



The
University
Of
Sheffield.

The Senate, 12 December 2018

Acting President & Vice-Chancellor's Report (The Council, 22 October 2018)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This paper presents a summary of key background information on recent developments, and is based on the Acting President & Vice-Chancellor's report to Council on 22 October 2018.

The President & Vice-Chancellor will introduce the report at the 12 December 2018 Senate meeting and will provide members of the Senate with the opportunity to raise questions on any aspect of the report.

1. EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT

1.1 Policy Update

- Developments in a number of aspects of HE policy are still awaited: waiting for outcomes on: Brexit; the new immigration system; the Post-18 Education and Funding Review; and on subject-level TEF (Teaching Excellence and Student Outcomes Framework) decisions from Government.

1.2 Office for Students (OfS)

- OfS [published](#) its first list of registered HE providers in July 2018. There were initially 42 providers on the list, as of 9 October 2018, 122, officially regulated by the OfS; a mix of universities, colleges, conservatoires and drama schools. So far, 366 applications for registration have been received and are being assessed. An interesting indicator of the OfS wielding its powers is its decision to impose extra conditions on both the [University of Oxford](#) and the [University of Cambridge](#) in relation to evaluation of their access and participation plans (followed subsequently with a condition on Oxford Brookes University about its self-assessment in its access and participation plan).

TUoS interest: The University of Sheffield has successfully registered.

- OfS published [guidance](#) in June 2018 on preparing and publishing financial statements. Universities will need to provide the OfS with details about the total remuneration package paid to their Vice-Chancellor, and will be required to justify those salaries.
- OfS is [consulting](#) on its new approach to access and participation (closes 12 October 2018). Chris Millward, Director of Fair Access and Participation at the OfS, expects universities to be "rigorous in their self-reflection and use of evaluation and evidence" and to set strategic targets which focus on outcomes. The new approach also reflects the OfS's explicit focus on the whole student lifecycle, where progress and outcomes are equally as important as initial access.

1.3 Brexit

- The [European Union \(Withdrawal\) Act 2018](#) received Royal Assent in June 2018. The Bill passed in the House of Commons by a vote of 319 to 303 and the House of Lords

accepted the amendments.

- The continued in-fighting within the UK Government and lack of a deal has raised speculation of a 'no-deal' Brexit (no single withdrawal agreement deal). The Government has published its [guidance documents](#) on preparation for no deal in the Brexit negotiations. Related to HE, these include information on [Horizon 2020](#) funding and the [Erasmus+](#) programme. The Government has reiterated its previous commitment of funding guarantees for Horizon funding projects submitted before the UK leaves the EU (until the end of this EU budget period if no deal is agreed) and to underwrite all successful bids of UK applicants for the Erasmus+ programme. The documents also acknowledge areas where further agreement is required to sustain participation in the programmes following the UK's exit from the EU, including the implications of third country status for Horizon 2020.
- The Government [announced](#) in July 2018 that EU students enrolling in English universities in 2019/20 will pay the same tuition fees as UK students and remain eligible for financial support for the duration of their courses.
- The Home Office [published](#) details in June 2018 on how EU citizens and their families can obtain settled status in the UK. The Government's "default" position would be to grant, not refuse. The Home Office further has [announced](#) that people working or studying at 12 NHS trusts in north-west England and three universities in Liverpool will be the first to trial the Home Office's system to apply for "settled status" for EU citizens in the UK.
- **TUoS interest:** The University continues to provide updates to its staff and students and provide support on the impact of Brexit on individual staff and students. The University is also undertaking no-deal risk assessment work.

1.4 Immigration

- The Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) published its [report](#) in September 2018 on the *Impact of International Students in the UK*. The report disappointed many by recommending that international students should be kept in the net migration target and stopped short of backing a post-study work visa. However, it did recommend that leave to remain in the UK be extended to six months after graduation for all master's students and to 12 months for all PhD students, along with an easing of the rules for those switching from student to skilled worker visas.
- Caroline Nokes MP, Immigration Minister, [announced](#) in July 2018 a 'UKRI Science, Research and Academia' scheme, which will allow researchers, scientists and academics from outside the European Economic Area to come to the UK for up to two years. The scheme is being added to the Tier 5 (Temporary Worker - Government Authorised Exchange) visa route. UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) Chief Executive, Professor Sir Mark Walport, said the scheme will provide further support for international researchers to work and train in the UK.
- In September 2018, the Russell Group [called](#) for a new European Skills Permit for qualified workers who can demonstrate a job offer or who can bring a research grant to the UK, and students with a place at an accredited institution.

