

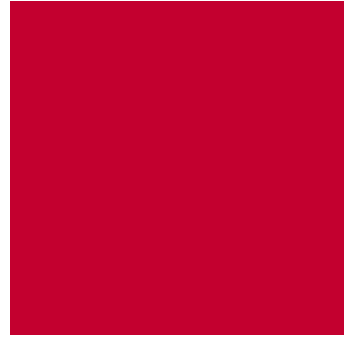


UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER

Annual Review



2014/15



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An Introduction from the President and Vice-Chancellor

The following are just a few highlights from the last 12 months to show how the innovative work taking place at Leicester is making an impact locally, nationally and around the world.

Our staff and students are discovering ways to change the world for the better and it's an honour, as President and Vice-Chancellor, to lead this institution at such an important time in its history and one of unprecedented change in the higher education sector.

We are committed to ensuring that we offer a fantastic student experience, invest in state-of-the-art facilities and develop a stimulating learning environment for all.

We take great pride in the strength of our learning culture and in the passion for excellence that informs both our teaching and our support for students. We continue to attract the brightest and the best students and are continually expanding the availability and quality of our academic programmes and portfolio, supported by more than 3,500 staff. Responding to student wishes, we have launched Pathways which is arguably the most flexible curriculum in the UK. We are proud that after completing their education with us, our students have exceptionally high employment rates in a range of stimulating careers.

Many organisations claim to change lives, but our ground-breaking research is making a difference across the globe. Our academics are exploring space and the universe, developing life-saving treatments, creating revolutionary materials for industry and discovering new medicines to combat some of the world's worst diseases.

Of course, an increasing amount of what we do involves partnership; with business, public and third sector organisations. We work closely with our city, and have ambitious plans to develop our estate that will bring benefit to our staff, students and those living beside us in Leicester.

I am proud of what the University has achieved over the last 12 months. I am very conscious of the dedication and commitment of our staff and students, which has helped us to attain the successes we have to date. I am confident that we can build on these successes over the coming years.



Professor Paul Boyle
President and Vice-Chancellor



A Proud History

Envisaged as a living memorial to the local men who lost their lives in the First World War, the endowment for a University College for Leicestershire – later to become the University of Leicester – was established on Armistice Day in 1918.

Set up by local Leicester resident, Dr Astley Clarke, along with fellow doctor Frederick Bennett and other friends, the University was born out of a voluntary commitment for a people's university. Donations flooded in from individuals, local societies and companies, and by January 1920, more than £100,000 had been pledged – the equivalent of £16 million today.

Local cloth manufacturer Thomas Fielding Johnson purchased the Leicestershire and Rutland Lunatic Asylum, which had been used as a base hospital during the War, and gifted it to Leicester Council to set up a new University College and Grammar School. The old asylum building – the first University College building – was named in honour of Mr Fielding Johnson's generosity and now stands as the University's central administration building.

Students were first admitted to the College in 1921. In 1957 the College was granted its Royal Charter, and has since then had the status of a University with the right to award its own degrees.

Nearly 100 years later, the University continues to honour those who served and died in the Great War. Our motto *Ut Vitam Habeant* – 'That they may have life' – stands on every degree certificate we issue as a permanent reminder of the War and our origins.

At Leicester we believe high quality research and excellent teaching are not only complementary; they are inseparable. We are constantly finding new ways of being a leading university, and have done so ever since we were founded as a University College in 1921.

From WG Hoskins's seminal analysis of English history through place and people, to John Swales's definitive medical tome on the causes and treatment of high blood pressure; from the first British degree in Mass Communication, to the invention of genetic fingerprinting; from figurative sociology, to super-massive black holes; the University has contributed and continues to contribute to an extraordinary range of fields.





2014/15 Achievements

TOP **1%**

Ranked in the top 1 per cent of universities worldwide, the University of Leicester is a leading university committed to international excellence through the creation of world-changing research and high quality, inspirational teaching

93.4%

of our students are in study or full-time employment within six months of graduating (DLHE survey by the Higher Education Statistics Agency)

£2.6m

value of philanthropic funds raised

1st

The Association of Graduate Recruiters have recognised the University of Leicester as the best institution in the UK for its overall strategy to prepare students for the world of work

TOP **50**

Leicester is ranked in the top 50 of the world's most international universities by Times Higher Education (THE), achieving 44th position in the THE's prestigious Top 100 List

25

We are in the top 25 UK universities targeted by leading UK employers



Making a Difference for our City and Region

The University of Leicester is proud to play a significant role in the promotion and prosperity of the region. We make a major economic contribution to our city and beyond through the direct and indirect effects of our activities.

The University is a major employer and an investor in music, art and culture within the city. We are continuing to develop state-of-the-art facilities, many of which are accessible to the general public.

We bring visitors from all over the world to Leicester, and believe passionately in working closely with everyone in the community.



Brief Exchanges

October 2014

In commemoration of the First World War, the University invited students, staff and the people of Leicester to knit a poppy to remember the soldiers whose lives were lost during the war and support the Poppy Appeal.

November 2014

Some of the biggest names in the literary world descended on Leicester for the University's seventh annual literary festival, Literary Leicester. Guests included author Will Self, Leicester children's writer Bali Rai and Leicester-born former children's laureate and *Mrs Doubtfire* author, Anne Fine.

April 2015

ITV aired a gripping two-part drama retelling the story of a dramatic criminal investigation involving one of the University's greatest discoveries: DNA fingerprinting. *Code of a Killer* starred *Doctor Who* actor John Simm as Professor Sir Alec Jeffreys and *Shameless* star David Threlfall as Detective David Baker. Professor Jeffreys discovered the now internationally-used method at the University, during what he describes as a 'eureka moment' in 1984.

April 2015

More than 10,000 aspiring university students converged upon the University for the annual East Midlands UCAS convention. The convention was attended by year 12 students from across the East Midlands and beyond, over a two day period. This was a fantastic opportunity for the University to showcase our facilities to thousands of prospective students during the convention, which featured more than 100 UK universities.

June 2015

Over 600 graduates, their families and friends returned to Leicester in June for a day of social events, free lectures, tours, demonstrations and workshops as part of the annual Summer Reunion Open Day. President and Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Boyle CBE delivered the keynote lecture on his 'Re-imagining of the University of Leicester'.

Local river transformed into a living ecosystem

The natural beauty of the River Welland in Leicestershire town, Market Harborough has been restored, thanks to an environmental project led by the University and the Welland Rivers Trust (WRT).

The river has been transformed from a near-lifeless ditch into a living ecosystem as part of the 'Welland for People and Wildlife' project.

The project's focus was to energise the low flow of the river without affecting the high flow capacity of the water course.

To achieve this, the project team, led by Professor David Harper from our Department of Biology removed six weirs, built berms to create a meandering pattern, dug pools and created riffles with gravels in the shallows between the berms.

With the removal of the weir barriers, fish and eels are now freer to move throughout Market Harborough. A variety of deep spaces for fish to hide are now available and quality shallows have been formed which are ideal for spawning.

"The Welland is a beautiful river in those very few places that were not

destroyed by river engineers in the 1960s. They turned 95 per cent of our lowland English rivers into monotonous, lifeless ditches merely for water carriage," explains David.

"The Trust is immensely proud to have been able to turn 1.8 kilometres of near-lifeless ditch into a living river ecosystem again for people to enjoy once more, as their grandparents did."



New apps reveal hidden stories of Leicester's Cultural Quarter

Two new apps developed by the University, and designed to help visitors explore the Cultural Quarter of Leicester, were launched at a free public event in November.

Hidden Stories and *Sounds of the Cultural Quarter* use the latest locative technology to deliver an immersive experience for visitors to the Cultural Quarter in the city.


Both apps consist of location-specific content which include sounds from the past and present, poetry, plays, narrative and more. These features are uncovered as users explore the area, allowing them to envisage how Leicester might have been in the past.

The apps were products of a University research project, 'Affective Digital Histories:

Re-creating de-industrial places, 1970s to the present', which was funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC).

The project explored the emotional transitions of communities as they engaged with the changing uses of de-industrial spaces from the 1970s onwards. These spaces included dance halls, rave venues and alternative clubs; some of which have undergone regeneration from the 1970s to the present day.

The project brought together a multidisciplinary team of experts from the University's departments of Management, Urban History, Geography, Museum Studies and English, alongside a researcher from the School of Design at De Montfort University.



Historic discovery leaves lasting legacy

The University's discovery of the last Plantagenet King has had a remarkable impact on the city.

An independent assessment has estimated that the city's economy has been boosted by more than £59 million, from the time of the discovery of his remains in September 2012, to the reinterment in March. This includes £4.5 million generated during the reinterment activities alone.

More than 600,000 additional visitors were attracted to Leicester as a result of the discovery of King Richard III, which has had a substantial benefit on local tourism. Around 1,000 full-time equivalent jobs could have been created as a result of activity relating to the discovery. During the reinterment week alone, 9,500 people visited the city, which is up from 2,300 visitors at the same time the previous year.

There has been significant media attention on the city and the University as a result of this momentous discovery. During the reinterment week, more than 2,000 individual UK news articles mentioned the University and the city. This significant press coverage had an advertising value equivalent (AVE) of £12 million, and 366 million people around the globe were given the opportunity to see coverage of the celebrations.

"This has been a landmark project," comments President and Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Boyle CBE. "It has not only brought together research teams from across the University, but it has engaged students, schools and graduates as well as people from around the world in a project of discovery.

