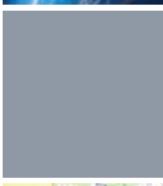




Annual Review



















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An introduction from the President and Vice-Chancellor

The following are just a few highlights from the last twelve months to show how the innovative work taking place at the University of Leicester is making an impact.

Much of what you will read in this *Annual Review* took place under the leadership of Professor Sir Robert Burgess, who stepped down as Vice-Chancellor this year after 15 years at the University. Bob was the longest serving Vice-Chancellor in the University's history.

It's an honour, as President and Vice-Chancellor, to lead an institution at such an important time in its history and one of unprecedented change in the higher education sector.

We work closely with our city, and together we celebrate individuality, culture, energy and enterprise.

I have been stunned by the remarkable quality of research that is being conducted in Leicester, and it's a shame there's only space to capture some of the many examples in this publication.

Many organisations claim to change lives, but our groundbreaking 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.

Leicester continues to work hard to consolidate its strengths and develop new opportunities, especially in collaborating with business and sharing our knowledge and passion for research.

Rated as one of the top 20 universities in the UK, 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 continue to attract the brightest and the best. With just over 20,000 students, including over 7,000 distance learning students, we are continually expanding the availability and quality of our academic programmes, supported by more than 3,500 staff.

I am proud of what the University has achieved over the last twelve months. In the short time I have been on campus I have become 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 with our motto 'Ut Vitam Habeant' – 'That they may have life' – which stands on every publication and degree certificate issued

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' 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 supermassive black holes; the University has contributed and continues to contribute to an extraordinary range of fields.



2013-14 Achievements

UK's top universities

The University of Leicester is a leading UK University committed to international excellence through the creation of world-changing research and high quality, inspirational teaching. Leicester is consistently one of the most socially inclusive of the UK's top 20 universities with a long-standing commitment to providing fair and equal access to higher education

in the Guardian **University Guide**

in the *Times*/ **Sunday Times Good University Guide** and top ranked university in the **East Midlands**

22.8% or students graduated with a first class degree

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)

£2.6 m value of philanthropic funds raised

value of

Student satisfaction in the **National Student Survey**

Our Students' Union was named **HE Students' Union of the Year** in the NUS Awards

The highest climbing UK university in the THE World Rankings

moving up places to 161st in the table

Regional Impact

The University of Leicester is proud of its role in the promotion and prosperity of the region. The University makes a major economic contribution to the region through the direct and indirect effects of its activities.

We are a major employer and also an investor in music, art and culture as well as developing many 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.





University boosts regional economy by £729 million

Calculations have shown that the annual economic benefit of the University on its city and the region adds up to £729 million.

A £279 million yearly turnover at the University is amplified to be worth £668 million to the local and regional economy, while international students add another £61 million.

The University directly employs nearly 3,500 staff – among whom more than 1,200 are highly skilled researchers – and it indirectly supports a further 4,351 jobs.

Further research shows that the 20,000 students studying at the University spend an average of £144.10 a week on rent, groceries, clothes and transport, benefiting the local economy even before tuition fees are taken into account.

Six months after graduation, a quarter of the University's students are still living in the city, strengthening the local workforce with their higher level skills and talents. Local and regional businesses also benefit hugely from the vital expertise and innovative approaches of Leicester's academics.

Since 2009, the University has secured over £7 million in grant funding from Europe with additional match funding provided by the University enabling us to work with and provide innovation and business support for regional small and medium-sized companies.

Embracing the Arts

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.

Embrace Arts is the University of Leicester's multi-use inclusive arts centre, with a history of promotion and encouragement of engagement in the arts by 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. It fosters inclusive arts practice for artists, audiences and participants 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 at Embrace Arts. The main space in the new gallery will be double the height of the current space, allowing large-scale exhibitions to be displayed in Leicester for the first time.

In July 2014 it was selected by Arts Council England for a further three years of funding from 2015-2018. The Centre will receive a £150,870 grant over the next three years to enable it to continue to develop its innovative programme of performing and visual arts. This is the second time Embrace Arts has received funding from Arts Council England.

Brief Exchanges

August 2013

A team from University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) made a much larger excavation at the site of the Grey Friars church in Leicester city centre where the mortal remains of Richard III were uncovered in 2012.

November 2013

Some of the biggest names in the literary world descended on Leicester for the University's annual celebration of the written word. Internationally renowned award-winning Bengali Indian author Amitav Ghosh was one of the leading figures who appeared at the University's sixth Literary Leicester festival.

January 2014

Professor Paul Boyle FBA FRSE, Chief Executive of the Economic and Social Research Council and President of Science Europe was appointed as the new President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Leicester. He is the ninth institutional head in the University's more than 90-year history and its sixth Vice-Chancellor since the award of its Royal Charter in 1957.

March 2014

The University hosted the UK's first Careers in the Space Industry event which attracted more than 150 people and included representation from key industry partners. It is the only space-themed careers event in the UK, and took place at the National Space Centre.

June 2014

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.



Teaming up with the Tigers

The University has teamed up with world famous Leicester Tigers in a groundbreaking move in the development of the next generation of rugby stars.

The Tigers Academy is the most successful in the country, with a succession of players coming through its youth ranks to establish themselves at the biggest club in UK rugby, as well as reaching international status. Six of its graduates shared in the victorious British and Irish Lions tour to Australia last summer.

Now the University of Leicester has allocated a property in the student village to provide a 'home from home' for a new intake of young players into the Tigers Academy.

The University property will become home to 11 young players during their first year in the Academy. Together with living accommodation and study space, the property has been decorated to include images of Tigers Academy and youth team graduates including World Cup-winning captain and University of Leicester honorary graduate Martin Johnson, as well as its most recent successes on the Lions tour.

Bringing new business to Leicester

The University of Leicester's new £17.5 million Conference Centre, College Court, opened its doors to business in October.

The development updated an existing Grade II listed building which was originally designed by renowned architects Sir Leslie Martin and Trevor Dannatt in the 1960s and was previously home to the College Hall halls of residence. A time capsule containing memorabilia from the former halls of residence was buried on the official opening of the conference centre which will be dug up in 50 years time in the year 2063.

The development houses 18 conference rooms, 123 en suite bedrooms, restaurant,

bar, private dining room and garden lounge. Its aim is to bring new people to the University and the city and it has created over 50 new jobs.

Since opening, College Court has firmly established itself as Leicester's leading dedicated conference venue and hotel and has already hosted more than 600 conferences and meetings, 15,000 overnight stays, and international delegates attending university programmes. College Court has also been successful in bringing new businesses to Leicester and has won six regional awards including Royal Institute of British Architects Building of the Year.



100 Stories of Migration

When the University opened the UK's first dedicated Department of Museum Studies 40 years ago, few people would have predicted that it would become the global focus of a discipline which has been subject to enormous change.

A dramatic photographic exhibition charting stories of migration opened at the University and in locations across Leicester in June. 100 Stories of Migration has been developed by PhD students and staff in the School of Museum Studies in partnership with the Migration Museum Project.

The exhibition uses state-of-the-art digital technology including "digital kiosks" with interviews and videos to enable visitors to learn more about the photographs, stories and different perspectives on migration.

The photographic exhibition and accompanying media explore and pose questions around the ways in which migration affects us all. The images in this exhibition present individual stories of migration across different times and from different places and perspectives, grouped within five interlinking themes.

"100 Stories of Migration is a timely and important exhibition presenting diverse stories and journeys of migration. Included in the exhibition are several stories of migration to Leicester, told through striking images by Leicester-based photographer Kajal Nisha Patel. We hope that lots of people from local communities enjoy the exhibition and learn more about Britain's rich history of migration," explains Exhibition Curator, Sarah Plumb, PhD Researcher at the School of Museum Studies.

Transforming medical teaching and research

With the largest investment in medical teaching and applied research by a UK university in the last decade, the University's plans for its new Centre for Medicine are set to significantly transform the experiences of patients across the region and beyond.

Construction has already begun on the new £42 million cutting-edge facility which will be the largest in the UK built to the Passivhaus standard helping to improve the environmental sustainability of our campus. It will become the hub for an unparalleled research and health service consortium. The new Centre will link the University's leading Medical School with three National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Biomedical Research Units (BRUs) and the University's research centres based at all three of the city's hospitals.

Uniting clinicians, researchers and students under one roof for the first time, the new building will enable the University to quickly translate groundbreaking research from bench to bedside, and enhance the fight against chronic diseases; the world's biggest killers. This will further support the Centre's qoal to improve patient care.

As a result, the Centre aims to revolutionise future healthcare by drastically reducing the number of individuals and families tragically affected by cancer, stroke, diabetes, and respiratory, heart and kidney disease; areas where the University is continually making life-changing research breakthroughs.

The University has committed £32 million to the project and launched a £10 million fundraising appeal in May 2014 to close the funding gap to complete and equip the new Centre.

Due to open in autumn 2015, the University's new Centre for Medicine will be the home of the Departments of Medical and Social Care Education, Health Sciences and Psychology.





Uncovering changes to Orton's text

When Entertaining Mr Sloane was first staged 50 years ago. Leicester playwright Joe Orton's satire on sexual hypocrisy sparked widespread controversy.