1.5 Review of Post-18 Education and Funding

- The Review of Post-18 Education and Funding Independent Panel, chaired by Philip Augar, is not expected to publish its interim report before the end of 2018. This is to enable the Panel to consider an Office for National Statistics report on how student loans should appear in the Government's accounts, which is expected in December. The Government is still expected to conclude the overall Review in early 2019.
- In July 2018, the Office for National Statistics [set out](#) (section 4) its suggestions for the treatment of student loans in the public accounts. This relatively obscure and

highly technical issue may have a major impact on future fees policy – and on the conclusions of the Post-18 Education and Funding Review. The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) has published a [working paper](#) looking at the “various fiscal illusions that are created by the National Accounts treatment of student loans”.

1.6 National Student Survey, DLHE and TEF

- The Higher Education Statistics Authority (HESA) [published](#) Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) data in June 2018. It shows that 91% of 2016/17 leavers surveyed were in work or further study six months after leaving HE. 2016/17 also showed the largest gender pay gap in five years with median graduate salaries for men in professional roles an equivalent of £2,000 per year more than women in professional roles. A new Graduate Outcomes survey is being implemented by HESA and data is due to be published in spring 2020.
- The results of the 2018 National Student Survey (NSS) were [published](#) in July 2018 and show overall satisfaction of 83% in comparison with 84% last year. 8% were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied with their HE experience and the remaining 8% were dissatisfied.

TUoS interest: Council will receive information about the University’s NSS results, for example as part of reporting on KPI performance.

- DfE published a research [report](#) in June 2018 intended to provide evidence to refine the design of subject-level TEF, and more broadly, the teaching quality and student outcomes factors contained within it. The DfE is currently considering responses to its consultation on the design of subject-level TEF.

TUoS interest: The University will submit to TEF Year 4 (see Section 5.2, below).

1.7 Student mental health

- There has been a continued focus on student mental health. The development of the University Mental Health Charter will be funded by the UPP Foundation (a charity established by the private accommodation provider UPP) and led by Student Minds, outlines Richard Brabner, Director of the UPP Foundation, in a Times Higher [comment](#) piece.
- The Universities Minister, Sam Gyimah MP, wrote to all university vice-chancellors ahead of the new term, telling them to prioritise the mental health and wellbeing of new students; the press covered the contents of the letter e.g. as [reported](#) on in the Independent. In the letter, the Minister argues that “leadership from the top is essential” and urged universities to make positive progress on the issue before the Government’s Mental Health Charter anticipated implementation in the 2019/20 academic year.

TUoS interest: Council approved a University-wide mental health strategy in November 2017.

2. EDUCATION AND STUDENT EXPERIENCE

2.1 Student recruitment

- Reporting at this point is always provisional until students are registered. We would expect some attrition (of c.4% for home and c.14% for overseas) between these numbers and the final registrations position at the 1 December census date. The University monitors and reports on registrations regularly until 1 December and this will be included in future reports to Council. Confirmed enrolments for new full-time students as at 1 October were as follows:

Undergraduate	Intake registered at 1 October 2018	% change compared with 2017 intake registered at 1 October 2018
Home/EU undergraduate	4426	-8%
Overseas undergraduate	1074	+17%
Home/EU taught postgraduate	1587	-6%
Overseas taught postgraduate	3892	+31%
Home/EU research postgraduate	350	-8%
Overseas research postgraduate	266	+7%

