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The Refugee Studies Centre (RSC) has an international reputation as the leading multidisciplinary centre for research and teaching on the causes and consequences of forced migration. Its philosophy is to combine world-class academic research with a commitment to improving the lives and situations for some of the world's most disadvantaged people.

Its major objectives are: Research: to carry out multidisciplinary research including policy-relevant work on the causes and consequences of forced migration with an emphasis on understanding the experiences of forced migration from the point of view of affected peoples. Teaching: to provide taught and research degrees and other courses to students, academics, policy makers and practitioners in the field of forced migration. Dissemination: to present documentation and information for researchers, practitioners and the public and to develop fora for the discussion of research and policy issues affecting refugees and other forced migrants. International Cooperation and Capacity Building: to work alongside academic institutions and networks focusing on issues of forced migration, helping to strengthen their capacity to develop their own research agendas and teaching courses.