Now, a University expert has published a new edition of the play to mark its 50th anniversary, drawing on previously unpublished material from the Joe Orton archive, part of the University's Special Collections in the David Wilson Library.

In her introduction, Dr Emma Parker, of the School of English, discusses the furore ignited by the play in 1964, considers its social and theatrical significance, and assesses its influence on other writers.

Dr Parker states: "Given the legalisation of gay marriage on 29 March, 2014 offers an apposite moment to reassess Orton's legacy. As a working class writer and a gay man who put same-sex desire on stage before the legalisation of homosexuality in 1967, Orton's achievement was enormous."

However, in the course of her research Dr Parker uncovered major differences between different editions of the play, which suggest that the decade known as the 'Swinging Sixties' was still deeply conservative. Against Orton's wishes, the age of the central character was raised from 17 to 20 in order to make his sexual relationships less shocking.

Dr Parker's new edition, published by Methuen Drama, was launched at a 50th anniversary event for Mr Sloane in the University Bookshop.

As a working class writer and a day man with and a gay man who put same-sex desire on stage before the legalisation of homosexuality in 1967, **Orton's achievement was** enormous.

Dr Emma Parker, School of English

Research

Over the past 12 months, our academics have continued to produce pioneering research. Our world-class researchers are leading the way in many fields, generating new knowledge, creating significant contributions to society, influencing decision-making, stimulating enterprise and driving economic growth.

Our interdisciplinary approach, and the international reach of our research, ensures we are well placed to continue to address significant research questions and make a real impact on the world.

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Alzheimer's breakthrough hope

The discovery of the first chemical to prevent the death of brain tissue in a neurodegenerative disease has been hailed as the "turning point" in the fight against Alzheimer's disease.

Researchers at the Medical Research Council (MRC) Toxicology Unit at the University have used an orally-administered compound to prevent neurodegeneration.

A neurodegenerative disease is one in which the cells of the brain and spinal cord are lost and cannot be regenerated. Neurodegenerative diseases include: Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and Huntington's.

In the new study, researchers gave a drug-like compound to prion infected mice orally. The researchers studied mice with prion disease because these currently provide the best animal representation of human neurodegenerative disorders and they found that the compound was able to enter the brain from the bloodstream and halt the disease.

This is a significant landmark as it is the first time that any form of neurodegeneration has been completely halted by a chemical. If this can be successfully developed, the outcome would be world-changing.

"We're still a long way from a usable drug for humans – this compound has serious side effects. But the fact that we have established that this pathway can be manipulated to protect against brain cell loss, first with genetic tools and now with a compound, means that developing drug treatments targeting this pathway for prion and other neurodegenerative diseases is now a real possibility," says Professor Giovanna Mallucci, who led the team.

5 year scholarly project aims to publish the complete writings of Evelyn Waugh

The University is working with Oxford University Press and the Waugh family to create the first ever Complete Works of Evelyn Waugh. The project is likely to form the largest ever scholarly edition of a British author, and will use cutting-edge Digital Humanities technology.

The Complete Works of Evelyn Waugh project, led by Professor Martin Stannard from the University's School of English with Professor David Bradshaw of the University of Oxford and vital contributions from Research Associate Dr Barbara Cooke and PhD student Rebecca Moore, will shed new light upon Waugh's life and writings, especially Brideshead Revisited, A Handful of Dust and Vile Bodies.

Funded by an Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) grant, the complex project involves seven project partners and a team of 23 editors to edit all of Evelyn Waugh's works for the first time. This includes novels, essays, biographies, and all of Waugh's personal writings and art work, about 85 per cent of which are unpublished.

"The project revolutionises Waugh studies and influences twentieth-century literary and cultural studies more broadly, too. The expert editors of our new volumes will place Waugh's works in their rich literary and historical context, enabling us to greatly expand our knowledge of the range and complexity of his thinking and artistic practice, linking this to the work of his contemporaries in Britain, America and Europe. No other edition of a British novelist has been undertaken on this scale," explains Professor Stannard.

The works will be published in 42 volumes, including a new bibliography and full index, by the Oxford University Press. The General Editor of the project is the grandson of Evelyn Waugh, Alexander Waugh who is also a Senior Visiting Fellow of the University of Leicester. Publishing will begin with some of Waugh's best-loved works in 2016, to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the author's death, and is due for completion in 2020.

Brief Exchanges

August 2013

The first English recipes for iced chocolate desserts were uncovered by Dr Kate Loveman of the School of English. She found that the first English recipes were collected by the Earl of Sandwich in 1668 some hundred years before his great-grandson allegedly invented the sandwich.

September 2013

National charity Kidney Research UK invested almost £150,000 into four kidney research projects at the University. Kidney Research UK also funded three Intercalated degrees at the University.

February 2014

The University was awarded £41,000 by the College of Policing to forge links between academics and the service to help build an evidence base for tackling crime. The grant will help to create a regional hub for evidencebased policing so that police methods and techniques for tackling crime can be tested, helping the service to become more efficient. In addition, postgraduate students from Leicester will also work with officers to carry out research on tackling crime.

April 2014

Academics from the University launched The Centre for Sustainable Work and Employment Futures, to better understand the future of work and employment in the UK and to develop solutions for how the job marketplace could be improved.

May 2014

It's the key ingredient which gives curry its distinctive taste and yellow colour – and turmeric found its way into a range of meals available at the University's cafes and shops. The Spice for Life campaign aimed to highlight the world-leading research being carried out by the University into the spice's potential cancerrepelling qualities.

New recyclable MDF to solve UK waste problem

Academics from the Department of Chemistry have created a new biodegradable and recyclable form of medium density fibreboard (MDF) that could dramatically reduce the problem of future waste.

Almost 1 million tonnes of MDF is produced in the UK every year. However, MDF cannot be recycled and has to be incinerated or ends up in landfill. The use of a material which can either be recycled or composted would be a significant benefit to an industry often criticised for the amount of waste it generates.

MDF is made by breaking down bits of wood into wood fibres, which are then pressurised and stuck together with resin and wax. The resin is currently composed of urea and formaldehyde (UF), the use of which is restricted due to health concerns. The new resin means that the use of UF is avoided and therefore so too are the associated concerns.

Developed by Professor Andrew Abbott and his team, this new wood-based product uses a resin-based starch from completely natural sources, including potatoes.

The project was awarded the 2013 Royal Society Brian Mercer Award for Innovation. The scheme recognises scientists who wish to develop an already proven concept or prototype into a near-market-ready product for commercial exploitation.

The team is also developing new fillers for plastics based on orange and banana peel, and eggshell. These waste materials can lead to improved strength, hardness and cost benefits.

New Leicester research centres open to fight ill health and disease

Two new medical research centres were opened this year to revolutionise patient care and create national centres of excellence in health research.

One of the largest diabetes centres in Europe, the Leicester Diabetes Centre, opened in November with the aim of improving the lives of people with diabetes, their families and their carers. It brings together expertise in clinical research from Leicester's hospitals together with the world-class academic expertise of the University to tackle diabetes.

"Over the last five years, our experts have published more than 300 original research publications and have attracted more than £30 million of new funding for research to Leicester," says Professor Melanie Davies, co-director of the Centre.

Research into heart disease has been a major focus within the University's Medical School since its inception. Our research team comprises world-class investigators with an international reputation in research into the causes and treatment of the most common types of heart disease.

The new University British Heart Foundation Cardiovascular Research Centre (CRC) was opened in June at Leicester's Glenfield Hospital bringing together scientists, doctors and patients with the aim of improving the diagnosis, prognosis and treatment of cardiovascular diseases which kill more than 160,000 people in the UK annually.

The Centre was made possible through generous philanthropic support from the British Heart Foundation, the Wolfson Foundation and the Edith Murphy Foundation. A further £500,000 gift from leading local donor David Wilson and the generous support of individuals, groups and companies from across the city and county contributed to the £1 million public phase of the fundraising appeal.

The CRC also helped to secure the University's biggest ever single philanthropic donation of £7 million from The John and Lucille van Geest Foundation, establishing 'The van Geest Foundation Heart and Cardiovascular Diseases Research Fund.'



Royal recognition



The University received Royal recognition for the excellence of the work in the discovery of King Richard III with the award of the Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education.

Announced by the Royal Anniversary Trust by kind permission of Her Majesty the Queen, the University of Leicester team that discovered the remains of Richard III were honoured for their long record of exceptional research, commercial archaeology and public engagement.

The prestigious biennial awards are part of the UK's national Honours system and are the highest form of national recognition open to a UK academic or vocational institution.

This is the third time in two decades the University of Leicester has won the Queen's Anniversary Prize – the previous Awards to the University were for work in the Department of Physics and Astronomy and for work in the Department of Genetics.

"It is a magnificent achievement for the University of Leicester and a testament to the world class work in our School of Archaeology and Ancient History," says Professor Sir Robert Burgess, former Vice-Chancellor of the University.

"The astonishing archaeological detective work that led in 2012 to the discovery of the remains of King Richard III under a car park in Leicester clearly demonstrates the depth and quality of historical, archaeological and heritage expertise developed by the University over the last three decades."