- Undergraduate Programmes:** As at 17 September 2018, the number of expected home undergraduate entrants (who have accepted an unconditional offer) stands at 4375, 202 below the target figure of 4577. Unconditional overseas undergraduate offer-holders total 1161, which is 181 over the target figure of 980. There has been an overall reduction in undergraduate applications this year across the sector (including to the University), with the drop in the 18-year-old home population the main cause. It will be 2023 before the 18-year-old population returns to 2017 levels. Within the numbers, 725 were accepted through Clearing and Adjustment, compared to 835 last year, with a focus on the quality of intake. Overall, 76% of home undergraduate acceptances at Sheffield have A level grades of ABB or above (or equivalent standards), with overseas applicants bringing qualifications of a similar standard (In 2017, 72% of the intake were of ABB or above quality). This represents a further year-on-year improvement in the quality of the new intake.
- Postgraduate Programmes:** The number of expected PGT home student registrations by 1 October reflects an 8% fall in applications compared to 2017 (from 4673 to 4311) whereas PGT overseas applications increased by 10% and is reflected in the positive registration position. Expected registrations of PGR home students are 2% lower than 2017, against a 3% decline in applications and 10% reduction in offers, and indications are that expected PGR overseas registrations will be 5% higher than last year. Research students can join a course at a number of points in the academic year so a small number more may still register.

2.2 National and International University Performance Tables

- The following table shows the University's ranking in a number of league tables published since the last meeting of Council:

Shanghai Jiao Tong Academic Ranking of World Universities (published 15 August 2018) www.shanghairanking.com		
2018: 101-150	2017: 101-150	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sheffield remains in the 101-150 band which is unchanged since 2015 (rankings outside the top 100 are published in bands). The ranking is based on research related measures relating to Nobel Prizes, Highly Cited Researchers, and publications (including those in Nature and Science).

Times Higher Education World University Ranking (published 26 September 2018) https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings		
2018: 106	2017: 104	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The ranking is based on 13 indicators across the five themes of: teaching, research, citations, industry income and international outlook. ▪ The overall score for Sheffield has increased slightly, by 1.8%. This has mostly been driven by an increase in the Teaching measure.
Times Good University Guide (published 24 September 2018) http://thetimes.co.uk (behind paywall)		
2018: 25	2017: 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Overall score has fallen from 711 to 676. This has been impacted by the drop in entry standards and both NSS measures. ▪ The league table is made up of nine indicators including student satisfaction with teaching quality and their wider student experience, research quality, graduate prospects, entrance qualifications held by new students, degree results achieved, student/staff ratios, service and facilities spend, and degree completion rates. ▪ As well as institutional ranking, the table identifies centres of excellence within each of 67 subject areas. The subject rankings are based on student opinion on teaching quality and their wider university experience, combined with the outcomes of the 2014 research assessments, graduate job prospects and course entry standards. Six subjects were in the top 10% in their table: Architecture, Biological Sciences, Communication & Media Studies, Criminology, Drama, Dance & Cinematics, History.

2.3 Programme Level Approach (PLA)

- The three PLA priority actions for departments during 2018/19 are to:
 - Undertake a survey of current assessment (methods, volume, and content) across each programme in relation to programme learning outcomes, with a view to identifying opportunities to improve the appropriateness, effectiveness, and efficiency of assessment practice, and ultimately to reduce assessment burden.
 - Enact the departmental plans developed last year for engaging students in the process and discuss with students their experiences of assessment and feedback within programmes and how they might be improved.
 - Generate an overview of the distribution of assessments across the academic year for each programme, reflect on the balance of these, and take appropriate action to improve the distribution and management of assessments.

2.4 Preparing for subject-level TEF (Teaching Excellence Framework)

- Departments have been provided with a tailored template for a concise top-level action plan, including details of planned interventions, individuals responsible, and timescales for delivery. This will be monitored and reported to the Learning and Teaching Committee and Senate as part of formal oversight and UEB will be provided with regular updates. We will also be making a submission in January 2019 to renew our institutional TEF award.

2.5 Student Evaluation of programmes and modules

- Recognising the importance of student feedback, we aim to improve our use of

student evaluation through a more consistent approach to the questions we ask, how we review findings, and how we update students on action taken. We will be introducing a core set of questions for end of module and end of programme evaluations in 2018-19 with scope to add additional bespoke questions, and will be clarifying expectations in terms of how results are used and information and actions are shared with students. For this session, departments will use their current system for evaluation while we search for an institution-wide online solution. Longer term our aim is to move to a single system allowing online completion and supporting departments with better reporting and analysis.