"Academic and professional staff have worked with great dedication under the public gaze, and I pay tribute to them for their endeavour."

The team now plans to sequence the complete genome of Richard III to learn even more about the last English King to die in battle.





Attenborough Arts continues to inspire

The University's arts and culture offering not only enhances the student and staff experience, but it also contributes to the economic and cultural heritage of the city of Leicester.

Attenborough Arts is the University's multi-use inclusive arts centre, which has a rich history of promotion and encouragement of engagement in the arts for people with disabilities.

Championed by the late Lord Attenborough, it is one of only two purpose-built spaces in the East Midlands for the promotion of arts and disability.

The Centre fosters inclusive arts practice across all of its performing and visual arts programming, both within the venue and in its outreach activities, which currently engage more than 45,000 people annually.

In 2013, the University announced plans to provide the city with a new home for contemporary visual arts with a new gallery wing to allow for large-scale exhibitions to be displayed in the city for the first time. The new gallery was completed in the autumn of 2015.

In 2015, Attenborough Arts was awarded a grant of £75,000 over three years by BBC Children in Need. This

grant will fund an Inclusive Youth Arts Project and help make a difference to the lives of disadvantaged children and young people right here in Leicester.

"Our Inclusive Youth Arts Project will offer bespoke, quality, regular arts activities for disabled children and their siblings enhancing their access to arts," says Michaela Butter OBE, Director of Attenborough Arts.

"Delivering 60 weekend sessions over three years for small groups of six children with disabilities and complex needs, the project aims to increase the confidence and self-esteem of disabled children within Leicester and Leicestershire."



Archaeologists discover bronze remains of **Iron Age chariot**

Leicester archaeologists have made a “once-in-a-career discovery” by unearthing the decorated bronze remains of an Iron Age chariot.

A team from the University’s School of Archaeology and Ancient History found a hoard of rare bronze fittings from a 2nd or 3rd century BC chariot, which appears to have been buried as a religious offering.

The archaeologists found the remains during their ongoing excavation of the Burrough Hill Iron Age Hillfort, near Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire. The School has led a five-year project at the site since 2010, providing valuable experience of archaeological excavations for archaeology students and volunteers.

“This is the most remarkable discovery of material we have made at Burrough Hill in the five years we worked on the site,” says Dr Jeremy Taylor, Lecturer in Landscape Archaeology at the University’s School of Archaeology and Ancient History and Co-Director of the Burrough Hill field project.

“This is a very rare discovery, and a strong sign of the prestige of the site. The atmosphere at the dig on the day was a mix of tremendous excitement and slight shell shock for all involved.

“I have been excavating for 25 years and I have never found one of these pieces – let alone a whole set. It is a once-in-a-career discovery.”

The power of **volunteering**

More than 150 University of Leicester student volunteers have made a powerful impact in the local community after enriching the learning experiences of around 2,000 schoolchildren.

Through a range of rewarding long-term, short-term and one-off school-based opportunities organised by the University’s Career Development Service, student volunteers have been given the chance to share their knowledge, expertise and enthusiasm for learning with children across the county.

Activities have included delivering creative writing workshops and school assemblies, storytelling, providing GCSE Maths support and facilitating after school clubs. These activities provided students with an opportunity to flex their creative muscles and draw upon strengths to support children from the ages of five to 16.

“We’ve had some fantastic feedback from the schools thanking us and the student

volunteers for the wonderful job they have done,” says Chani Sandhu, Volunteering Project Co-ordinator at the Career Development Service.

“Volunteering is not only a great way to benefit the local community, but also acts as an excellent way of developing the skills and confidence of our students.”

The 2015 Chinese New Year in February was a focal point for some of the volunteering activity where 30 international student volunteers planned and delivered assemblies based on different aspects of the Chinese culture in five different schools within the region, much to the delight of the schoolchildren and their teachers.

“I just wanted to say a big thank you for the excellent assembly, and please congratulate the students for their hard work – they did really well,” adds Anna Boychuk, Head Teacher at Whitehall Primary School in Leicester.

Brief Exchanges

September 2014

Some relationships last a lifetime, and University archaeologists discovered that they can last even longer after unearthing two skeletons at a lost chapel in Leicestershire that have been holding hands for 700 years.

October 2014

Kidney Research UK invested £416,511 into kidney research at the University. The money will fund four separate research projects, looking at a wide range of topics including exercise, rare kidney diseases and cardiovascular issues.



December 2014

The UK-led Beagle 2 Mars Lander, thought lost on Mars since 2003, was found partially deployed on the surface of the planet, ending the mystery of what happened to the mission more than a decade ago.

January 2015

A working group led by Leicester scientist, Professor Jan Zalasiewicz proposed that the first atomic bomb test in July 1945 should mark the start of the Anthropocene epoch.

March 2015

Geneticists from the University discovered that millions of modern Asian men are descended from 11 powerful dynastic leaders who lived up to 4,000 years ago – including Mongolian warlord Genghis Khan.

Why darkness matters

For more than 80 years, space scientists have hypothesised about the existence of dark matter – a kind of matter that holds the universe together but does not emit or absorb light. It is theorised to make up 85 per cent of the matter of the universe, but it cannot be seen and there has never been any proof of it.

Astronomers at the University have discovered a curious signal in the X-ray sky that could be the first detection of dark matter – a historic breakthrough in the field. The team has found what may be a signature of axions, particles believed to potentially make up dark matter, coming from the sun towards Earth, from data taken by the European Space Agency's XMM-Newton observatory.

The research was led by former Director of our Space Research Centre, Professor George Fraser, who sadly died in March 2014 after submitting his findings to the journal *Monthly Notices of the Royal*

Astronomical Society. In the paper, he wrote: "It appears plausible that axions – dark matter particle candidates – are indeed produced in the core of the sun and do indeed convert to X-rays in the magnetic field of the Earth."

Astronomers use dark matter to explain the way objects like galaxies move through space. Without dark matter, conventional theories of gravity related to movement would not work.

Whilst the findings are tentative and may take several years to check, they represent a dramatic advance in our understanding of the universe. "This is an amazing result," comments Professor Martin Barstow, Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of the College of Science and Engineering.

"If confirmed, it will be the first indirect detection and identification of the elusive dark matter particles and will have a fundamental impact on our theories of the universe."

Proximity to fast-food outlets shown to fuel diabetes and obesity epidemic

Your risk of developing Type-2 diabetes and obesity is linked to how close you live to fast-food outlets, according to a new study led by the University.

The research has revealed that there are twice the number of fast-food outlets within 500 metres of inner-city neighbourhoods described as non-white and in socially deprived areas, than elsewhere in cities.

The researchers warn that their findings have important implications for diabetes prevention and for those granting planning permission for fast-food outlets.

"Our study suggests that for every additional two outlets per neighbourhood, we would expect one additional diabetes case, assuming a causal relationship between the fast-food outlet and diabetes," explain Professors Melanie Davies CBE and Kamlesh

Khunti, Co-Directors of the Leicester Diabetes Centre, in the study published in the *Public Health Nutrition* journal.

"We found a much higher number of fast-food outlets in more deprived areas where a higher number of black and minority ethnic populations resided. This in turn was associated with higher prevalence of obesity and diabetes.

"The results are quite alarming and have major implications for public health interventions to limit the number of fast-food outlets in more deprived areas."

The research was carried out by a team from the University's Diabetes Research Centre, Department of Health Sciences and Department of Geography in collaboration with the Leicester Diabetes Centre based at Leicester General Hospital.



Victims of hate crime keep silent according to new report

A significant number of victims of hate crimes remain silent and struggle to inform the police, according to groundbreaking research conducted by our Centre for Hate Studies.

The Leicester Hate Crime Project, a two-year study into acts of hate, prejudice and targeted hostility is Britain's biggest ever study of hate crime victimisation. Funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), the research has uncovered new insights into the nature and forms of these acts and their impact upon victims, families and wider communities.

Shockingly, the report reveals that 88 per cent of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people

had experienced some form of hate incident leaving them with emotional and physical scars. Based on in-depth interviews in Leicester and Leicestershire the report also states that only 14 per cent of LGBT victims reported their most recent experience of hate crime to the police.

Evidence nationally suggests around 35,000 cases of hate crime committed against people because of their sexual orientation go unreported every year. As a result perpetrators are evading justice.

"Simply expecting victims to report without taking meaningful action to dismantle perceived and actual barriers is futile, particularly when the evidence shows that many have

little confidence in the capacity of authorities to act empathetically or effectively," explains report author Dr Stevie-Jade Hardy from our Centre for Hate Studies.

Supported by the government and produced for the Equality and Human Rights Commission, the report's findings coincided with a major new campaign to raise awareness of LGBT hate crime across the UK. With hate and extremism having increasing relevance to multiple fields of work, the Centre continues to work with organisations all over the world to improve responses through evidence-based training and research which shapes policy and practice.

Research discovers how memories are formed

Scientists have, for the first time, discovered exactly how memories are formed in the brain.

A collaboration between Dr Matias Ison and Professor Rodrigo Quian Quiroga at the University, and Dr Itzhak Fried at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, has revealed how a neuron in the brain instantly fires differently when a new memory is formed.

The research group at Leicester and UCLA has previously discovered the 'Jennifer Aniston neuron' – the firing of a single neuron for a single image, to form a concept.

Now the scientists have been able to watch in real-time as patients' neurons recorded a new memory of a person at a particular place. They did this by showing patients images of a person in a context, for example Jennifer Aniston at the Eiffel Tower or Halle Berry at the Sydney Opera House.