Leicester is one of only a handful of archaeology departments in the UK that still maintains a professional archaeological unit alongside the academic staff. Under the direction of Dr Richard Buckley (lead archaeologist on the Richard III dig) and Dr Patrick Clay, the unit has been part of the School since 1995.

A new kind of cosmic explosion

University astronomers have detected a new kind of cosmic explosion, called a kilonova following a huge celestial explosion, known as a short-duration Gamma-ray burst (GRB).

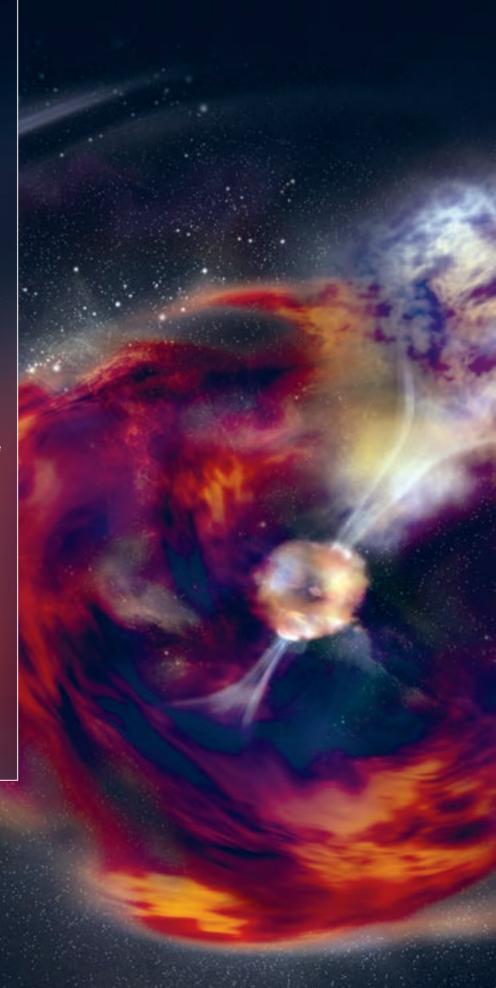
GRBs are flashes of intense high-energy radiation that appear from random directions. They come in two forms long and short and currently, not much information is known about short bursts.

A kilonova occurs when a pair of compact objects such as neutron stars crash together. In the final milliseconds, as the two objects merge, highly radioactive material is kicked out. This material heats up and expands, emitting a burst of light – a kilonova.

Professor Nial Tanvir, of the Department of Physics and Astronomy led a team of astronomers to study a recent shortduration burst. Using NASA's Hubble space telescope, they observed a kilonova for the first time in a galaxy almost 4 billion lightyears from Earth.

The discovery has two important implications. First, the origin of many heavy chemical elements, such as gold and platinum, in space has long been a puzzle. Kilonovas are predicted to form such elements in abundance, spraying them out into space where they could become part of future generations of stars and planets.

Second, the mergers of compact objects are also expected to emit intense gravitational waves, first predicted by Albert Einstein. Gravity waves have not yet been discovered, but new instruments under development may make the first detections within a few years.



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The Leicester Centre for **Hate Studies**

The Centre for Hate Studies is a new initiative led by the Department of Criminology and will act as a cross-disciplinary forum for generating research into issues of hate, prejudice and extremism. The idea for the Centre itself emerged from the Leicester Hate Crime Project – a two year study, funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), designed to examine the nature and impact of hate crime and victims' expectations of the criminal justice system and other local support agencies.

With hate and prejudice having increasing relevance to multiple fields of work, the Leicester Centre for Hate Studies aims to become a key driver of knowledge exchange and information sharing between academics, practitioners, activists and policy-makers.

Drawing on the skills and expertise of University of Leicester scholars, the Centre will be offering a range of professional development opportunities designed for those whose work overlaps with the broad field of hate studies. The Centre will also have the capacity to provide a range of other services, including training, evaluation and research on issues of regional, national and international significance.

2,000 steps to a healthier heart

Taking just 2,000 extra steps a day could help people prone to heart attacks and stroke cut their risk by eight per cent, a University study has shown.

The study looked at 9,306 adults from 40 countries who had impaired glucose tolerance (IGT), which can lead to diabetes, or other heart disease risk factors.

Using a pedometer, researchers recorded usual walking activity in terms of average number of steps taken per day over a week, both at the start of the study and again 12 months later.

The researchers analysed the relationship between the number of steps taken per day and the risk of subsequent cardiovascular disease after taking account of a wide range of factors such as body-mass index, smoking status, diet and medication use.

The study showed those people with greater levels of activity at the start of the study had lower levels of risk, and that doing more walking during the year-long study cut the risk still further.

It found that every additional 2,000 steps taken a day over one year – roughly equivalent to 20 minutes a day of moderately-paced walking – reduces the risk of cardiovascular events such as heart attack and stroke by eight per cent.

But doing 4,000 extra steps – 40 minutes of additional daily walking – matches the benefits from taking a statin, says study leader Dr Thomas Yates, of the Diabetes Research Unit at the University.

Enterprise

We work nationally and internationally with companies and we are also committed to helping small and medium-sized businesses locally and throughout the East Midlands.

For the University, opening up to industry has enabled our world-leading research to find applications in the real world much quicker, whilst creating new opportunities for collaborative work with industrial partners and providing case studies for teaching. For businesses, access to world-leading academics and the latest technology can help them to develop and grow in a low-risk way.

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.



Industry partnership with global engineering group

The University, through the Departments of Engineering, Mathematics and Computer Science, has entered a collaborative framework agreement with international engineering company Alstom.

The agreement will see the parties collaborating in areas of research related to energy hardware and infrastructure using a range of mechanisms, including contract research, consultancy, Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTP), student projects, Innovate UK (formerly Technology Strategy Board) and EU Horizon 2020. The partnership will actively explore opportunities for broader provision of training within Alstom and recruitment of Leicester graduates.

"We have worked collaboratively with Alstom for a number of years on research that explores the potential use of new materials and technologies in steam turbines which have the capacity to increase power plant efficiency and reduce CO₂ emissions." explains Professor Helen Atkinson, Head of the Department of Engineering at the University.

"It is exciting to research in areas that have a direct benefit to solving challenging issues affecting our environment and planet. The partnership formally gives us a platform to explore new opportunities."

The University of Leicester has a number of active links with Alstom through the Departments of Engineering and Mathematics.

New methods of monitoring air pollution

Scientists researching earth observation from the Departments of Physics and Astronomy, Chemistry and Geography are working in partnership with Leicestershire-based aerial survey specialists, Bluesky International Ltd, to measure air pollution using cutting-edge technology developed at the University.

Building on Leicester's highly successful CityScan project, in which 3D maps of air pollution were built over cities including London during the 2012 Olympic Games, the technology has been developed for airborne use and installed in planes to take aerial readings. This is the first time in the UK anyone has been able to use airborne devices to map pollution levels across whole cities.

The sophisticated air quality measuring spectrometer has been used to produce striking 'heatmap' style images of pollution levels in Leicester as part of the Airborne Air Quality Mapper project.

The images show how levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) vary around the city – revealing the differences in air quality between green, wooded areas and busy road junctions and areas of industry. The results could help draw attention to polluted areas and help inform future environmental planning decisions.

The device gives a reading for NO2 levels between the ground and the plane, the readings are then collated and the results overlaid over Google Earth to give a remarkably detailed map of air quality.

Brief Exchanges

August 2013

Forensic scientists created the UK's first cat DNA database which has already helped to convict a killer. This is the first time cat DNA has been used in a criminal trial in the UK and the hope is to publish the database so it can be used in future criminal investigations nationwide.

March 2014

Academics from the University started a project to explore England's vanishing pubs. Funded by English Heritage experts from the School of Archaeology and Ancient History and the Department of History of Art and Film will research public understanding of how the pubs of Leeds have developed, and the risks they face from conversion and redevelopment.

November 2014

The University announced a partnership with English Heritage and the Heritage Skills Centre at Lincoln Castle to deliver practical, technical and specialist skills for heritage professionals to address the skills gaps within the sector. A three-year programme, the courses will focus on areas such as how to re-use and repurpose rural buildings; how to commission work on historic buildings; and using the latest technology to record and interpret the historic environment.

December 2014

The University won funding for four Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs) worth more than £600,000. Part-funded by Innovate UK (the former Technology Strategy Board), these research and development programmes allow businesses to tap into university expertise and to employ a high-calibre graduate to help solve complex business problems or develop innovative products, processes or services. The four businesses to benefit include Apical Ltd, Cell Care Technologies Ltd, MTG Research Ltd and Red Monkey Play Ltd.

Breakthrough technology uncovers fingerprints on ATM bills and receipts

New technology developed by academics at the University could help in the fight against theft and fraud by identifying fingerprints on old receipts and ATM bills previously hidden from view.

The technology, which has been developed by Dr John Bond OBE from the Department of Chemistry, uses a specially tailored UV light source to visualise fingerprints which are not possible to see otherwise on paper used for shop receipts and for bank statements from ATMs.