2.6 Employability

- The University of Sheffield is the top university in the north of England for producing employable graduates, according to data announced by the Sunday Times (21 September 2018). The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2019 reveals that nearly 85 percent of University of Sheffield graduates secure graduate-level employment or further study within six months of finishing their studies.

2.7 Student Wellbeing

- For the first time, all students are now being offered the opportunity for free psychological and wellbeing support offered through NHS IAPT (Improving Access to Psychological Therapy)- a joint initiative with Sheffield Hallam University. IAPT programmes of 5 weekly sessions of 1.5 hours are being offered to all students on the University campuses, providing students with skills training to manage feelings of low mood, anxiety and stress. The first programme commences on 24 October and second programme will run in semester 2.

2.8 Top 50 MOOCs of All Time listing

- The Online Learning Team, in Academic Programmes and Student Engagement (APSE) has developed a free online course - "The Musculoskeletal System: The Science of Staying Active Into Old Age" - which has been rated one of the "Top 50 MOOCs of All Time" by learners on Class Central, the #1 MOOC search engine. The top 50 listing is based on reviews from learners who have taken the course which was led by academics from Sheffield's Medical School, in collaboration with colleagues at Liverpool and Newcastle.

2.9 External Audit of Support Worker Service

- In July 2018, the second annual audit of the student Support Worker Service, part of the Disability and Dyslexia Support Service was conducted by [DSA-QAG \(Disabled Student Allowance- Quality Assurance Group\)](#), reporting to the Department for Education. The Service was delighted to receive an audit rating of 97.99%.

2.10 The University Library – Student engagement and feedback

- The Library consistently attracts positive feedback from students, for example NSS 2018 attracted 90% agreement that "the library resources (e.g. books, online services and learning spaces) have supported my learning well" and joint first place for Library services in the THE Student Experience Survey 2017.
- Student use of learning spaces continues to grow and demonstrates a significant contribution to student learning outside of the classroom. Last year, the Information Commons (IC) alone attracted over 1 million unique visits and in one week during the busiest period accommodated over 105,000 student hours.
- The total number of visits across all Libraries last year was over 3.3million.
- Engagement with ebooks has risen dramatically over recent years (over 500%

since 2010), with 5.5million ebook section requests made last year.

- Enquiries to the Library's virtual advisory and help service rose to 29,000 last year and a further 33,000 face to face enquiries were handled.

TUoS interest: TUoS will respond to the OfS consultation and its Widening Participation Research and Evaluation Unit (WPREU) is taking part in a bid for the EIX.

3. RESEARCH AND ITS IMPACT

3.1 Research awards

- The total research net contribution (representing net recovered research overheads) on the new awards for the 12 months to July 2018 was £35.4m compared with £33.1m for the 12 months to July 2017.
- New awards for the 12 months ending 31 August 2018 are £182.3m. This is an increase of £9.3m (5.4%) on the value of awards to August 2017 (£173m).
- Since the end of May 2018, there have been 4 new awards for over £1m: £7m was from Innovate UK, representing the AMRC's 18/19 Catapult Equipment award; Medical Research Council funded awards of £2.2m and £1.3m; and £1m from the EPSRC.
- The value of new awards for the 12 month to the end of August 2018 has shown a small rise in the EU Framework and Industry Sponsor Categories with a large rise of £32.4m in UK Government awards compared to the 12 months to August 2017, due to the timing and increase in value of the AMRC's annual Catapult funding. The value of new awards for Overseas and RCUK sponsor categories fell by £8.2m and £17.6m respectively between August 2017 and August 2018.
- There has been a fall of 44 in the number of new grants opened for the 12 months to 31 August 2018 (873) compared to 2017 (917). This fall would have been 126 but for a net increase of 88 in the number of Catapult awards in the 12 month figures to August 2018. The biggest falls in the number of new awards is from the RCUK and Industry sectors of 35 and 25 respectively.
- As at August 2018 research grants Work In Progress (Research Order Book) stands at £283.8m (£258.0m excluding AMRC) which is an increase of £20.4m on August 2017 (£263.4m). Our trajectory for new research awards remains positive but the funding landscape is changing rapidly. UK Government funding via UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) and its Research Councils (RCUK) is moving towards both directed and large collaborative awards. Traditional responsive mode funding still exists, but demand management by UKRI has improved internal peer review within institutions and hence the quality of applications.