They found that the neuron that formerly fired for a single image, for example Jennifer Aniston, now also fired for the associated image too, i.e. the Eiffel Tower.

"This is a radical departure from previous experiments in animals

where changes have been observed mainly after long training sessions," explains Rodrigo Quian Quiroga, Head of the Centre for Systems Neuroscience at the University.

"This is critical to understanding the neural processes underlying real-life memory formation, as in real-life we are not repeatedly exposed to an event in order to remember it - just one exposure is enough."

The researchers hope that this spectacular discovery may help to better explain memory loss and lead to new methods to fight in Alzheimer's and other neurological diseases.



£23m boost for environmental science from space

The University received support from the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) in October to continue funding the National Centre for Earth Observation (NCEO) for a further five years.

The new contract, worth £23 million, will ensure continued success for the Centre, which tackles some of the biggest environmental questions and drives innovation in the use of data in issues such as climate, pollution and fire detection systems.

NCEO scientists have previously played a key role in understanding the current state of the climate, including changes in surface temperatures, concentrations of greenhouse gases and changes in the Arctic.

“It is an outstanding achievement for Leicester to have won the £23 million contract for the National Centre for Earth Observation. This will further cement Leicester’s world-class reputation for research in this field, which will have a direct impact on our understanding of how the planet works and how we predict the temporal and spatial extent of environmental change,” says Professor Paul Boyle CBE, President and Vice-Chancellor.

“Leicester now leads two internationally renowned centres that provide a focal point for Earth Observation in the UK, as the University is already the lead academic partner in the Centre for Earth Observation Instrumentation. It will be exciting to watch the synergies between these two centres develop over the next few years.”

Professor John Remedios, Head of Earth Observation Science in our Department of Physics and Astronomy, will lead the Centre.

“NCEO will be leading a step change in the ability of the NERC community to characterise and understand global and regional environmental change,” he says.

Scientists develop ‘electronic nose’ for rapid detection of C-diff infection

A team at Leicester has developed a fast-sensitive ‘electronic-nose’ for sniffing the highly infectious bacteria *Clostridium difficile* (C-diff) that causes diarrhea, temperature increase and stomach cramps.

The research team has demonstrated that it is possible to identify the unique smell of C-diff which would lead to rapid diagnosis of the condition. What is more, the team believes it could be possible to identify different strains of the disease simply from their smell (with each smell representing a chemical fingerprint), which could help medics target treatment for particular conditions.

“The rapid detection and identification of the bug C-diff is a primary concern in healthcare facilities. Rapid and accurate diagnoses are important to reduce C-diff infections, as well as to provide the right treatment to infected patients,” explains Professor Paul Monks, from our Department of Chemistry.

“Delayed treatment and inappropriate antibiotics not only cause high morbidity and mortality, but also add costs to the healthcare system through lost bed days. Varying strains of C-diff can cause different symptoms and may need to be uniquely treated, so a test that could determine not only an infection, but what type of infection, could lead to new treatment options.”

Enterprise

Through enterprise and business development activities, the University offers many different ways for external organisations and companies to access and benefit from University expertise, from leading-edge research, continuing professional development and consultancy, to first-rate testing facilities and technologies.

For the University, opening up to industry has enabled our world-leading research to demonstrate real-world applications much faster, whilst creating new opportunities for collaborative work with industrial partners and providing case studies for teaching.

Additionally, close ties with businesses allow us to create opportunities for our students, such as internships and work experience, equipping them with a wide range of academic and work-based skills which are essential in the ever-more competitive graduate job market.



Brief Exchanges

January 2015

We are working with Sensium Healthcare to develop the next generation of SensiumVitals®, a wearable, wireless patch which monitors the vital signs of hospital patients every two minutes. It follows an award of £350,000 from Innovate UK to add new features to the product such as blood pressure and oxygen saturation checks.

April 2015

The University has championed several high-profile regional business events designed to boost economic growth in Leicester and the East Midlands. In April, we were a key partner in Venturefest East Midlands – an event which attracted almost 1,000 delegates with a focus on funding, investment opportunities and innovation for businesses. Later in the month, we were also a partner in TEDx Leicester, the first event of its kind in the city.

May 2015

The University is a partner in a £1.6 million heritage-led regeneration programme set to enhance and conserve a historic part of Leicester city centre. Funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Leicester City Council, the Greyfriars Townscape Heritage Initiative will benefit from the University's expertise in the archaeology and heritage sector while offering our students a unique opportunity to put their skills to practical use.

July 2015

A technology developed and patented at Leicester which offers an alternative method for diagnosing a cause of death, has been introduced by the University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust. Supported by Leicestershire HM Coroners, the service will make minimally invasive Post-Mortem Computed Tomography (PMCT) scanning available to investigate unexplained deaths.

New hope for healing scars

More than one hundred million patients in the developed world heal with a scar every year as a result of surgical procedures, trauma or burn injuries. Depending on the position, size and severity, patients may struggle with the emotional and physical impact of the scarring. In addition, the treatment of scars places a heavy financial burden on healthcare systems worldwide.

Scientists at Leicester are working on a novel treatment after an extensive research programme in Dr Christine Pullar's lab in the Molecular and Cell Biology Department, revealed that salbutamol – a therapeutic used in inhalers for asthma sufferers – vastly improves the formation and healing of scars when applied topically.

The potential of the treatment was recognised by the Medical Research Council (MRC) in March 2015 when they awarded Christine's lab a £2.3 million

Biomedical Catalyst grant over four years. The funding is being used to develop an approved formulation of topical salbutamol for use in clinical trials.

"This is tremendously exciting. Our findings show that salbutamol reduces the deposition of scar tissue and hyperpigmentation, significantly improving scar appearance. We have also been able to demonstrate that there is a clear patient need and a substantial market for topical salbutamol," explains Christine.

"The four years of MRC funding will take us closer to assessing its safety and efficacy. It's our hope that we can deliver a real and positive impact on patients' lives."

Biomedical Catalyst funding aims to support exciting ideas and excellent science in order to accelerate the time it takes for innovative projects to reach the marketplace and deliver real benefits for patients.

New technology pinpoints ideal river locations for hydro-power

University experts have developed a new software app which they claim has the power to shake up the micro hydropower industry by revolutionising the sourcing of renewable energy from rivers.

The brainchild of a small renewable energy company, High Efficiency Heating UK Ltd, this innovative technology pinpoints the best locations in Britain's rivers to site hydropower turbines and identifies any environmental concerns at each location. The software could be applied to other nations if data is available.

Working with the company, scientists from our Department of Geography have created a prototype called ISMORTASED which makes use of free, publicly available data from satellites and other sources.

It could save time, paperwork and potentially thousands of pounds in initial survey costs.

"We are delighted with the results," says Dr Kevin Tansey, Reader in Remote

Sensing. "We have built a very visual, interactive user interface in Google Earth to show the multiple solutions on offer at various locations and their cost.

"We can process the data anywhere, standing on the doorstep of a landowner or in the offices of a turbine manufacturer. We can run the tool to show potential locations nationally on any stretch of river."

The prototype was funded by a grant from Innovate UK with support from G-STEP, a University programme designed to help small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to grow.

"This kind of collaborative research, combining academic skills with ideas from industry and innovation funding from government is a clear winning formula for UK plc. We are already talking to organisations overseas to see how we can develop the tool for international markets, especially in developing countries."



Protecting the UK's historic environment

Leicester is helping to bridge a recognised skills gap in the heritage sector after being selected by Historic England to partner in the delivery of skills training for heritage professionals.

Winner of the Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education in 2013 for its research and expertise in history, heritage and archaeology, Leicester is well placed to lead the Heritage Practice Training Programme in a partnership set to run for three years.

The partnership also includes the Heritage Skills Centre and the

programme will offer practical, technical and specialist skills for people working in the heritage sector. Running since 2015, the courses span a wide-range of topics such as: how to re-use and repurpose rural buildings; how to commission and specify work on historic buildings; how to use technology to record and interpret the historic environment; and how to investigate sites associated with the First World War.

The courses are delivered by academics and staff from the University of Leicester, Historic England, the Heritage Skills Centre

and external specialists. They are aimed at archaeologists, planners, conservation officers, architects, surveyors, contractors and others working in the historic environment.

"We are very excited to be working on this new programme. It's the wide range of expertise at the University of Leicester which led to the partnership with Historic England and means that our teaching and research can continue to inform and be informed by current heritage practice," says Professor Simon Gunn from our Centre for Urban History.

Groundbreaking breath test for lung cancer in clinical trial

A clinical trial led by University respiratory experts into a potentially groundbreaking 'breath test' to detect lung cancer has been taking place at the Glenfield Hospital in Leicester.

It is hoped that the LuCID (Lung Cancer Indicator Detection) programme will lead to a non-invasive method of diagnosing lung cancer in the early stages. The company behind the device, Cambridge-based Owlstone Nanotech Ltd, carried out a health economic analysis and determined that detection of early-stage lung cancer could be increased from the current 14.5 per cent to 25 per cent by 2020. It is estimated this could save 10,000 lives and £250 million of NHS money.

The device works by measuring volatile organic compounds (VOCs) at low concentrations in a patient's breath and offers a cheaper and smaller alternative to existing detection technologies.