"This new technology offers a new way of easily looking for fingerprints on an increasing source of paperwork that criminals are likely to handle when committing a variety of offences," says Dr Bond.

The device was presented at the Forensics Europe Expo in London which showcases

forensic science research, teaching, and practice with attendees and exhibitors from across Europe.

Dr Bond also presented at the Expo on a second device, used for storing a used firearm shell in a sterile container that ensures minimal contact with the outer surface of the casing, which is where extraneous DNA or fingerprints would be picked up under normal circumstances.

"We are excited about these two new inventions as they further expand our portfolio of technologies that provide solutions for unmet needs in the forensics market. We are seeking commercial partners to take them forward; particularly companies that can manufacture and distribute these two products," explains Dr Julie Pratt from the University's Enterprise and Business Development Office.

Kickstarting collaborations with local enterprise

Innovation through the Research Support Accelerator (IRSA) is a University scheme designed to accelerate the development of novel research via a unique collaboration between regional small to medium-sized businesses, academic expertise at the University and a high quality graduate who can take the opportunity of using the full-year of research and development to enroll for a postgraduate degree.

Last year the scheme received £950,000 collaborative funding from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The new scheme will place 18 high quality graduates who will undertake collaborative research and development with small to medium-sized businesses.

"Academic knowledge and research expertise from the University of Leicester will provide unique and potentially unanticipated results from the initial challenge. This is a unique opportunity for 12 months of dedicated collaborative research, support and development particularly with small and medium companies in the East Midlands who are interested in exploiting novel approaches in the Innovation agenda," says IRSA Project Manager, Teresa Smith.

"The University of Leicester is looking to use its research expertise to help drive growth in regional jobs through this scheme," adds Project Director Professor Paul Monks from the University's Department of Chemistry.



World-leading structural dynamics expertise

The University has launched a new commercial facility, the Advanced Structural Dynamics Evaluation Centre (ASDEC), based at the Motor Industry Research Association's (MIRA) Technology Park near Hinckley, Leicestershire.

ASDEC is the UK's first commercial 3D laser measurement and modal analysis centre. Reducing vibration is the aim of design engineers across multiple industries, a goal often obstructed by the difficulty of obtaining good measures of vibration as it happens.

The newest and most effective way of measuring vibration is now Laser Doppler Vibrometry. This depends on very accurate measurement of the deflection of laser beams as they strike a vibrating object. The reflected laser reveals the deflection of the target.

The creation of a world-leading centre of excellence in vibrometry will help the region to build and grow the knowledge economy while developing high level skills through graduate internships, knowledge exchange and technology transfer activities.

ASDEC provides testing, development and research services to companies in the transportation, aerospace, energy sectors plus many others.

The facility is a highly specialised resource to support the development of new products and processes. The Centre helps companies reduce costs whilst introducing innovative designs and new materials to make their products more profitable and sustainable.

ASDEC represents £2.5 million of investment and has been supported by the Government's Regional Growth Fund and the European Regional Development Fund, delivered in partnership with Polytec, a leading company in laser vibrometry equipment.





New online tool developed to help retail organisations manage their losses

Globally, the impact of loss within organisations is profound, with estimates suggesting the retail sector loses approximately \$232 billion a year.

This can take the form of internal and external theft, inter-company fraud and a whole range of process-related losses. Traditional approaches have typically focused upon responding to the symptoms of these losses usually through technological fixes such as product tags and CCTV, which have a short-lived impact as offenders quickly find ways to defeat new interventions.

Professor Adrian Beck, Head of the Department of Criminology, has focused his research around helping organisations to better understand the root causes of these losses. His work as academic advisor to the Efficient Consumer Response (ECR) Europe Shrinkage Group (a joint retailer/manufacturer representative body) has provided retail organisations across the globe including Adidas, Proctor & Gamble, Sainsbury's and Walmart with new insights, tools and techniques to more effectively measure, monitor and control the problem of loss.

A new online benchmarking tool developed by Professor Beck was launched in March enabling retailers to understand how their shrinkage strategy is performing. The tool enables retailers to understand how well they are managing shrinkage versus others and the relative strengths and opportunities of their loss prevention programme.

"The tool was developed after extensive research with some of the leading retailers in the world and is designed to help organisations better understand how their businesses not only view the problem of shrinkage, but also help them to identify the key areas on which to focus to improve their overall performance," explains Professor Adrian Beck.

Teaching and Learning

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 – students who question us, share ideas and learn from each other.

At Leicester, we pride ourselves on an excellent research-led learning and teaching environment, providing all undergraduate and postgraduate students with a distinctive experience that enables them to fulfil their potential.





Leicester launches new access programme

A recognised UK pioneer in widening participation, we offer people of all ages and backgrounds the belief, financial means and routes to pursue degrees and research.

This year. Leicester has launched a new programme designed to engage talented Year 12 students from across the East Midlands who have an interest in studying here at the University but whose personal circumstances may have affected their ability to reach their full academic potential.

The Leicester Enhanced Access Programme (LEAP) includes a series of activities taking place throughout the participants' post- 16 studies. Students will receive support in areas like independent learning, team working, academic research and writing, university admissions processes and careers planning as well as further developing key personal skills, self-confidence and a positive mental attitude.

With direct access to University staff and students, as well as a dedicated student e-mentor. LEAP will give students a first-hand experience of what it's like to study at university and help to better prepare them for taking the next steps to coming to Leicester.

For students who successfully complete the programme and choose to study here at Leicester, they will receive an alternative LEAP entry offer, a cash scholarship of £1000 each year during their studies and for those students who meet and exceed their LEAP alternative offer a £1000 contribution each year of their studies towards tuition fees

Treble award for teaching excellence

In 2014, three academic staff members received prestigious awards in a national scheme for excellence in teaching and support for learning. This is the first time Leicester has won three awards and is the only university to do so this year.

National Teaching Fellowships were awarded to Professor Glenn Fulcher, Professor of Education and Language Assessment in the School of Education; Professor Sue Law, Director of the University's Academic Practice Service and Professor Jeremy Levesley, Professor of Applied Mathematics of the Department of Mathematics.

The awards were made by the Higher Education Academy for the outstanding contributions to the student learning experience that each has made in their respective fields. The successful National Teaching Fellows were chosen from over 180 nominations submitted by higher education institutions across England, Northern Ireland and Wales.

"It is a great honour to have been selected for this award by the HEA, and of course to be nominated by the University. I am also delighted that this is the fourth National Teaching Fellowship to be awarded in the School of Education. The School takes great pride in the quality of teaching, which we believe should inspire our students, who will be the teachers of tomorrow. I'm therefore very conscious that my colleagues are equally deserving, and I'm sure that there will be many more awards for the School in the future," says Professor Fulcher.

The University has now won a total of 14 awards from the Higher Education Academy – including seven single awards and two years of double awards.

Brief Exchanges

August 2013

University scientists develop innovative educational programme for GCSE and A-Level pupils using live fruit flies. LiveGene! was developed at the Department of Genetics, and brings genetics teaching to life by using live fruit flies in the classroom

October 2013

Dr Sally Horrocks, Lecturer in Modern British History and Colin Hyde from the East Midlands Oral History Archive at the Centre for Urban History joined the BBC's World War One at Home project. The BBC project tells the story of the First World War through the people whose lives were transformed.

June 2014

Professor Panicos Demetriades, one of Britain's leading academics in financial economics, returned to the University's Department of Economics, bringing a wealth of knowledge and experience after two years' service as Governor of the Central Bank of Cyprus and ECB Governing Council member.

July 2014

Six members of staff were awarded University Teaching Fellowships in recognition of their inspiring contributions to teaching and curriculum innovation and development. They included Dr Sinéad Drea of the Department of Biology, Dr Diane Hudman of the School of Medicine, Professor Mike Lovell of the Department of Geology, Dr Patrick White from the Department of Sociology, Dr Harry Whitehead from the School of English and Dr Sarah Gretton from Natural Sciences (Interdisciplinary Science).

New postgraduate research funding

The University will benefit from a £350 million fund which will be used to train more than 3,500 postgraduate students in engineering and physical sciences.

Leicester is the lead institution in the new Innovative Metal Processing Centre for Doctoral Training (IMPACT) part of the UK's largest investment in postgraduate training in engineering and physical sciences which brings together world-class metals research teams.

The University will also play a key part in £100 million of new investment in 15 Doctoral Training Partnerships (DTPs) which specialise in training environmental science PhD students. The University is part of the Central England Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) Training Alliance (CENTA) consisting of seven partners.

It is not only engineering, physical and environmental sciences where Leicester will prosper; the University is also part of a number of other Doctoral Training Partnership in the arts and humanities, biosciences and forensic science.

The Midlands3Cities Consortium has secured a £14.6 million grant from the Arts and

Humanities Research Council (AHRC) – and with match funding from the consortium universities, the project will provide funding and training for 410 PhD student places over five years.

The University is part of The Midlands Integrative Biosciences Training Partnership (MIBTP) which will receive £4.5 million from the BBSRC. Match funding will enable the partnership to fund up to 90 four-year PhD studentships over the next three academic years in important biological fields such as food security, industrial biotechnology and bio-energy.