3.2 Research development

- The University of Sheffield is one of 25 Universities selected by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) to be awarded a Global Impact Accelerator Account (GIAA). The award is from the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF), made on the basis of successful track record in securing GCRF awards. It builds on existing UKRI mechanisms to enable institutions to act strategically in support of impact from Official Development Assistance (ODA) research. The aims of the GIAs are to support knowledge exchange, commercialisation and capacity building in order to enable innovation and impact in an international development context. We will use the award strategically to accelerate the development of relevant REF Impact Case Studies identified through the recent stocktake.
- Over the past 12-18 months, the University has undertaken a process to identify the first group of University Research Institutes. These will be flagship cross-

disciplinary research institutes, which receive focus and support and act as exemplars of our excellent research and impact. The final recommendations will be made to Senate for approval on 31 October, after which preparations will begin for implementation and internal/external communications.

3.3 Research Excellence Framework

- The annual REF stock take has been completed. UEB has discussed the findings and agreed an action plan with owners and timescales to ensure focus on the immediate next steps, particularly ensuring our Impact Case Studies are progressing as these now represent 25% of the final quality profile. Overall performance in REF depends heavily on our impact, in which performance was less strong than in REF2014 than for research outputs.

3.4 Impact, innovation and knowledge exchange

- The University has submitted an Expression of Interest for the UK Research and Innovation led Strength in Places fund. The £48M bid – led by the University of Sheffield - has been developed with representatives from the Sheffield City Region Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and Sheffield Hallam University along with partners from the North-West as well as industry. The outcome of the EOI is expected at the end of October 2018. The next stage would be a full proposal by April 2019.
- In October 2018, Jake Berry MP the Northern Powerhouse Minister will officially open the Faculty of Engineering's three new advanced engineering research centres: Laboratory for Verification and Validation (LVV), Integrated Civil and Infrastructure Research Centre (ICAIR) and the Royce Translational Centre (RTC). These represent a £47M development part-funded by European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), UK Research and Innovation and the University of Sheffield. Located next to Factory 2050, the centres will work with regional SMEs and large businesses to carry out initial research into new technologies and translation into industry-ready applications.
- Partnerships and Regional Engagement is working across the University to secure further ERDF funding, including a Faculty of Engineering bid to secure £6.8M for a Translational Energy Research Centre from European Structural Investment Fund (ESIF) matched with funding from BEIS and a joint bid (£1.3M) from the Careers Service with Sheffield City Council and Sheffield Hallam University to continue the RISE programme - a business support programme which focuses on connecting the two universities with the ambitious regional growth agenda – with the aim of enabling local companies to recruit and retain 400 graduates across the city region.
- The University is a partner in a £3M proposal to ESIF, led by Sheffield Hallam, to continue the Sheffield Innovation Programme (SIP) by building on and complementing the existing account management approach around a small number of regional businesses. The University component is £450,120.
- The fourth biennial Festival of the Mind took place over 11 days in September 2018, showcasing the University's world-class research through collaborative projects between academics and artists from Sheffield's creative industries. More than 300 events involved 145 of our academics from all five faculties sharing their research with the public through events, performances, installations and exhibitions. Initial analysis indicates visitor figures in excess of 50,000 from across the city.
- At the end of September, the University curated Sheffield Makes Music day, held in conjunction with the BBC's Music Day, with a range of events designed to highlight the city's rich musical heritage. A highlight was the broadcasting of BBC 6

Music's national Steve Lamacq show live from the Spiegel tent – the heart of the Festival of the Mind activities in the city centre- with an audience of 1.2 million.

4. STRATEGIC PARTNERS

4.1 AMRC

- The AMRC Group Executive Board, chaired by the President & Vice-Chancellor held its first meeting of 2018/19 in September. The Provost & Deputy Vice-Chancellor and the Vice-President for Research have joined the membership. In addition to receiving an update on the AMRC Training Centre, the draft financial results for 2017/18 and emerging opportunities, risks and threats, the Board reflected on discussions at July Council and action taken and planned since then. A Task and Finish group has been established to prepare a draft University Strategy for the AMRC to be shared with the new President & Vice-Chancellor in November. The Group has also overseen the production of an inventory of AMRC assets with a view to tendering for external consultancy services to consider possible alternative structures, models and financing.