Supported by the University of Leicester's Research and Enterprise Division and Leicester's Hospitals, Owlstone was awarded £1 million by the NHS Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI) towards the second phase of the LuCID project – the clinical trials. The aim is to further evaluate Owlstone's GC-FAIMS (Gas Chromatography – Field Asymmetric Ion Mobility Spectrometry) sensor in a rapid access lung cancer clinic. If successful, the project will pave the way to evaluate the technology in GP surgeries and other hospitals.

The clinical study is being led by Dr Salman Siddiqui, a clinical senior lecturer and adult chest physician at the University of Leicester and Glenfield Hospital with results expected in 2016. "Lung cancer has one of the lowest five-year survival rates of all cancers, however early diagnosis can greatly improve a patient's prognosis. Current diagnostic procedures are costly and not without risks, so the benefits of a non-invasive, cheaper alternative are clear," says Salman.



Student entrepreneurs claim top spot in national biotech business competition

A team of five PhD students from the University of Leicester claimed top spot in the national Biotechnology Young Entrepreneurs' Scheme competition, Biotechnology YES.

The team impressed a panel of industry experts with their plan to launch SenzaSeeds, a new business based around a (made-up) technology that enables the world's first wholly uncaffeinated coffee – made from naturally uncaffeinated beans that replace the need for a decaffeination process.

SenzaSeeds overcame fierce competition from 11 other finalists, all of which had been winners in their regional heats.

Biotechnology YES is a national competition designed to raise awareness of the commercialisation of bioscience ideas among early career researchers. Teams of scientists come together to develop and present a *Dragons' Den* style pitch for start-up company investment, based around an imaginary scientific discovery.

"Biotechnology YES has been a fantastic experience. It gave us a crash course in business, marketing, intellectual property



and finance and this all came together in our pitch to the industry dragons. We are now in a much better position to spot real commercial opportunities as our scientific careers unfold," says Zoe Stephenson, CEO for the imaginary start-up.

"The team worked extremely hard to put together a convincing pitch and deserve this recognition. I only wish the technology behind SenzaSeeds was real!" adds Dr James Lapworth from our

Research and Enterprise Division who coached the team on entrepreneurship and business planning.

"The team gelled quickly and came up with an outstanding idea. Their energetic application to learning new skills, particularly pitching their business idea in a bid for funding, is evidenced in this outstanding success," explains Martin Coffey from the Leicester Learning Institute who mentored the team.

Investment boost for new spin-out

University spin-out company MIP Diagnostics Ltd was given a significant boost in June 2015 when it received £182,000 funding from Mercia Fund Management, one of the leading technology investors in the UK.

The investment recognises the commercial potential of the University-born business which manufactures chemical substitutes for antibodies.

MIP Diagnostics Ltd was founded in 2015 as a spin-out from the University of Leicester by several leading experts in the field, including Professor Sergey Piletsky and our Leicester Biotechnology Group based in the Department of Chemistry. The company aims to commercialise

Molecular Imprinted Polymers (MIPs) – known as 'plastic antibodies' – for the pharmaceutical, diagnostic and chemical research industries.

Unlike their counterparts – antibodies, affirmers and aptamers – MIPs are not biologically derived, which means they are a stable and cost-effective alternative for the research industry, taking only a week to manufacture rather than months.

MIPs are chemically formulated to mimic the lock and key mechanism of biological antibodies, affirmers and aptamers, but, unlike antibodies, which can only fit to a pre-designated lock, MIPs can be designed to fit to a potentially vast amount of locks, removing the potential for error

and simplifying the research process. They are increasingly being considered as an alternative to antibodies, affirmers and aptamers with the potential to compete in similar global markets.

"The investment by Mercia Fund Management into the MIP technology is testament to its potential as an innovative research tool. MIP Diagnostics Ltd has evolved from work initiated at Cranfield University and has been supported by funding from the Wellcome Trust. Our work with Mercia will enable the company to provide custom-made MIPs and support the integration of MIPs into a new range of diagnostic applications," says Dr Sharon Spencer, Director of Technology Commercialisation at the University.



Teaching and Learning

We take great pride in the strength of our learning culture and in the passion for excellence that informs both our teaching and our support for students.

We believe that teaching is inspirational when delivered by passionate academics engaged in world-changing research – and that our research is stronger when delivered in an academic community shared with our students.

We also work to ensure that Leicester's achievements exert a greater influence on national and international approaches to effective learning and student success.

The students leaving the University do so in the knowledge that they will have the skills to contribute to a strong and vibrant workforce.



Brief Exchanges

September 2014

Professor Sir Bob Burgess retired after 15 years as Vice-Chancellor of the University. He left an enduring legacy in the form of a fund to help future generations of our students.

The Sir Robert and Lady Hilary Burgess Research and Teaching Fund will be helping leading research teams and the brightest minds tackle some of our greatest global challenges.

January 2015

PhD student Eugenie de Silva, who started her postgraduate studies at Leicester aged just 15, became the youngest person to graduate from Harvard University. She also became the youngest person to win the Luce Leader Award; presented to young leaders working to better humanity, either in the US or abroad who embody the characteristics of honour, intelligence, benevolence and integrity.

June 2015

Leicester's third Annual Learning and Teaching Conference explored how employability can be integrated more firmly into the curriculum and learning opportunities at Leicester.

June 2015

The University was selected to join Research Libraries UK (RLUK), an alliance of leading libraries in the UK. In doing so, Leicester is joining a community of libraries contributing to the advancement of research and scholarship through outstanding collections and services, and will work alongside others from research-intensive universities.



Funding the next generation of leading bioscientists

Leicester is one of three leading Midlands universities to have been awarded £13 million for a Doctoral Training Partnership to provide research training to support the Midlands life sciences and agricultural technology.

The Partnership, led by the University of Warwick, together with the Universities of Leicester and Birmingham, received the award for their Midlands Integrative Biosciences Training Partnership (MIBTP), which will train an additional 260 PhD research students over the next five years. 130 postgraduate students will be funded directly by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) and an additional 130 by matched-funding from the three universities. The award will help all three universities to crack some of society's most challenging issues and will safeguard Britain's status as a world leader in life sciences and agricultural technology.

"I am delighted that, together with our partners, Leicester has been able to secure

funding to continue this exciting programme to train the next generation of leading bioscientists," explains Dr Ezio Rosato, MIBTP Co-Director from the University.

"The quality of our current students and the level of the award we received from the BBSRC are a testimony of the success of our Partnership."

This initiative will build upon Leicester's strong biotechnology research base and our particular strengths in gene expression, structural biology, genome dynamics, cell signalling and neuroscience.

Leicester also hosts the Medical Research Council (MRC) Toxicology Unit, the UK's foremost centre for research into the molecular basis of responses to external molecules. New investments such as the Centre for Genetic Architecture of Complex Traits (GATC) and the Centre for System Neuroscience highlight Leicester's commitment to new ways of working in the biosciences.

Award-winning project with schoolchildren set to expand

Beginning in Leicester with just 20 children, the Letterbox Club is an award-winning programme which aims to provide enjoyable educational support for looked-after children.

Managed by BookTrust, in partnership with the University, the programme now reaches more than 7,500 children up to the age of 13 nationwide, and has now been extended to target five-seven year olds.

The brainchild of Leicester academic Dr Rose Griffiths from our School of Education, the project recently announced its new Patron as MP Alan Johnson at an event in London.

Former postman Alan praised the Letterbox Club for helping foster children improve their reading and mathematics skills and discussed the value to children of having colourful Letterbox parcels of books and number games sent to them personally at

their own address. He also reflected on his own enjoyment of receiving gifts of books when he was a child.

"The day was really good fun, and we were pleased that so many people from the local authorities involved were able to join us," comments Rose who has led the development of the project since its inception.

"Their role is crucial in making sure that the parcels reach the children – especially for children who are not in a settled permanent family."

"Carers tell us time and time again how excited children are when the parcel arrives, how much the children enjoy reading their own books, and how Letterbox Club helps improve literacy and numeracy skills," adds BookTrust Chief Executive Viv Bird.



Learning for everyone, anywhere, anytime

As a university that strives to be accessible to people from all backgrounds, Leicester is always looking at ways to innovate the delivery of courses. That is why we're focused on making distance learning a realistic option for increasing numbers of people.

We are one of Britain's largest providers of distance learning, but despite our scale, we're able to deliver a bespoke and personalised service that values the different backgrounds and experiences of our diverse student body.

Studying by distance learning requires commitment and courage. At Leicester we're working with our students to

ensure this investment pays off and the high quality materials developed for distance learning are now utilised by departments to enrich campus-based teaching.

In 2013, Leicester announced its partnership with FutureLearn, the first UK-led provider of massive open online courses (MOOCs), offering learners around the world even greater access to free, high quality courses.

Leicester's latest course was the world's first MOOC in Museum Studies, providing people with the opportunity to learn about how the modern 21st century museum can contribute to

agendas such as social justice, human rights and health and wellbeing.

Learners will explore what it is to be, to create, and work in a 21st century museum, drawing on world-class research from our School of Museum Studies and cutting-edge case studies from National Museums Liverpool, the largest national museum service based wholly outside of London.

The course is ideal for people thinking about studying Museum Studies, people in the museum sector looking to undertake CPD, museum volunteers and anyone who is simply interested in museums and their activities.

Pathways: your degree, your choice

We are introducing a new way to study at the University in order to give our students more choice over the way in which they want to combine different subjects.

Pathways will introduce a Major/Minor option which will complement our existing single and joint honours undergraduate degrees from September 2016.