PhD students will also receive unprecedented doctoral training in forensic science through a €2.9 million, multidisciplinary project funded by the People Programme (Marie Curie Actions) of the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme. The INTREPID Forensics (Interdisciplinary Training and Research Programme for Innovative Doctorates in Forensic Science) programme provides ten funded PhD opportunities for early stage researchers to pursue innovative research degrees focusing on areas applicable to the forensic sciences.

News maths support network

The University has been successful in a bid to house a new centre providing maths and statistics help for students on campus and beyond.

Sigma, the national network for crossuniversity mathematics and statistics support, announced the establishment of the new centre with funding of £15,000 over two years.

"We are incredibly pleased to have been chosen as one of the four new centres, and we thank the Sigma National Network for choosing us. This is a very exciting opportunity for the University of Leicester. This funding will allow us to create a support network to help all of the students studying at the University. Everyone will be welcome at the Maths Centre," says Dr Gareth Woods, from the Department of Mathematics.

"We will also be looking at ways in which we can help students with learning difficulties such as Dyslexia, Dyscalculia or Asperger's Syndrome. For many of these students, actually understanding the mathematical concept is usually fine, but there are problems associated with writing it down on paper.

"It will also be of great benefit to the people of Leicester as we will be using the Centre to help students during the Easter and summer holidays to improve their mathematics skills and revise for their examinations. We also hope to provide mathematics support for those students who don't have the opportunity or means to get a personal tutor of their own."



Training doctors of tomorrow

Preparing medical students to be tomorrow's doctors is not just concerned with teaching disease identification and treatment; it is also about developing their communication skills and how technology might be used to shape patient care in the future, including online consultations.

The University is the first UK medical school to provide the opportunity for students to participate in online consultations. A total of 176 medical students are engaging with 'virtual patients' - ordinary people who simulate live consultation scenarios by posting a range of health related questions on a web-based facility called Patients Know Best, the world's first fully patientcontrolled online medical records system.

From the student perspective this approach is providing an opportunity to apply their learning to a clinical situation and to develop skills for the future around doctor-patient communication.

The latest move by the University places Leicester at the cutting-edge of medical training in Britain.

"Our hope is that by putting online consultation early in our undergraduate teaching, we will not only prepare our students for the future but help them improve the level of care they provide to patients," says Dr Ron Hsu, Innovation Lead and Senior Teaching Fellow at the Medical School.



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 campusbased teaching.

Last year 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 first venture into MOOCs was a roaring success with more than 10,000 sign ups. The course, 'England in the time of King Richard III', builds a picture of the England that Richard III inhabited in the 15th century -

and comes from the scholars in archaeology, history and literature who helped uncover the monarch last year.

The University's second offering launched in March was 'Forensic Science and Criminal Justice'. Taking just two hours of study per week and it was taught by staff from the Department of Criminology.

"This course will give learners the opportunity to explore how science helps police to solve crimes, and goes one step further by encouraging participants to consider some of the controversies and issues associated with the use of science by the law," says Dr Lisa Smith, Department of Criminology.



Students in Classrooms

The University's Students in Classrooms schemes are an excellent way for students to gain high quality classroom experience in a school or college in the local community. The schemes provide schools and colleges with trained, enthusiastic and knowledgeable undergraduate students who offer practical assistance in the classroom with Primary, Secondary and Post-16 learners.

Many of the students taking part are interested in teaching or working with young people as a career and are keen to engage with the local community and act as positive role models for Higher Education. Schools in disadvantaged areas are prioritised when determining where students are placed, ensuring that children and young people from widening participation backgrounds are more likely to receive the benefits of the programme.

A number of departments also offer an undergraduate module option with a subject engagement focus, the experiential part of which is a school based placement. Trained students from Maths, Physics, Geology,

History, English and Archaeology undertake 30 hours in a school or college in Leicester or Leicestershire to offer classroom support on a weekly basis.

The Tomorrow's Teachers scheme is a Higher Education Achievement Report (HEAR) approved activity offering students 9 hours of high level training and a 30 hour placement in their chosen subject area in one of our partner schools or colleges in Leicester or Leicestershire. Tomorrow's Teachers is designed around a framework which reflects a number of national Teacher Standards, so students also develop important reflective and professional skills alongside their classroom experience.

Students for both schemes are selected and trained by the School and College Services team, enhancing their employability skills through formal written applications and attending assessment centres. Supported by a designated Link Teacher in their placement school, students across both schemes completed over 3300 hours in local schools during 2013-14.

The Journal of **Physics Special Topics**

The University's Journal of Physics Special Topics has received a great deal of media interest over the last few years from showing that Noah's Ark would have been strong enough to carry pairs of each animal species to proving that Wallace and Gromit's 'wrong trousers' really would let someone walk on the ceiling (but the batteries would only last for 20 minutes).

The Journal of Physics Special Topics forms a 10-credit module in the final year of the four-year MPhys degree. It gives students the opportunity to exercise their imagination in choosing the problems they research and the approximations they use to make the problems tractable.

It's important for a research physicist in academia or in industry to be creative and think outside the box, applying some imagination to develop a solution or to

find a way to approach a problem from a new perspective.

The module provides scope for creativity, for group work in a realistic context, and for the opportunity to revise some basic physics. It also gives the students an important insight into the formal process of submission, peer review and publishing.

The groups referee each other's work and sift out any 'low quality' papers containing mistakes or invalid conclusions in a process overseen by a student editorial board. The end result is the annual edition of the Journal of Physics Special Topics.

"The module can be a lot of fun, and especially for those interested in a career in research – the introduction to the world of scientific publishing and peer review is absolutely invaluable," adds Dr. Mervyn Roy, course leader.

Student Experience

The University seeks to provide a supportive and personal environment for those who use our services. Creating a stimulating, supportive 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 with a historic trend of very high student satisfaction scores in the National Student Survey.

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





Students will benefit from 500 paid internships per year

Leicester is working closely with employers to make sure the workforce of tomorrow has the skills to make a difference.

We are proud to be the first top 20 university to launch a major paid internship programme. The new programme aims to create up to 500 paid internships for students annually. This will provide every campus-based home or EU student with an opportunity to benefit from an internship during their degree to further enhance their employment prospects.

Opened to undergraduates that join the University in 2014, the scheme will not only enhance employability, but will give Leicester students a valuable insight into what employers expect from graduates joining their business.

All internships will be paid the equivalent of £12,000 to £16,000 per annum pro rata. Students will have a choice of different industries to work in, and internships will be available for up to 12 weeks locally, regionally and nationally, as well as within the University's own departments.

Green Party leader observes student self-sufficiency project

Living a life of sustainable self-sufficiency is well within the reach of university students and they invited Natalie Bennett, leader of the Green Party in England and Wales, to see it in action.

Hungry for Change, is an NUS (National Union of Students) Students' Green Fund project that encourages students to grow their own food, both on campus and in their own homes. It also allows students to get involved in student enterprise, improve their employability, hold events and engage with the wider community.

The Green Party Leader and University alumna was able to meet participating students at the University's Brookfield site and speak to a number of students involved in the project and those taking on the new volunteer leadership roles.

Focusing on both practical reskilling and awareness raising, Hungry for Change encourages activities such as growing in containers at home right through to web-based networking of simple recipes, vegan catering outlets and small space composting solutions.

"The Hungry for Change project is both a practical and cultural response to problems within the food system and wider environmental change.

"We hope to demystify the notion that good food, that is organic, local and home produced, is both costly and an excess. We would like to reintroduce the concept that these things are accessible to students.

"We want people to get talking about the food they are eating and why – rather than relying on cultural norms or habitually developed routines," says Charlotte Nagy-Baker, Project Co-Ordinator.

Brief Exchanges

December 2013

Four distinguished graduates from the University of Leicester took part in Christmas University Challenge on BBC Two. This comes 50 years after students from the University of Leicester won the first ever series of the long-running BBC show in 1963.

February 2014

The University hosted a 'Good Deed Day' with students painting, planting and donating up to 255 plant pots across the city area to help celebrate and recognise Student Volunteering Week.

May 2014

Ali Imdad, Leicester graduate and a former contestant of BBC One's popular baking show, The Great British Bake Off, returned to the campus to launch a new recipe pack aimed specifically at students.

June 2014

Fifty of the University's leading research students, selected competitively from its 1,400 member postgraduate research community, presented their cutting-edge research to academics, employers and members of the public at the Festival of Postgraduate Research.

July 2014

William Sharman, who graduated with a BA in Economics in 2006, competed in the Commonwealth Games for Team England, finishing with a silver medal in the 110m hurdles.

July 2014

Students at the University will be given more chances to play sport thanks to £226,032 of National Lottery funding from Sport England's University Sport Activation Fund. The University is one of 54 universities to benefit from nearly £10 million of funding to help encourage new students to participate in sport.

Zoo provides study break to exams

Students received an unusual visit from a group of loveable farmyard animals in January, including a Shetland pony, a miniature cow and a black Labrador, in an effort to relieve the stress of exams

As well as the above, an assortment of other feathered, furry and fluffy visitors were gathered in a pen for passers-by to hold, including sheep, geese, chickens, ducks and even a pygmy goat.

