-OA) according to SDG status

SDG category	False	True
13 Climate Action	158	783
3 Good Health and Well Being	696	4,984
7 Affordable and Clean Energy	153	458

Policy Citations (SDG-Mapped Outputs) by Open Access status



Outputs cited in Policy by OA Status (True: OA, False: Non-OA) according to Policy Institute

Policy source institute	False	True
World Health Organization	84	1,007
Guidelines in PubMed Central	131	888
Publications Office of the European Union	61	417
The UK Government	45	338
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)	33	322
UK Parliament Select Committee Publications	38	310
World Bank	35	309
OECD	41	261
United Nations	25	197
State of New South Wales	16	200

Policy Citations by Outputs

Output Title	Policy Citations (SDG-Mapped Outputs)	Publication Year	DOI
The Shared Socioeconomic Pathways and their energy, land use, and greenhouse gas emissions implications: An overview	554	2017	10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2016.05.009
Do investors care about carbon risk?	197	2021	10.1016/j.jfineco.2021.05.008
A familial cluster of pneumonia associated with the 2019 novel coronavirus indicating person-to-person transmission: a study of a family cluster	177	2020	10.1016/s0140-6736(20)30154-9
Estimates and 25-year trends of the global burden of disease attributable to ambient air pollution: an analysis of data from the Global Burden of Diseases Study 2015	168	2017	10.1016/s0140-6736(17)30505-6
Estimated transmissibility and impact of SARS-CoV-2 lineage B.1.1.7 in England	167	2021	10.1126/science.abb3205
Pre-exposure prophylaxis to prevent the acquisition of HIV-1 infection (PROUD): effectiveness results from the pilot phase of a pragmatic open-label randomised trial	154	2016	10.1016/s0140-6736(15)00056-2
A low energy demand scenario for meeting the 1.5°C target and sustainable development goals without negative emission technologies	148	2018	10.1038/s41560-018-0172-6
Safety and efficacy of the ChAdOx1 nCoV-19 vaccine (AZD1222) against SARS-CoV-2: an interim analysis of four randomised controlled trials in Brazil, South Africa, and the UK	146	2021	10.1016/s0140-6736(20)32661-1
Energy system transformations for limiting end-of-century warming to below 1.5 °C	142	2016	10.1038/nclimate2572
Global burden of 87 risk factors in 204 countries and territories, 1990-2019: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2019	133	2020	10.1016/s0140-6736(20)30752-2
Global, regional, and national comparative risk assessment of 84 behavioural, environmental and occupational, and metabolic risks or clusters of risks, 1990-2016: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2019	133	2017	10.1016/s0140-6736(17)32366-8
Dexamethasone in Hospitalized Patients with Covid-19	128	2021	10.1056/nejmoa2021436
Dexamethasone in Hospitalized Patients with Covid-19	128	2021	10.1056/nejmoa2021436
The Impact of the European Union Emissions Trading Scheme on Regulated Firms: What is the Evidence after Ten Years?	125	2016	10.1093/oxfrev/016
The 2018 report of the Lancet Countdown on health and climate change: shaping the health of nations for centuries to come	119	2018	10.1016/s0140-6736(18)32594-7
Substantial undocumented infection facilitates the rapid dissemination of novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2)	103	2020	10.1126/science.abb3221
Global burden of 360 diseases and injuries in 2019: a systematic analysis	100	2020	10.1016/s0140-6736(20)30331-6
Total	32,188		