While many undergraduates will continue to prefer a single or joint honours course, those selecting a Major/Minor course will have the flexibility to combine a wide range of subjects, including new areas such as Global Studies.

Students will typically spend 75 per cent of their time on their Major study option and 25 per cent on their Minor option.

The new degree structure is designed to give students a broader range of studies which will help to better prepare our graduates for life in the 21st century workplace.

“The ability to do such a broad range of degrees is a win-win for students and will allow University of Leicester graduates to create courses that work for them and signal their individual strengths,” explains Professor Mark Peel, Provost and the driver behind the new learning innovation.

“A Major/Minor degree allows students to keep up different paths for the future and to keep their options open for longer.

“It’s a great choice, especially where a student is not quite sure about the subject area in which they will be most successful. We will work with students during the first year and allow them, where possible, to shift the balance of their subjects for the second and third years of their studies to ensure the best degree combination for all students.”



Leicester's rising stars showcased at Festival of Postgraduate Research

Fifty of the University's leading research students were selected competitively from the University's postgraduate research community to present their research to academics, employers and members of the public at the University's 11th Festival of Postgraduate Research earlier this year.

The Festival is a chance to celebrate the strength of our postgraduate research community and gives students the chance to develop their profiles as researchers.

"The Festival provides a unique opportunity for researchers to communicate the excitement and relevance of their research to an audience of non-specialists," explains Professor Sarah Hainsworth, Graduate Dean.

"I am always impressed by the breadth and diversity of research exhibited here. Our postgraduate researchers are clearly working hard to ensure that very high standards are achieved."

Over the past 10 years the Festival has established itself as one of the highlights of the University calendar and has proven

hugely popular. The Festival offers fellow researchers, the wider University, employers, the media, and the general public an opportunity to meet the next generation of innovators and cutting-edge researchers.

A panel of judges, drawn from invited guests and senior University academics, assess each entry on the basis of visual design and poster content, as well as a presenter's ability to engage with visitors and communicate their research in an accessible way.

A key requirement for both presenter and poster is that the research should be made understandable to a non-specialist audience, and that they should be left with a clear idea of what the research involves and why it is important.

The Festival concludes with an awards ceremony, with winners for the best presentation in each discipline, a number of specialist prizes, and the Graduate Dean's prize for the best overall presentation.

REACH partnership encourages more young people to choose higher education

The work of local educators across Leicester and Leicestershire received a boost in January after it was announced that the local REACH Partnership, based at the University will receive £240,000 in government funding over the next two years after being chosen as one of the new Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) National Networks for Collaborative Outreach.

The scheme which encourages local higher education providers to work together to enhance the support provided to local schools, involves 200 universities and Further Education Colleges (FECs) and will reach 4,300 secondary schools and colleges through 35 local and three national networks.

Formed in 2013, REACH supports the progression of under-represented groups into higher education and encourages the achievement and attainment of learners.

"The REACH Partnership's successful application reflects the very high quality of its outreach work. As the base for REACH, our University can be proud of its leadership and its sustained commitment to the goal of widening participation," explains Professor Mark Peel, Provost.

"This is also a welcome endorsement of the idea of using regional partnerships to foster greater participation; the most important goal is not competition between universities, but collaboration to ensure that more young people feel that they have a place in higher education."





Student Experience

The University seeks to provide a supportive and personal environment for those who use our services. Creating a stimulating and enjoyable student experience is the University's number one priority.

From dynamic courses through to exciting events, students have consistently rated Leicester as a great place to study.

We work closely with the Leicester Students' Union to provide a culture where students feel supported and inspired to achieve, with access to state-of-the-art facilities and comprehensive careers support.

Brief Exchanges

September 2014

A team of Leicester students competed in BBC2's *University Challenge*, 50 years after Leicester won the very first series of the long-running quiz programme and for the first time since 2005.

February 2015

In conjunction with Fairtrade Fortnight, the University's Residential and Commercial Services Team hosted a Fairtrade-themed *MasterChef* competition. Students living in halls of residence were challenged to show their cooking abilities within a budget of £10 and using at least one Fairtrade item or ingredient. Dishes were scored on taste, texture, presentation and originality.

April 2015

A team of staff and students including the President and Vice-Chancellor climbed the University's tallest building to raise money for victims of the Nepal earthquake. The fundraising event was organised by the University's Mountaineering Club and Dr Mary Ann Lund from our School of English in honour of those killed in the tragedy, including postgraduate Mountain Medicine student Eve Girawong.

July 2015

UoL Racing, a team of more than 30 students, built their very own electric racing car and competed at the annual Formula Student competition in the summer. Formula Student is an international university competition organised by the Institution of Mechanical Engineers which takes place every July at the Silverstone.

Students triumph at national Gospel competition

Leicester University Voices (LUV), a choir comprising members of the Leicester University Gospel Choir (LUGC), won the national finals of the University Gospel Choir of the Year competition.

LUV battled it out with eight other choirs at the fifth annual competition which took place on Saturday 14 March at the Hippodrome in North London.

The competition provides an unprecedented platform for University Gospel Choirs across the UK to develop and showcase their gospel musical abilities.

The University Gospel Choir of the Year competition allows university choirs to perform in front of a large audience, as well as receive feedback from some of the

leading figures in the UK Gospel scene.

It is a voluntary organisation that aims to provide a platform for University Gospel Choirs across the UK to develop and showcase their abilities.

Launched in 2011, the competition brings together talented and diverse individuals through music, encouraging them to strive for excellence and exceed their own expectations.

"We will continue to grow from strength to strength, we hope to do more things on the national scale ranging from back up choirs to more competitions, maybe a tour one day and of course defending our title next year," says President of Leicester University Voices, and law student, Dammie Ogunshola.

Students provide healthcare support for Leicester's homeless

Medical students have designed and developed an interprofessional, student-led response system to support homeless people in Leicester, supported by health and social care students from De Montfort University.

The project involved medical students working jointly with academic staff and has resulted in the establishment of a charity called Project LIGHT (Leicester Initiative Good Health Team), which has been commended by the Higher Education Academy for encouraging partnership between students and academics.

"Despite having targeted services within the NHS, there are still individuals who do not seek help from them. This research proves the need for student-led healthcare to exist alongside these services for this hard to reach population," explains medicine alumna Dr Robyn Goodier who was one of the early student drivers of the project during her final year of study.

"This is the first research in the UK of its kind and we hope that it provides

the basis onto which we can build this charity whilst providing a new innovative curriculum for healthcare students.

"The educational package of skills required to work in Project LIGHT has been made into a student selected component module, which runs twice a year at the University of Leicester with access to De Montfort University students as well, which has been a primary step in establishing the longevity of the project."

The first partner for Project LIGHT is Action Homeless, who provide a base for the students' work and support their learning needs. In this last year alone there have been over 12 sessions reaching more than 68 homeless people.

As a result of the initiative, each month students work together to deliver a health promotion session in one of the city's hostels. Students are responsive to the needs of the residents and these sessions have included smoking cessation, basic first aid, harm reduction with alcohol and drugs, and sexual health.



Leicester recognised for innovative strategy in preparing students for work

The Association of Graduate Recruiters (AGR) has recognised the University as the best institution in the UK for its overall strategy to prepare students for the world of work.

The AGR is an employer-led organisation and the UK's leading voice on graduate recruitment and development, and announced Leicester's win at its annual Development Awards in London.

Selected from universities across the UK, the Career Development Service at Leicester beat off strong

competition from institutions to receive the Best Preparation For Work by Higher Education Award in the Overall Strategy category.

"Such a prestigious national accolade is down to the hard work of so many people inside and outside of our University that have enabled us to get our strategy right and provide an exceptional service to our students. It also highlights our University's commitment to our students' futures, something we can all be very proud about," explains Bob Athwal, Director of Student Experience.

The accolade comes off the back of a major new report on the graduate job market that revealed that the University is one of the top universities most targeted by The Times Top 100 Graduate Employers.

As a target university it means Leicester students benefit from more opportunities to meet face-to-face with top employers. Not only do students have the opportunity to learn more about these employers' roles, but they also benefit from valuable insights into what will help them stand out during the recruitment process.

Leicester joins international HeForShe movement

The University's President and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Paul Boyle CBE, announced in May that the University has joined the UN Women's HeForShe solidarity movement as an IMPACT 10x10x10 champion, making the University just one of 10 universities around the world committing to take bold, game-changing action to achieve gender equality within and beyond their institutions.

In September 2014, UN Women launched HeForShe, a global solidarity movement for gender equality, with the aim of engaging and encouraging men and boys to take action against the gender inequality which women across the world face.

The University has committed itself to create a curriculum for students that recognises gender equality and will also address gender-based violence by forming dedicated programs. We will continue to explore and address why some disciplines attract few women or men; and continue to increase female representation in senior positions, noting that only 22 per cent of professors in UK universities are women.

"Men and women have a joint responsibility to achieve gender equality for societies around the world. We should aim to deliver fundamental change within a generation, so that organisations such as HeForShe become redundant and my two daughters and two sons take it for granted that they will be judged on their merits, not their gender," explains Paul.

The University has agreed to meet frequently with its other IMPACT champions, to transparently measure and report on progress, to share best practices and to engage other universities to take up this cause and inspire change across the world to build upon progress of gender equality.





Students' Union helps students bounce back from **exam stress**

A giant inflatable assault course, back massages and cute fluffy animals were just some of the ways in which our Students' Union helped students combat their exam stress this year.

These activities were part of a wider theme of support the Leicester Students' Union (SU) continues to provide students during exam periods.