The event was organised in response to a Facebook post in August 2013 from Leicester student, Joe McGuire, who suggested the idea to help take students' minds off of their exams.

The animals were supplied by Ark Farm, a large smallholding which started as a family business in 2009 and has since grown to become one of the leading mobile farms in the UK – and one of only a handful covering the East Midlands region.

"We organised the petting zoo because we always listen to our students and try to give them what they want – it's nice to be able to develop our exam support campaign whilst giving what a student wants," explains Dan Flatt, President of the Students' Union.



A supportive community

Over 130,000 alumni now live and work in over 150 countries and being a member of this global network is one of the biggest benefits of being a Leicester student.

The University's Development and Alumni Relations team aims to ensure that the graduate community, both in the UK and overseas, enjoys a rewarding and enduring involvement with their University through social and educational activities, careers advice and networking, advocacy and philanthropic support or just keeping in touch with friends.

An indication of the enduring connection with their University is the thousands of alumni who attend events hosted by the Alumni Association every year. The growing support of our alumni and friends also ensures that we can continue to grow and flourish. More people than ever before are choosing to make a gift in support of world leading student scholarships, and projects that enrich the student experience.

This year we have also launched two new 'quilds'. The Women of Influence Guild specifically supports scholarships for women and research projects led by women at the University in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects. Whilst members of The Legacy Guild have chosen to remember their University through pledges and gifts in their wills.

In 2014, our vision for a new £42m Centre for Medicine began to take shape, thanks in no small part to the generous philanthropic support of alumni and friends. Local community support for a New Galleries Wing at the Richard Attenborough Centre will ensure we can showcase the best in contemporary visual art and sculpture. More information on alumni supported projects can be found by www.le.ac.uk/benefactors.

Supporting our students is an investment in the future. Our alumni have an excellent track record of success and go on to become passionate ambassadors for their University.

Sports facilities get new names

Following a £10 million investment in new and improved sports facilities, the sports centres, on campus and in Oadby were officially named and opened in September.

Having recently seen major improvements following a £5 million investment, the Roger Bettles Sports Centre in Oadby, now includes a 25m pool, sauna and steam rooms, and a 600m² gym and aerobics studio.

The facility was named after Mr Bettles who was born in Leicester and was elected Chair of the University Council between 2007-2013.

The Danielle Brown Sports Centre on University Road features a 20m pool, sauna and steam room, as well as cardiovascular gym and a double size sports hall.

Ms Brown, who studied Law at the University, won her second successive Paralympic games archery gold medal in 2012. She also received the Outstanding Alumni Achievement Award from well-known broadcaster Sir Terry Wogan that year.

She was bestowed an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from the University of Leicester in 2013.

"I am absolutely delighted to have my name attached to such a fantastic centre. Training while studying can be very challenging; having the best facilities and a University which understands the value of sport makes all the difference," says Ms Brown.

The official openings follow the University's announcement of an array of sports scholarships and appointment of a Community Sports Development Officer. In addition, the University recently became part of the Department of Health's £10 million programme for the East Midlands, to form the country's first ever National Sports and Exercise Medicine Centre of Excellence.



University recognised for commitment to the provision of gluten-free products

Leicester is the first University in the UK to receive accreditation from Coeliac UK for its commitment to the provision of glutenfree products.

Coeliac disease is a common digestive condition where a person has an adverse reaction to gluten – a protein found in wheat, barley and rye. When someone with coeliac disease eats gluten, their immune system reacts by damaging the lining of the small intestine.

Coeliac disease is common and affects one in 100 people. However only 24 percent who have the condition have actually been diagnosed which means there are currently nearly half a million people who have coeliac disease but don't yet know. Once diagnosed, the only treatment for coeliac disease is a gluten-free diet.

The University provides a gluten-free range of sandwiches, soups, salads, cakes, biscuits and snacks in all of its outlets. Coeliac students living in catered accommodation can also enjoy a glutenfree diet

"It means a lot to us to see our hard work recognised by this award, but more importantly, it shows our coeliac students and staff, and other people who require gluten-free products, that we care about their health and cater for their needs. We are committed to providing for people with specific dietary requirements, and are already looking to work with other organisations to further develop our offer," explains Clive Williams, Food and Beverage Manager.

The University also provides options for students and staff with other specific dietary requirements, such as dairy-free products, and continues to work with the University's Dietary Requirement Society as well as external organisations, to expand its range.

Students perform Shakespeare's Richard III in Leicester Cathedral

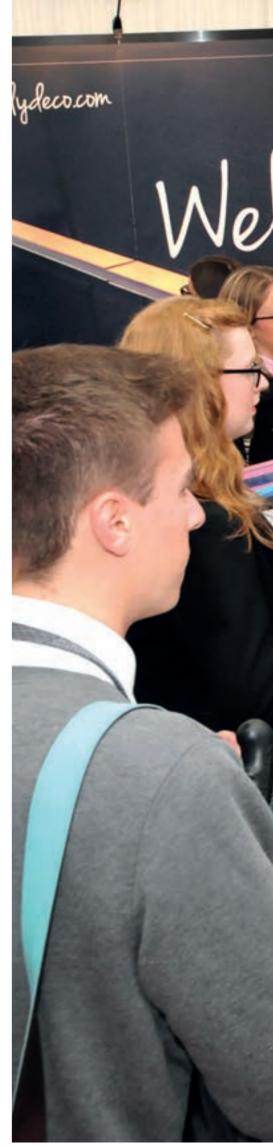
It was perhaps inevitable that our student drama society LUTheatre would pick Shakespeare's Richard III as part of their 2013-14 season. The production was staged in March over six nights: three in the Queen's Hall, within the Students' Union, and three in the prestigious setting of Leicester Cathedral where Richard himself will be reburied.

Combining both historical and modern dress, the 32 cast members wore simple all-black or all-white costumes and played out the story on a giant checkerboard: re-envisaging this historical Game of Thrones as a metaphorical game of chess.

A prologue representing the Battle of Towton was played out to music with actors moving as their chess

piece dictated. A similar technique was used to represent the climactic Battle of Bosworth Field. Second year International Relations student Jordan Sutton took the lead role of King Richard III which, at 1,171 lines, is the second longest of all Shakespeare's plays.

LUTheatre's Richard III was selected by the Royal Shakespeare Company for inclusion in their 'Open Stages' celebration of amateur theatre, as part of which the student thespians were able to receive training from members of the RSC's team. Leicester was the only student production included in the 2014 Open Stages programme, and a scene from the play was staged by LUTheatre actors in Stratford upon-Avon later in the year as part of an Open Stages celebration.





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.

Our network of overseas teaching partnerships is a key component of our global outlook and internationalisation.

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



The University extends its partnership with Santander

Leicester has extended its successful partnership with Santander Universities UK to support more postgraduate scholarships, internships, summer schools and travel awards, bringing the value of this three-year partnership to over £450,000.

This philanthropic support will directly benefit over 750 students through post-graduate scholarships, internships, travel awards and summer schools for pupils from local schools.

The University will also be able to offer six new scholarships worth a total of £16,400 for students from Spain, Portugal and Latin America to study for a Masters degree at the University. Nineteen students will now benefit from scholarships in 2013/14.

The scholarships will allow for an increasing number of international students to study at the University, which will both enhance the experience of studying in a diverse environment and benefit overseas relations.

"We are very grateful to Santander Universities UK for the additional funding. The scholarships make a real difference, helping us to welcome even more talented postgraduate students from Latin America, Spain and Portugal to study here at the University of Leicester, "explains Caroline Berry, Head of International Market Development at the University's International Office.

"We already have a diverse international student population at Leicester, but being able to attract more students from Latin America, Spain and Portugal greatly enhances the student experience here as well as our profile overseas."

Students experience life and learning in East Asia

The University Summer Programme gave 19 undergraduate students the unforgettable opportunity to live and study at one of Leicester's partner universities in China, Korea and Taiwan.

The 3-6 week study programme provides a fascinating insight into East Asian culture and gives students the chance to experience education from a completely new perspective.

Support for travel and living expenses was provided to seven first-year students who received Study Abroad travel scholarships. An additional four students were awarded scholarships from the College of Arts, Humanities and Law. Tuition costs for all participating students were waived.

Boryana Karakoleva, a BA European Studies student in his third year, chose to study at National Chengchi University in Taiwan. He said: "I entered the exchange programme as someone who is intrinsically fascinated by foreign cultures. Chinese, Dutch and Japanese elements coming together for a truly unique combination made Taiwan the obvious first choice for me. Its rich and complex history provided me with six unforgettable weeks. The experience has been educational, motivational and an everyday adventure."

First-year Psychology student, Fiona Stewart travelled to South Korea to study at Chung-Ang University and said: "I benefitted immensely from the experience. I feel much more confident, and more understanding and open-minded to other cultures. I have also made friends for life from across the globe, and am now looking into teaching abroad in Asia as a possibility after my degree."

The 2015 Summer Programme will be launched soon with further scholarships available to students and the addition of East Asia study opportunities in Japan.