4.2 Funds raised

- Cash Received and Funds Secured (new donations, including pledges) in the previous financial year 2017/2018 (with a comparison to 2016/17):

Cash Received	Value	Funds Secured	Value
01/08/2017 – 31/07/2018	£7,244,965	01/08/2017 – 31/07/2018	£8,280,522
01/08/2016 – 31/07/2017	£8,700,942	01/08/2016 – 31/07/2017	£11,869,882

- Cash Received and Funds Secured (new donations, including pledges) in the current financial year 2018/19 (with a comparison to 2017/18):

Cash Received	Value	Funds Secured	Value
01/08/2018 – 28/09/2018	£1,927,807	01/08/2018 – 28/09/2018	£345,963
01/08/2017 – 28/09/2017	£1,090,590	01/08/2017 – 28/09/2017	£390,473

5. OUR PLACE: LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY

5.1 Inbound visits:

- **Agent Conference** - 43 agents from across the world over three days in June, showcasing the University of Sheffield experience with interactive sessions, a trip to Chatsworth and dinner at the Cutlers' Hall.
- **University of Shanghai for Science and Technology (USST)** - A Memorandum of Understanding was signed.
- **Nanjing University and Beijing Language and Culture University** - To attend the Confucius Institute's July Board Meeting and visited the AMRC. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with Nanjing.
- **Yantai University** - Initiated through Yantai University's links with Sheffield Forgemasters International.
- **China-Britain Business Council (CBBC)**
- **British High Commissioner to Malaysia**

- **University of Auckland** - Auckland is a partner in the Worldwide Universities Network (WUN).
- **UUKi Go: International Stand Out Seminar** - The University pledged its support to UUKi's Go International: Stand Out campaign to increase the number of UK students studying, working and volunteering abroad as part of their studies.
- **Doshisha University** - one of our Japanese partner universities.
- **White Rose Brussels Office** - Three interns, one from each of the universities, have again been selected to work at the White Rose Brussels Office.

5.2 Outbound visits:

- **Renmin University of China** - A memorandum of understanding has been signed.

5.3 Other activity

- **University of Sheffield China Project Managers** - Two Project Managers are now based in Beijing and Shanghai, to support recruitment, agents and partnership development.
- **Tsinghua University** - An MoU has been signed to work on Future Lab.

6. PUBLIC RESPONSIBILITY

6.1 Milestones and significant developments

- Over £1.8million has been raised towards the Sheffield Scanner MRI-PET campaign to date, towards our target of £2million

6.2 Reputation and communications

- International coverage was achieved in countries such as the US, India, China, Pakistan and Germany. Recent examples include:
 - University researchers found that those who experience Autonomous Sensory Meridian Response (ASMR) had significantly reduced heart rates while watching ASMR videos compared to people who do not experience ASMR. This received widespread coverage in Newsweek, Daily Mail, Guardian and BBC Breakfast.
 - A new study from the University's Alcohol Research Group showed two-thirds of alcohol industry revenue in England comes from consumers drinking at risky levels. Coverage of the study was included in The Daily Mail, The Guardian, The Independent, and The Telegraph.
 - Extensive media coverage ahead of and during Clearing and Adjustment helped raise awareness of the University as a choice destination for high achieving students and played a part in the University achieving 1,937 advance registrations. This was up from 1241 the year before, a high proportion of which were high achieving students. This was covered in publications such as The Guardian, The Times, ITV News, and Channel 5 News.

6.3 Success and achievement

- The University won a bid which will fund a new project, in collaboration with the universities of Oxford, Cambridge and Newcastle and industrial and health sector partners, to drive forward collaboration concerned with the Internet of Things.
- The University will become a founding partner in a new £5m consortium, set up to promote business engagement and entrepreneurship focused on social science research. The funding, part of Research England's Connecting Capability Fund, will support ASPECT - a social sciences platform for entrepreneurship,

commercialisation and transformation.