"This is the most important time of the year for our students, and we think it's vital that we support them in as many ways as possible. We've got an exceptional team

offering exam support, but countering stress with activities on campus between revision sessions is something our students love. This year our plans are bigger and better than ever," explains Michael Rubin, former President of Leicester Students' Union.

"During my time at university we've had more and more treats from the SU when exam season swings round. The puppies are my personal highlight, but the little things like free fruit and tea keep me going too. It's also handy to have the additional revision space in the Union," adds final-year student Alex Bugg.

A relationship that **lasts a lifetime**

More than 4,000 new graduates join our alumni family every year. Our alumni community is an ever-growing network which has now reached over 154,000 members, with graduates automatically joining our Alumni Association on their graduation day. The network of University of Leicester graduates provides a great resource for members to call upon at any time, whether they are seeking careers advice, opportunities or support and more.

The University's Development and Alumni Relations Office (DARO) helps alumni to make connections within the community to keep in touch with their fellow graduates, and with the University beyond graduation. We are immensely proud of the successes of all of our graduates who have achieved many wonderful and inspirational accomplishments since leaving our University.

Alumni are able to keep up-to-date on University and alumni news with our

annual alumni magazine as well as via our social media pages. One of the most popular ways for alumni to remain engaged with the University is through attendance at our alumni events, which currently range from an annual black tie dinner in London, to a weekend reunion event held on campus for alumni and their families.

Alumni can also assist the University's philanthropic efforts. This year, the University established a new endowment fund to provide vital support for the institution in the 21st century and beyond. The Leicester Endowment Fund was launched with generous gifts from two former graduates and alumni supporters, Paul Rivlin and David Barry, at a House of Lords Reception.

For further information about the Development and Alumni Relations Office visit www.le.ac.uk/alumni

Global Communities

The University is a global university, focused on strengthening strategic partnerships around the world. We are continuing to raise our international profile, increasing the visibility of our research and teaching, and helping to influence policy on global issues.

We are creating opportunities for PhD students from partner countries to come to Leicester to continue their studies, transferring knowledge and enabling Leicester researchers to collaborate with their counterparts around the world.

We are committed to making our education accessible to people from around the world, regardless of their geographical location or financial means





Brief Exchanges

September 2014

Experts on China converged on the University for the UK's first conference exploring 'The China Dream'. Hosted and organised by the University's China Studies Research Alliance (ChiSRA), delegates explored the latest perspectives on 'The China Dream' and 'the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation'.

October 2014

The University hosted the cream of Indian business and industry as part of a study tour by the Institute of Directors, India. Delegates travelled to the University to hear from academics as well as from the city's and region's business communities.

February 2015

The University's English Language Teaching Unit (ELTU) organised the second annual student Research Festival for non-native speakers. The Festival gave international students the opportunity to gain experience in presenting their work, it welcomed 14 poster presenters showcasing their research in a wide variety of disciplines.

March 2015

President and Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Boyle CBE visited Indonesia as part of a delegation of UK Universities. He took the opportunity to visit the University's main partner in Indonesia, Tanjungpura University, located in East Kalimantan (Borneo). Leicester has provided capacity-building support for Tanjungpura University helping to set up an English language testing centre, and academic support in addressing key environmental management issues in Kalimantan.

University strengthens links with Kurdistan

The University is breaking new ground in international collaboration by working on various projects with municipalities, universities and ministries in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

In April, our President and Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Boyle CBE, and our Registrar, Dave Hall, visited the Region. In addition to meetings with several senior politicians and university Presidents, they also met with the Prime Minister, Nechirvan Barzani as well as the Minister for Higher Education and the Minister for Water and Agriculture.

Paul briefed the Prime Minister about our projects which include a partnership with Soran University, one of the Region's newest universities, to develop an English language training and testing centre, and the creation of a joint Natural Resources Centre.

"We have many important projects for the Kurdistan Region, including creating the agricultural map of the Region, as well as projects in the area of antiques and archaeology," explains Paul.

Other projects the University will be leading include a collaboration with the city of Suleimaniya to develop a cultural heritage strategy to support the development of sustainable tourism and to promote a stronger sense of national and local identity. The University will also work with the city of Halabia and Halabia University to develop a joint Leicester-Halabia Centre for Genocide Studies.

In addition, we are engaging with the Ministry of Water and Agriculture, alongside the Centre for Landscape and Climate Research, and the UK Land Registry to explore the potential to use GIS data to improve water resource management and agricultural production within the Region.

The University continues to develop close relationships with key representatives of the Government of Iraq. We have the largest number of sponsored Iraqi students of any university in the UK, and in February, we hosted the Director General of Scholarships of Iraq and the Cultural Attaché from the Iraqi Embassy in London.

International tutors visit Leicester

Six English tutors from the Shanghai University of International Business and Economics (SUIBE) visited Leicester last March for a two week training course to develop their understanding of teaching English for Academic Purposes (EAP).

The tutors followed a busy schedule of lectures, seminars and workshops with tutors from the English Language Teaching Unit (ELTU) on topics including higher education in the UK and the development of students' listening skills and strategies.

Following the success of the first course, a second group from SUIBE visited the University a few months later to experience firsthand Leicester's world renowned English language learning and training solutions.

As a result of this international collaboration, James Lambert, Assistant Director of the ELTU has been invited to deliver a workshop at East China University of Science and Technology in Shanghai, China. This conference brings together Chinese teachers of English from all over China to learn about the delivery of EAP.

"This is a great opportunity for us to show and share our expertise in EAP teaching programmes. This gives us access to teachers from all over China looking to transfer their teaching skills to EAP, and will hopefully lead to further groups coming to Leicester to undertake a course similar to the one outlined above," explains Philip Horspool, Director of the ELTU.

Japanese princess completes year of study

A Japanese princess, described as the country's Kate Middleton, has recently completed a master's degree in Museum Studies at the University.

Her Imperial Highness Princess Mako of Akishino, first-born granddaughter of reigning Japanese Emperor Akihito, studied for a Master of Art Museum and Gallery Studies.

The 23-year-old, whose younger brother Prince Hisahito is third in line to the

Chrysanthemum Throne, is rarely out of the public eye in her home country, but she was able to live the life of a normal student during her time at the University. Princess Mako stayed in halls of residence and walked freely around the University campus.

As part of her degree programme, she also completed a placement at Coventry Museums and conducted collections-based research at New Walk Museum in Leicester.

"We have a strong connection to the cultural profession in Japan with many students graduating from our School to take up posts in museums and galleries in the country, and so it felt very natural that Mako should come and follow her interests with us. She has been a pleasure to teach, has worked incredibly hard and should be very proud of her achievements," comments Dr Suzanne Macleod, Head of our School of Museum Studies.





Teacher Education in Egypt

An agreement has been established between The American University in Cairo (AUC) and the School of Education at the University following a three-year EU Trans-European Mobility Programme for University Studies (TEMPUS) project developing teacher education and action research with Middle East and North African partners.

The TEMPUS project supported faculties of education and higher

education institutions in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region by introducing international best practices from the EU in three areas: action research, effective practicum and school-based teacher CPD.

The project, led by Professor Lady Hilary Burgess and Dr Chris Wilkins from the School of Education, has made a significant contribution to

teacher education reform in Egypt through enhancing the partnerships between schools, universities and the Egyptian Ministry of Education.

“Colleagues from the School of Education have worked successfully in partnership with colleagues from AUC over the past three years, and this agreement will enable us to build on the relationship in the future,” explains Chris.



Japanese medical programme summer school

In July, the University's English Language Teaching Unit (ELTU) welcomed 13 Japanese medical students for a three-week intensive medical English course.

The University of Leicester English for Medics Summer School was for medical students and health professionals wanting to improve their English for use in a hospital or medical setting.

The course aimed to develop participants' ability to communicate when using English for medical purposes, and to provide the students with opportunities to find out about the health system and medical practice in the UK. This was achieved through hospital visits, seminars in our School of Medicine and language classes, all focused on specific health issues.

An important aspect of the course was learning to communicate in an appropriate way and developing a good bedside manner, a key feature of the University's medical teaching.

This was the 11th consecutive year that medical students from Japan have studied at the University since the course began in 1999.

The course, which has welcomed more than 150 students, was initially devised with the support of a University alumnus, Yoshi Iwashita who is now a doctor in Japan.

Yoshi continues to champion the ELTU and has recently written to all Japanese University medical faculties to promote the University and the course.

Santander provide unique overseas research and learning opportunities

Staff and students are continuing to benefit from enhanced cultural experiences and research opportunities as a result of a growing number of travel awards and master's scholarships provided by Santander Universities UK.

This year, five members of staff and six students received travel awards of up to £650 to travel overseas for academic-related activities.

Teaching Fellow, Anna Vives from our School of Modern Languages travelled to the Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum in Madrid to continue her work cataloguing paintings by surrealist artist, Angel Planells.

"This visit has been a great help to gather materials on Planells and establish a link with the Thyssen Museum in Madrid," says Anna.

Research Associate, Cristian De Vito from our School of History visited the University of Buenos Aires to develop a collaborative link with the Instituto Multidisciplinario de Historia y Ciencias Humanas 'Floridablanca project'.

"As a result of this visit, the concrete basis now exists for developing cooperative endeavours with scholars and related research centres in Argentina and Brazil," explains Cristian whose project focuses on 18th century Spanish settlements along the coast of Patagonia and the role of convicts within them.

