The University of Chichester

About the University of Chichester

The University of Chichester is a modern University with a proud history stretching back over 180 years.

We will increase external academic engagement, meeting regional needs and securing national and international recognition;
We will build on our heritage in teacher education;
We will contribute to the development of a strong economic ecosystem in West Sussex through imaginative business partnerships, enterprise education and support for graduate start-ups;
We will develop attractive and environmentally sustainable campuses.

For further details on each of these strategic goals, please download our University Strategy.

The Strategic Plan is underpinned by detailed sub-strategies for Learning, Teaching and Student Experience; Research and Innovation; Academic Engagement; Recruitment; Estates; Human Resources and Organisational Development; and, Finance.

The University has established a dashboard of 10 high-level key performance indicators to target and monitor progress in the achievement of its strategic themes and to identify areas where it will focus its future efforts. The Board of Governors receives a progress update at every meeting via the institutional KPI dashboard, as well as monthly financial reports and the Human Resources Annual Report. Academic Board receives an annual progress update on the Learning, Teaching and Student Experience; Research and Innovation; and, Academic Engagement Sub-Strategies. The annual personal review and development (PRDP) process ensures that each employee's priorities and key targets are aligned to the strategic themes, providing an effective mechanism for cascading accountability throughout the institution. The recent staff survey indicated widespread engagement with the University's Strategic Plan.

During 2019/20 the specific focus has been: delivering a substantial growth in applications through our new student recruitment strategy; increasing our attractiveness to BAME and international students; maintaining overall student satisfaction during the pandemic; improving graduate prospects; and, improving our operating surplus and positive cash flow to support our investment in new facilities and programmes. The KPI dashboard records particular success in delivering a 19% growth in undergraduate applications for 2020 entry. Our Access and Participation Plan 2020-25, as approved by the Office for Students, specifically targets our ongoing challenges in relation to the equality of access gap between BAME 18 year-olds and their peers and the attainment gap between all BAME students and their peers.

The University is committed to ensuring it meets its responsibilities under the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit across its activities. This is evident in the firm commitment to the student experience, ensuring we are attractive to the full range of students who can benefit from our programmes, the quality of learning and the focus on regional regeneration. This report includes examples of public benefit and value for money throughout and the University is proud of these achievements.

Learning and Teaching

The University continues to deliver high quality teaching, learning and outcomes for our students and consistently exceeds rigorous national quality requirements for UK higher education. In the National Student Survey (NSS) 2020 some of the results relating to learning and teaching were as follows:

Benchmark rankings: (out of 15)

Learning Opportunities – 1st
Academic Support – 1st
Learning Community – 1st
Assessment and Feedback – 2nd
The Teaching on my course – 2nd
Learning Resources – 5th

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* 2019/20 numbers based on draft HESA return. All other years are final HESA submissions.

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Research

The University is committed to academic research and continues to invest significantly in the professional development of the academic community and in projects to promote research activity. The University proudly promotes the strapline to students that all our researchers teach and all our teachers research.

The outcome of the Research Excellence Framework (REF) exercise announced in December 2014 rated 90% of our research as internationally renowned with 15% classified as 'world-leading'. This improved research performance in turn led to a significant increase in OfS research funding which continues until the outcome of the next REF planned for 2021.

Income from externally funded research remained stable in 2019/20. The published research is available through the University of Chichester Institutional Repository, which is an open access hub that showcases the excellent research output of the University's departments, making it available to the public and to the research community worldwide in a searchable, browse-able database.

Regional Regeneration

An economic impact report was commissioned using DTZ to identify the contribution to the wider business community of the campuses in both Chichester and Bognor Regis. The report identifies that the University of Chichester "has a major economic impact" contributing "£126.3m into the local economy" based on 2014/15 data. A projected figure looking forward to 2021 and "based on the delivery of all University plans" demonstrated that the University's economic impact will grow to £295.9m by 2021, with the most significant gains in Bognor Regis where the Technology building opened in 2018/19. In addition, the opening of the School of Nursing and Allied Health on the Bishop Otter campus in 2021 will contribute to the post-Covid-19 recovery of the region by offering routes into highly skilled employment in the health sector.

Another major contribution to regional regeneration is the 'Business Hot House Programme' led by the Business School. This three-year programme secured £11m from the European Regional Development Fund to provide business support across the region, working with six partner organisations (Brighton & Hove District Council, EDEAL, Sussex Innovation Centre, YTKO Limited, The Prince's Trust, WSX Enterprise Limited). Almost 1000 SMEs will benefit directly from the small project grants and training programmes.

The University also received support from the Higher Education Innovation Fund (HEIF) during 2019-20. This has been used to stimulate graduate enterprise; the number of graduate start-ups increased from 2 in 2018 to 26 in 2019. Links with regional employers have been strengthened through the University's degree apprenticeship programmes: Rolls-Royce Motor Cars Limited and South West Trains are among the larger companies who have supported degree apprentices in engineering; in addition, public sector links are evident in the successful procurement exercises with several local authorities for Social Work degree apprenticeships.

The University continues to have excellent links with schools and local FE providers in the wider region. The University of Chichester (Multi) Academy Trust was established in 2012/13 in order to sponsor academy schools. As sponsor of The Academy Trust, the University is taking a key role in improving standards and raising aspirations within these schools. The Trust consists of thirteen primary schools and one secondary school and is in a phase of steady growth. The University can now evidence the added value it has brought to its member schools both through the creation of the Trust and from the services provided by staff in the University's Department of Education.

The University of Chichester

Directors, Governors, Senior Management Team and Advisers

The Governing body of the University is the Board of Governors, which is comprised of between sixteen and twenty-five members (currently sixteen). Under the University's Articles of Association, the Board must consist of:

- The Vice-Chancellor;
- Independent Governors, the number of which must not be less than half the total number of governors;
- Three nominated Governors (one student, normally the President of the Students' Union, one from the teaching staff, and one from the non-teaching staff.)

The remainder are co-opted Governors.

At least half the Independent Governors are recommended by the Bishop Otter Trust (four members), one of whom is the Bishop of Chichester or his nominee. The Governing body has a broad range of appointees including those with experience as senior executives from legal, financial and commercial backgrounds as well as individuals in leadership roles in Further and Higher Education.

The University Executive is known as the Vice-Chancellor's Group (VCG) and is comprised of:

- Professor Jane Longmore, Vice-Chancellor
- Professor Simeon Keates, Deputy Vice-Chancellor
- Dr Mark Mason, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Student Experience)
- Mr James Granger, Chief Operating Officer
- Mrs Elisabeth Whitaker, Chief Human Resources Officer
- Mr Mark Barlow, Chief Marketing Officer

The Vice-Chancellor's Group is supported by key senior managers who lead functional departments across the University.

The following governors have served during the 2019-20 financial year and the 2020-2021 year until the date of formal approval of the financial statements by the Board of Governors. Start and leave dates are captured in the middle column with the significant governor roles shown on the right. More details of individual governors including a photo and short biography can be found on the University website:

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Capital Projects

Fixed asset additions amounted to £573k during the year. A number of small capital projects were deferred to 2020/21 as a result of Covid-19.

Value for Money

The University strives to use its funds and resources to achieve best value across all of its activities. The stakeholders of the University are a broad community, who go beyond the Board of Governors, the