Brief Exchanges

February 2014

The University's English Language Teaching Unit (ELTU) organised the first student research festival for non-native speakers. The ELTU Research Festival gave international students the opportunity to practice their presentation skills to fellow students and academics

June 2014

Dr Lisa Smith, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Criminology was invited to give expert advice The Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict. The summit was co-chaired by then Foreign Secretary William Hague, and the Special Envoy of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Angelina Jolie.

June 2014

The Bolashak internship programme welcomed 10 teachers from Kazakhstan who attended a 12 week intensive summer school in Education Management (secondary schools) within the School of Education. This followed two cohorts in November and February who studied on 6 month programmes with our English Language Teaching Unit (ELTU) followed by a number of internships.

July 2014

Our department Infection, Immunity and Inflammation hosted 16 academics from the University of Nantong School of Medicine and School of Public Health for a 12 week programme delivered in conjunction with the English Language Teaching Unit. The academics focused on improving their English language skills and their skills in delivering lectures and presentations in English, all with an emphasis on medical English.



International approaches to teacher education

Academics at the University's School of Education are spearheading an international project which aims to stabilise society in the North African and Middle-Eastern countries involved in the 'Arab Spring' uprisings.

The scheme, which is being funded by the European Union, will see academics and teachers from 14 universities in several countries working together to train teachers in high quality, effective classroom methods.

The idea is that if the education systems in those countries can be stabilised and embedded then this will impact positively on civil society as a whole.

The project, Capacity development of faculties of education in international approaches to teacher education, will involve an exchange of ideas and information about how different nations approach teacher training and development.

In addition, visits are planned by teachers and educationalists from overseas to the UK in the autumn, where they will participate in workshops hosted by Leicester academics as well as working in schools and observing British classrooms. One of the University's major roles is to monitor and evaluate the project.

Dr Chris Wilkins, Reader in Education and Director of Teacher Education at the School of Education, said he believed the project was seen by the EU as a "strategic priority" for modernising and stabilising higher education in North African and Middle Eastern countries.

"Leicester, both the city and the University, has always been in the vanguard of teacher education and was seen as progressive as far back as the 1960s, when everyone worked in close collaboration. We are in a very strong position to now take this experience and expertise to the wider world with our international partnerships."



Ethiopia is one of the poorest countries in the world. The Leicester-Gondar Medical Link is supporting developments in the undergraduate and postgraduate teaching programmes in the country, and has contributed to local plans to enhance healthcare in the hospital and in the urban and rural communities.

The Leicester-Gondar Medical Link started as a result of health professionals in Leicester wanting to make a difference in the developing world. The link with the College of Medical Sciences in Gondar was established in 1996.

In 2004, when the College of Medical Sciences developed into the University of Gondar, a Memorandum of Understanding was then signed between the two institutions giving rise to the Leicester-Gondar Medical Link. The aim of this link is to promote international fellowship and friendship, and cross-cultural working leading to joint research and mutual development and support.

This significant academic relationship has now been strengthened through the development of a website, called the Leicester Gondar Collaborative Teaching Project. The website has been developed by staff in Leicester including University Hospitals of Leicester (UHL), Health Action Leicester for Ethiopia (HALE), De Montfort University and Leicester Partnership NHS.

The project will maximise the bond between the institutions by offering expert medical teaching in an easy-to-use format and encourage collaborative teaching and working between Leicester and Gondar. While the initial content is clinical, its scope will be broadened over time to encompass wider academic areas, allowing for synergy across fields for the benefit of both Leicester and Ethiopia.

Leicester sets a new first in Iraq

Two decades of wars and lack of strategic planning badly affected universities in Iraq. The country's medical schools were under-resourced, while doctors and healthcare professionals became isolated from the global academic community.

A high priority has therefore been a review of the training of doctors, which is based on the old 6-year British curriculum and conducted in English.

The University of Leicester Medical School has been sharing its expertise in medical education with Kufa University Medical College since November 2010, when a small delegation from Kufa, led by the Vice-President of Kufa University, visited Leicester to explore possibilities for collaboration.

There have subsequently been workshops on medical curriculum re-design for staff from Kufa held in both Beirut, Lebnanon and Leicester.

Professor David Lambert of the Department of Cardiovascular Sciences and Director of Postgraduate Research for the College of Medicine, Biological Sciences and Psychology has now become the first international examiner for postgraduates in Iraq. He visited the University of Kufa in July, where he examined Masters students and discussed postgraduate provision.

The Dean of the College of Medicine in Kufa, Dr Mohammed Saeed Abdulzahara, said Professor Lambert was "the first international examiner for postgraduates in Iraq" as noted by the Ministry of Higher Education.

"It was a great experience to take part in these examinations and it must have been a challenge for the students to have to present their work and then be examined in public and in English," says Professor Lambert.

"I hope to be able to assist in the future on a wider range of Masters subjects. Working with academics and students from the University of Kufa is always a pleasure," he added.





Strengthening Indonesia's higher education sector

Indonesia is the world's fourth most populous country and one of the "MINT" economies with significant potential for growth due to their "inner" demographics, which mean that there will be a rise in the number of people eligible to work relative to those not working.

Indonesia has a turbulent past but is becoming an increasingly stable democracy with an ambitious new government, alive to its economic possibilities and aware of the need to reform its education system and educate its youthful population more effectively.

Encouraged by closer government-to-government relationships, together with Indonesian government investment in staff development in the higher education sector, University of Leicester staff have taken the opportunity to develop new and mutually beneficial partnerships with Indonesian universities.

Following an initial incoming visit by a delegation representing seven universities across the archipelago which was supported by the British Council, senior staff from the University of Leicester have made return visits to Indonesia. They have been holding training workshops on teaching and research management, as well as symposia on Indonesian priorities including Indonesia-specific issues related to Infection and Immunity and English Language teaching and testing.

Memoranda of Understanding have been signed with several universities. The University of Leicester will host a number of Indonesian academic staff taking PhD and Masters degrees and offer opportunities for visiting scholars and job-shadowing.

The University's connection with Indonesia follows in a long line of successful capacity-building relationships with countries and regions which are overcoming significant challenges to their higher education sectors.

Awards and Recognition

Professor John Schwabe (Head of the Department of Biochemistry) and Professor Jim Hinton (Department of Physics and Astronomy) were recognised by the Royal Society and awarded Royal Society Wolfson Research Merit Awards.

Dr Chris Willmott and Dr Salvador **Macip** (Department of Biochemistry) were awarded the European Prize for the Popularisation of Science at a ceremony in Alzira, Spain. The prize was awarded for a book the scientists wrote, provisionally entitled Playing God: The new dilemmas at the frontiers of medicine and science.

The University of Leicester was awarded Research Project of the Year at the Times Higher Education (THE) Awards for its work on the discovery of Richard III. We are the only university in the country to win THE awards in seven consecutive years.

Ryan Hunt, a first year student studying Natural Sciences at the University, scooped two gold medals at the British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) White Water Canoe Racing Championships. Ryan's gold medals are the first ever won by a Leicester student at the event.

The **Development and Alumni Relations Office** won two prestigious national awards. They received the award for prospect research innovation using social media at the Institute of Fundraising – Researchers in Fundraising Awards. They also secured Gold in the Best Alumni Campaign at the Heist Awards for a campaign to reconnect with lost alumni.

Professor Mark Lester (Head of the Department of Physics and Astronomy), Professor Andrew King (Professor of Astrophysics) and Professor George Fraser (Director of the University's Space Research Centre) were presented medals for their outstanding achievements in the fields of astronomy and related sciences by the Royal Astronomical Society.

Michaela Dowe-Stephenson, a law graduate was shortlisted for the Student Volunteer of the Year Award 2014. She was nominated for the highly-esteemed accolade after her outstanding volunteering work with the Leicestershire Youth Offending Service and Witness Service.

Professor Kamlesh Khunti, who is a city GP and Co-Director of the Leicester Diabetes Centre, was honoured with the prestigious Sardar Patel International Award for Excellence in Medical Research. Professor Khunti is the eighth recipient of the award, which was granted by the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Foundation of India.

Professor Rodrigo Quian Quiroga (Research Chair, Director of the Centre for Systems Neuroscience and Department of Engineering) was recognised as one of the 10 UK Recognising Inspirational Scientists and Engineers (RISE) Leaders in Science and

Engineering by the Engineering and Physical

Sciences Research Council (EPSRC).

The School of Management attained the Small Business Charter Bronze Award in recognition of the role it has played in helping to kick-start British enterprise

by helping improve links with the small

business community in the local area.

Inspirational distance learning student, Samuel Akera who received his Masters degree in Risk, Crisis and Disaster Management was selected for a prestigious Adult Learners' Week 2014

Ryan Hunt



Professor Rodrigo Quian Quiroga



Professor Kamlesh Khunti



Professor Sir Robert Burgess



Professor Mark Lester



Learning for Work Award, based on his academic success after overcoming social and financial adversity.

Karishma Joshi, a Biomedical Science student was awarded a prestigious Summer Studentship by the Dr Hadwen Trust (DHT), the UK's leading nonanimal medical research charity. The DHT scheme enables undergraduate students to extend their studies over the summer by gaining practical laboratory experience.