Students on a variety of courses also benefitted from the partnership, with the opportunity to improve their language skills and gain unique insights into foreign cultures, including 13 students from our Department of Geography. Thanks to supplemental awards, the students were able to take part in an intensive Spanish language course at Universidad de la Sabana, Colombia, followed by a field course in the Colombian Amazon.

"The teaching staff that took our Spanish course were excellent and very kind, covering a good range of the language and having the patience to cope with our very broken Spanish," says student and award-recipient Jack Webb.

Awards and Recognition

Professor Mary Dixon-Woods

(Department of Health Sciences) was recognised for her outstanding contribution to her discipline and awarded a Fellowship of the Academy of Medical Sciences.

Professor Sir Alec Jeffreys was awarded the Copley Medal for his pioneering work on variation and mutation in the human genome. The Medal, given by the Royal Society, is believed to be the world's oldest scientific prize.

The **Centre for Interdisciplinary Science** celebrated its 10th anniversary with free public lecture titled 'Crossing Frontiers: The Personal Journey of an Interdisciplinary Scientist'.

The **Career Development Service** was shortlisted in the 10th annual Times Higher Education Awards for Outstanding Support for Students.

Jo Miller, a student studying in our **Vaughan Centre for Lifelong Learning** reached the final of a prestigious national housing award after creating a thriving project engaging two housing associations and over 60 volunteers.

Professor Sir Bob Burgess bid a fond farewell after 15 years' transformative leadership at our University.

The Department of Genetics celebrated its 50th anniversary with a series of free events to engage the public with the fascinating world of genetics research.

The University of Leicester's arts centre, **Attenborough Arts**, won a Leicester and Leicestershire Excellence in Tourism Awards, under the Access for All category.

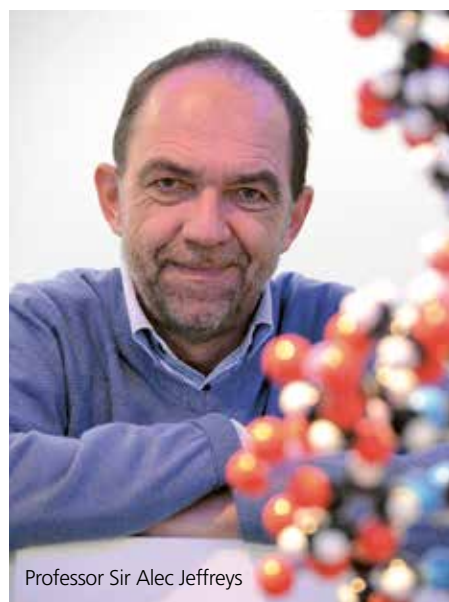
Two leading scientists, **Professor Ken Pounds** and **Professor Stan Cowley**

(Department of Physics and Astronomy) were photographed for the Royal Society Picture Library.

Dr Alan Cann (Department of Neuroscience, Psychology and Behaviour) was shortlisted for the Society of Biology's Higher Education Bioscience Teacher of the Year Award. The annual award is given to teachers who have shown an outstanding contribution to higher education in the biosciences.

The **Division of External Relations** won the General In-House Award and the Special Jury Award at the British Universities Film and Video Council's Learning on Screen Awards for an educational video which exposed the harms of hate crime.

Professor Heiko Balzter (Department of Geography) received the Cuthbert Peek Award from the Royal Geographical Society



for advancing geographical knowledge of human impact through earth observation.

Professor Stephen Garrett (Department of Mathematics) was awarded a Leverhulme Fellowship for his research into fluid mechanics.

The **University of Leicester** joined the prestigious UK library network, an alliance of leading libraries in the UK.

A University spin-out company, **Haemostatix Ltd**, won a prestigious award for new technology to control bleeding in surgery and trauma.

The **Division of External Relations** won an award in the Best Postgraduate Prospectus Category at the annual Heist Awards. The Heist Awards showcase the achievements of university and college marketing departments.

The **Development and Alumni Relations Office** secured a silver award for the Best Alumni Campaign at the Heist Awards.

Lucy Hatton, a Criminology student at the University, won a silver medal in the 60 metres hurdles at the European Athletics Indoor Championships. Her personal best of 7.90 seconds in that event ranks her third on the British all-time lists.

The **Department of Mathematics** and **Leicester Medical School** achieved bronze Athena SWAN awards. The **University of Leicester** was successful in renewing its bronze awards. The Athena Swan Charter recognises and celebrates good employment practice for women working in science, engineering and technology (SET) in higher education and research.

The **School of Museum Studies** was awarded a bronze in the new Gender Equality Charter Mark (GEM) award by the Equality Challenge Unit (ECU). The School joins 16 other individual departments who were recognised with bronze awards for their progress in advancing gender equality in arts, humanities and social science careers in higher education.

Psychology undergraduate student **Hawa Mansaray**, became a published author after writing a children's book called the *The Tale of Frankie Fox and Terry Toad*, which is available to purchase worldwide in hard copy and eBook formats.

Eugenie de Silva, who started reading for her PhD at Leicester aged 15, became the youngest person to graduate from Harvard University. She also won the Luce Leader Award for 2015.



Professor Nilesh Samani

Queen's New Year Honours 2015

Professor Nilesh Samani, British Heart Foundation Professor of Cardiology at Leicester and a Consultant at Leicester's Hospitals received a knighthood for services to medicine and medical research.

Queen's Birthday Honours 2015

Marilyn Palmer, Emeritus Professor of Industrial Archaeology and former Head of the School of Archaeology and Ancient History, received an MBE for services to Industrial Archaeology and Heritage.

Dr Philip Campbell, an alumnus of the Department of Physics and an honorary graduate, was knighted for services to Science in recognition of his role as Editor of the journal *Nature*.

Honorary graduate **Professor Frances Ashcroft** was awarded a DBE for services to Medical Science and the Public Understanding of Science. Professor Ashcroft was an MRC Research Fellow in the Department of Physiology, the forerunner of the University's Department of Cell Physiology and Pharmacology.

Degree Celebrations 2015

Honorands 2015

January



John Simpson OBE
(Doctor of Letters)

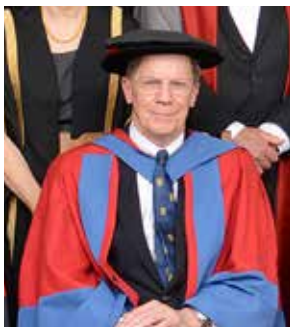
Former Chief Editor of the *Oxford English Dictionary*. His grandfather's cousin, Harry Simpson Gee, was one of the University's original benefactors.



Greg Hicks
(Doctor of Letters)

Prolific theatre actor born and educated in Leicester, he won the 2003 London Critics' Circle Theatre Awards (Drama) for Best Shakespearian Performance.

July



Professor Douglas Fearon
(Doctor of Science)

Professor of Immunology at the University of Cambridge and Fellow of the Royal Society.



Professor Keith Waddell
(Doctor of Science)

Ophthalmologist who worked for a number of years as a doctor in Uganda and neighbouring countries.



Professor Alf Adams
(Doctor of Science)

Inventor of the strained-layer quantum-well laser and Leicester alumnus.



Mr Robert Joyce
(Doctor of Science)

Group Engineering Director for Jaguar Land Rover and Leicester alumnus.



Professor Mike Batty
(Doctor of Laws)

Urban planner and geographer who founded the Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis (CASA).



H.E. Mrs Atifete Jahjaga
(Doctor of Laws)

The fourth President of Republic of Kosovo and the first woman to be elected to the office.



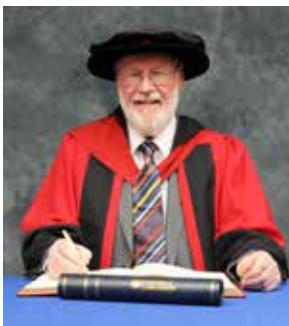
Ms Anita Linsell
(Doctor of Laws)

International businesswoman who served as Chair of the University's Alumni Association.



Ms Jane Esuantsiwa Goldsmith
(Doctor of Laws)

Women's and human rights activist, consultant to voluntary sector organisations and former President of the University's Students' Union.



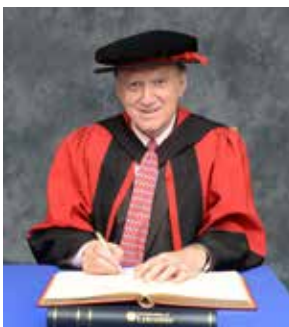
Dr Roger Bettles
(Distinguished Honorary Fellow)

Formerly Chief Executive of the Fosse Health NHS Trust who also served the University of Leicester as Chairman of Council and Pro-Chancellor.



Mr Jyrki Katainen
(Doctor of Laws)

Vice-President of the European Commission responsible for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness who attended Leicester as an Erasmus exchange student.



Professor Sir Robert Burgess
(Doctor of Laws)

Retired Vice-Chancellor of the University of Leicester and prominent figure in the development of Higher Education.