Nishad Karim, a physics student was awarded a place on the British Science Association (BSA) Media Fellowship scheme – the only PhD student in the UK and Ireland to receive the award. She worked with newsdesk writers at The Guardian newspaper headquarters in London writing, blogging and podcasting as part of the science news team for six weeks.

The Division of External Relations won a gold award for Best Undergraduate Prospectus at the annual Heist Awards. The Heist Awards showcase the achievements of university

Professor Helen Atkinson FREng





Christine Fyfe

and college marketing departments. The awards are now in their 25th year.

Four final year undergraduate students from the **School of Management** triumphed in the UK final of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) 2014 Global Business Challenge (GBC) designed to showcase the very best in the next generation of business leaders. The team went on to represent the University in Mumbai competing against 24 teams from around the world.

Former Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir Robert Burgess was shortlisted as one of Britain's inspirational leaders in higher education by The Guardian at their annual awards.

Medical student **David Ferguson** won the Professor Harold Ellis Medical Student Prize For Surgery from the Royal College of Surgeons. This prestigious national award is open to all medical students from across the UK.

The Department of Cell Physiology and Pharmacology and Department of Biochemistry achieved bronze Athena SWAN awards. The School of Psychology and Department of Infection, Immunity and Inflammation were successful in renewing their 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.

Additionally, 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.

The University of Leicester joined Stonewall's Diversity Champions programme, Britain's good practice employers' forum on sexual orientation to ensure the workplace is the best it can be for everyone.

The Higher Education Academy (HEA) has awarded **Dr Tony Lawson** Principal Fellowship, the highest category of professional recognition for teaching and supporting learning that is awarded by the national body.

Queen's New Year Honours

Professor Helen Atkinson FREng

was made a CBE for Services to Engineering and Education. Professor Atkinson is Head of the Department of Engineering and a Vice-President and trustee of the Royal Academy of Engineering.

Dr Richard Buckley received an OBE for services to archaeology. Dr Buckley is Co-Director the Archaeological Services and led the dig that unearthed the remains of King Richard III in August 2012.

Clare Taylor, former Head of the Student Welfare Service at the University was awarded the British **Empire Medal for Services** to Higher Education.

Queen's Birthday Honours

Christine Fyfe was awarded an MBE. Christine was the former Pro-Vice-Chancellor with special responsibility for students.

Degree Celebrations 2014

Honorands 2014

January



Mr Roger Bettles (Doctor of Laws): Former Chairman of the University Council and a long career working in the NHS in the city and county of Leicester.



Mr Adrian Weston (Distinguished Honorary Fellowship): Former member of the University's Council serving on a variety of University committees and retired solicitor.

July



Professor Rosemary Deem (Doctor of Letters): Vice-Principal (Education) at Royal Holloway University of London, University of Leicester alumna, and champion of research into Higher Education.



Ms Vijay Sharma (Doctor of Letters): Led the development of the BBC Asian Network, active in fundraising locally, and member of the University of Leicester's Development Board.



Professor Michael Anderson (Doctor of Letters): Social scientist and has held a number of roles in university senior management and on national committees for Higher Education.



Professor Mick Aston (Doctor of Letters): Landscape archaeologist who specialised in the British Early Medieval period and regular contributor to Channel 4's Time Team. Received by Teresa Hall and James Aston.



Professor David Phillips (Doctor of Science): Professor Emeritus at Imperial College London and former President of the Royal Society of Chemistry.



Mr Paul Bateman (Doctor of Laws): Chairman of J.P. Morgan Asset Management, alumnus and formerly Pro-Chancellor of the University of Leicester.



Professor Jennifer Clack (Doctor of Science): Professor and Curator of Vertebrate Palaeontology at the University Museum of Zoology, Cambridge, and Leicester alumna.



Professor Richard Fortey (Doctor of Science): Palaeontologist and broadcaster who spent much of his career working at the Natural History Museum in London.



Professor Dame Sally Davies (Doctor of Science): Chief Medical Officer for England and Chief Scientific Adviser for the Department of Health.



Professor Nilesh Samani (Doctor of Science): **British Heart Foundation** Professor of Cardiology and Head of the Department of Cardiovascular Sciences at the University of Leicester.



Judge Howard Morrison (Doctor of Laws): UK Judge of International Criminal Court and Honorary Professor at the University of Leicester.



Mr Aaron Porter (Doctor of Laws): Former President of the National Union of Students, Associate Director (Governance) for the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education and Leicester alumnus.



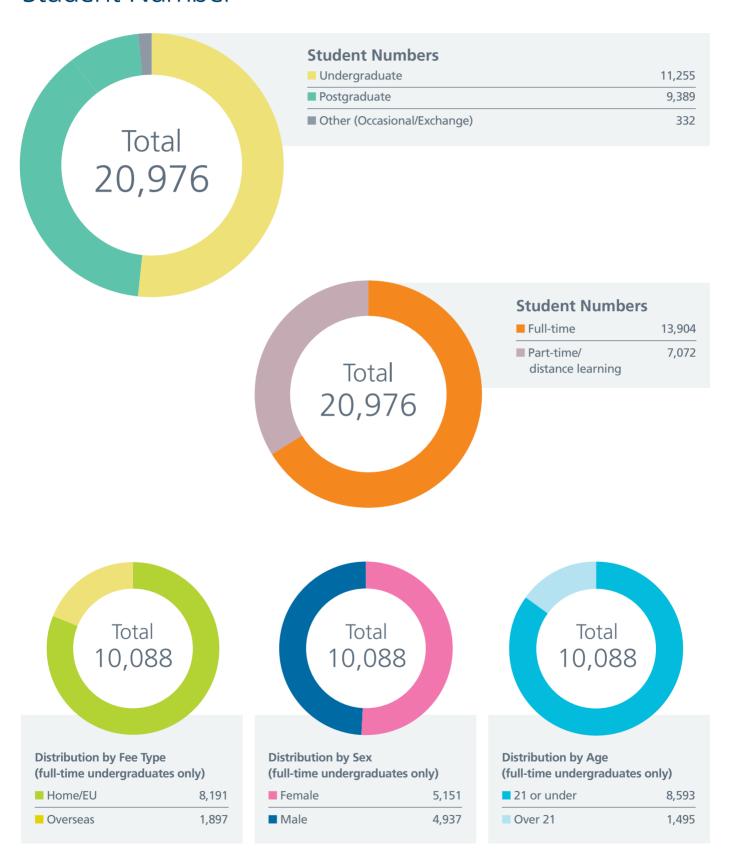
Mr Rob Ward (Doctor of Laws): Director of the Centre for Recording Achievement (CRA) and involved in the implementation of the Higher Education Achievement Report (HEAR) in the UK.



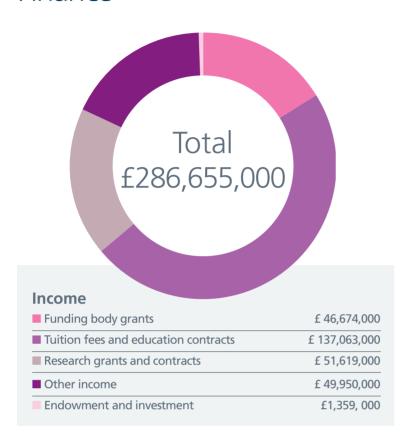
Ms Jan Wilkinson (Doctor of Letters): Director of the John Rylands Library, University of Manchester, and active in a wide range of national and international library developments.

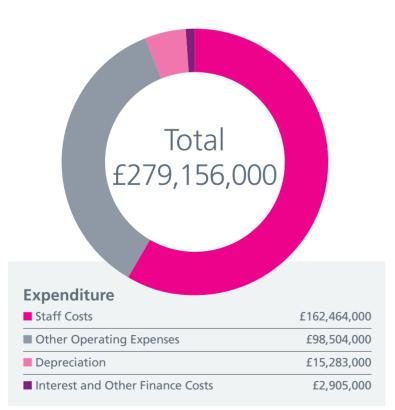
Statistics 2013-14

Student Number



Finance





List of Officers and Senior Staff 2013-14

Visitor

Her Majesty the Queen

Chancellor

Rt Hon the Lord Grocott

Pro-Chancellor and Chair of Council

Dr B Towle, CBE, DL, BA, LLD, FRSA

Vice-Chancellor

Professor Sir Robert Burgess, DL, BA, PhD, AcSS

Treasurer

Mr D Moore, BA, MBA

Senior Pro-Vice-Chancellor

Professor M Thompson, LLB, LLM

Pro-Vice-Chancellors

Ms C Fyfe, BA, MA, MBA

Professor K Schürer, BA, PhD, AcSS

Pro-Vice-Chancellors and Heads of College

Professor M Barstow, BA, PhD, CSci, CPhys, FlnstP

Professor S King, BA, ACIB, PhD, KBK

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

Professor D Wynford-Thomas, MB BCh(Hons), FRCPath, DSc, FMEDSci

Graduate Dean

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

Registrar and Secretary

Mr D Hall, BA



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