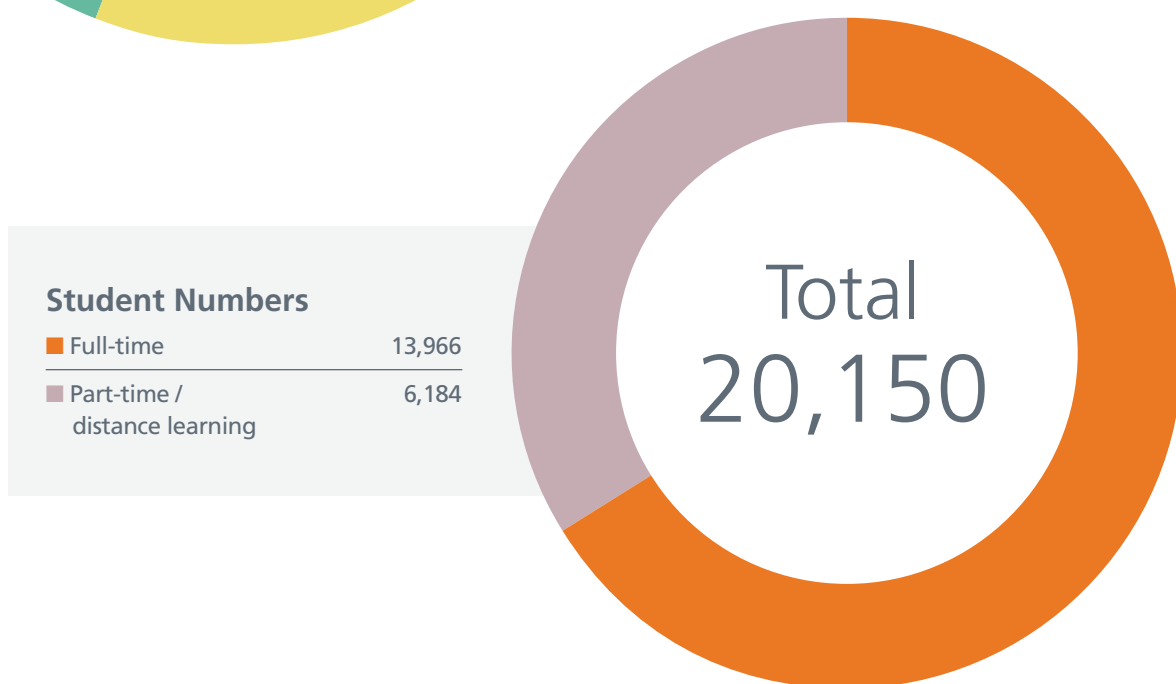
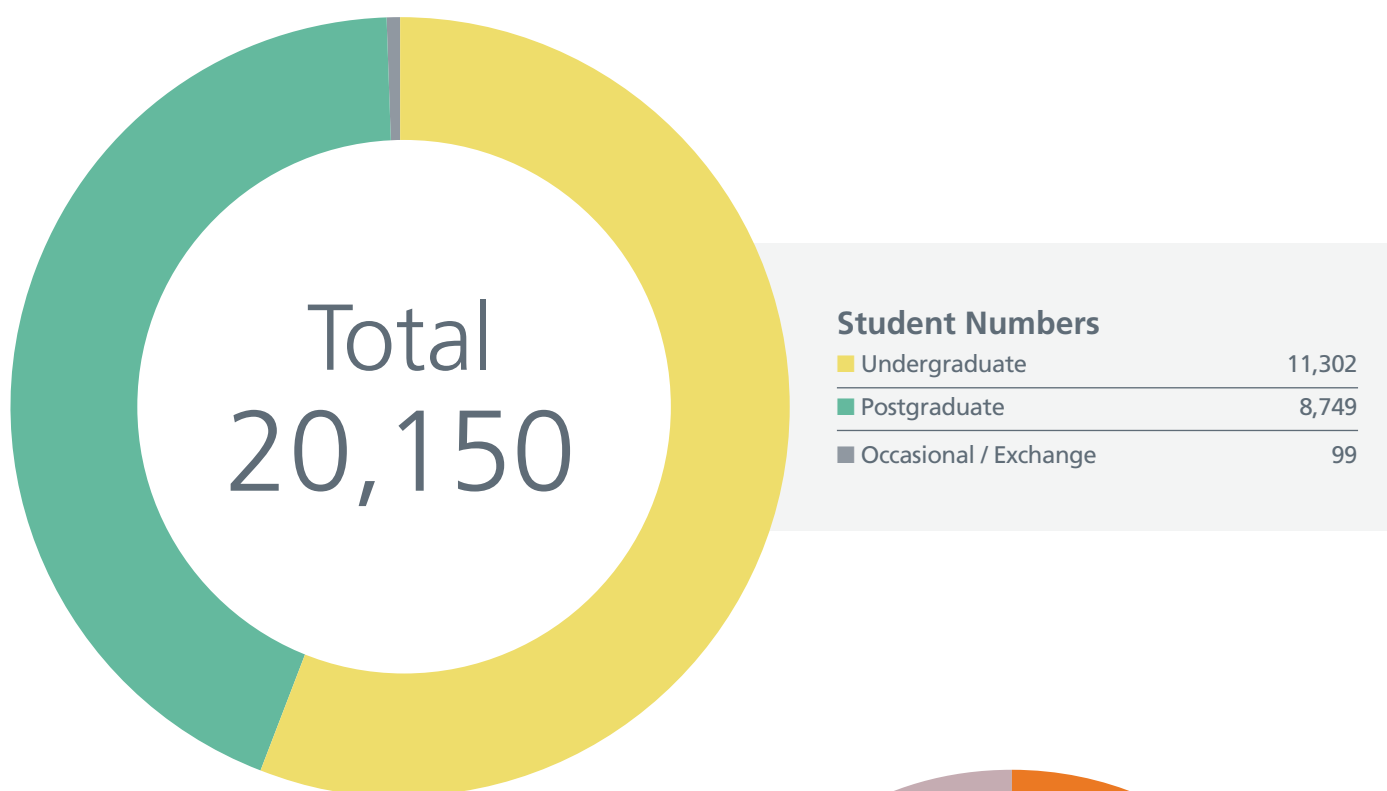


Ms Alison Balsom
(Doctor of Music)

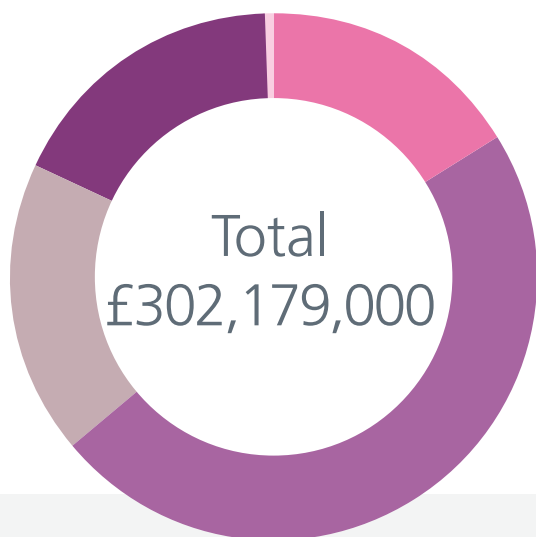
Award-winning classical trumpeter and advocate of the importance of music education.

Statistics 2014/15

Student Number

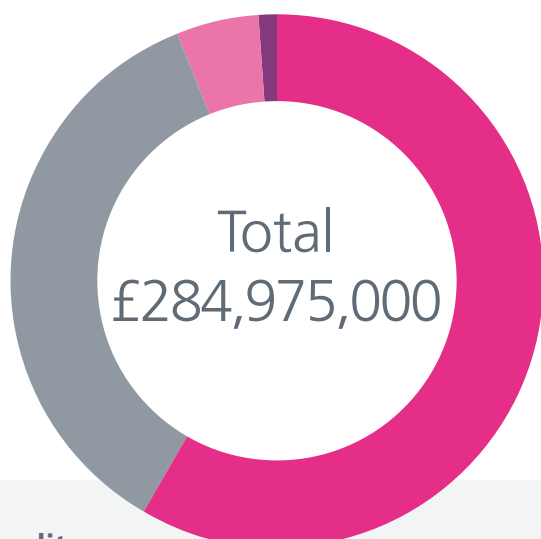


Finance



Income

Funding body grants	£40,057,000
Tuition fees and education contracts	£150,026,000
Research grants and contracts	£59,573,000
Other income	£50,804,000
Endowment and investment	£1,719,000



Expenditure

Staff Costs	£168,377,000
Other Operating Expenses	£99,085,000
Depreciation	£14,546,000
Interest and Other Finance Costs	£2,967,000

List of Officers and Senior Staff

Visitor

Her Majesty the Queen

Chancellor

Rt Hon the Lord Grocott

Pro-Chancellor and Chair of Council

Dr B Towle, CBE, DL, BA, LL.D, FRSA

President and Vice-Chancellor

Professor P Boyle, CBE, FBA, FRSE

Treasurer

Mr D Moore, BA, MBA

Provost

Professor M Peel, BA, MA, PhD, FASSA, FRHS

Pro-Vice-Chancellors

Professor P Monks
(Interim PVC Research and Enterprise)

Professor S Dixon (PVC International)

Professor J Scott (PVC Student Experience)

Pro-Vice-Chancellors and Heads of College

College of Science and Engineering: Professor M A Barstow, BA, PhD, CSci, CPhys, FInstP

College of Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities: Professor J Coleman, BA, MA, PhD, FHEA, FEA

College of Medicine, Biological Sciences and Psychology: Professor P Baker, BMedSci, BM,BS,DM, FRCOG, FMedSci

Graduate Dean

Professor S Hainsworth, BEng, PhD, CEng, CSci, FIMMM

Registrar and Chief Operating Officer

Mr D Hall, BA

University Librarian

Ms C Taylor, BA, Dip Lib, MCLIP



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