- The University was shortlisted for a prestigious Times Higher Education Leadership and Management Award (THELMA) for its commitment to forging strong and impactful partnerships with universities, companies and governments across the globe.
- The University's new multi-million pound electron microscopy facility was officially opened with a visit by Dr Richard Henderson, winner of the 2017 Nobel Prize in Chemistry.
- Professor Sir Keith Burnett was presented with the Made in Sheffield Special Recognition Award.
- The #WeAreInternational campaign continues to show that the UK is welcoming to international students, according to the QS Enrolment Solutions International Student Survey 2018.
- Twenty-one year-old Ben Siddall from Barnsley became the fifth apprentice to win the 'Apprentice of the Year' at the Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (AMRC) Training Centre's annual award ceremony in May 2018.
- A University scheme, 'Cool to be Clever, promoting academic excellence and aspiration amongst some of the most disadvantaged pupils in Sheffield has been hailed as an area of good practice in a government report.
- A revolutionary neck collar, designed in collaboration with the University, that eases pain and makes everyday tasks such as eating and communicating much easier for patients living with motor neurone disease (MND) is now available to healthcare professionals and individuals across the world.
- An appeal to bring a revolutionary medical imaging scanner to Yorkshire to accelerate pioneering research into devastating diseases and give patients access to ground-breaking clinical trials, reached the £1.5 million milestone.
- University of Sheffield alumna and the first Briton in space, Dr Helen Sharman OBE, delivered the University's inaugural Convocation Lecture.
- The Times Higher Education Leadership and Management Awards 2018 (THELMAs) presented the University with its award for Outstanding Library Team for addressing some of the major challenges facing libraries in the UK.
- The University has been awarded a £2 million grant from the National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) for research aimed to prevent and reduce premature birth.
- Two talented engineering students from the University of Sheffield won a prestigious national student award for their outstanding contribution to their work in industry. Dhilan Devadasan, a final year student in Materials Science and Engineering, and Máté Lukács, a third year Mechanical Engineering student, won the Commercial Impact category at the Student Employee of the Year Awards.
- Professor Gill Valentine was made a Fellow of the prestigious British Academy for the humanities and social sciences.
- The Department of Oncology and Metabolism was awarded £230,000 to fund pioneering research into osteosarcoma from the charity Hannah's Willberry Wonder Pony.
- The University and Students' Union are the first organisations in the country to back a campaign led by Lord Mayor of Sheffield Magid Magid by pledging to take positive action to promote mental wellbeing and prevent suicide.

- Professor Rob Dwyer-Joyce and Professor Marco Viceconti (Department of Mechanical Engineering), were elected as Fellows of the Royal Academy of Engineering.
- Education and business leaders from Sheffield launched the China UK Business Incubator (CUBI), a new hub set to help build links and generate investment from China located at the New Era Development. Professor Sir Keith Burnett will be Honorary President of the CUBI.
- Dr Kay Guccione and Dr James Field were awarded prestigious National Teaching Fellowships by the Higher Education Academy for the outstanding impact they make on innovative learning for students and staff and their dedication to the teaching profession in higher education.

CHALLENGE OF RESOURCE

7.

7.1 Draft financial results to 31 July 2018

The draft financial results for 2017/18 are subject to external audit and are for the University entity only.

The financial headlines for underlying activities are as follows:

- The University is reporting an underlying operating surplus of £20.0m in 2017/18 (+3.0% of underlying income) compared to an underlying deficit of £7.1m (-1.1% of underlying income) in 2016/17. The University has exceeded its Financial Operating Strategy target of 1.8% underlying operating surplus, being £8.1m ahead of target.
- The budget for 2017/18 was for an underlying operating deficit of £4.2m (-0.7% of underlying income). The draft results show a positive difference of £24.2m. The most significant differences are:
 - Additional tuition fee income of £7.4m (2.3%); of this £10.6m relates to Home and Overseas PGT income, which has been partially offset by UG income being £4.7m below budget. However, the income position is variable across the faculties.
 - Funding Council grant income has increased by £1.4m (1.8%).
 - Other income is £12.9m higher, which includes £10.0m of additional patent and licence income in the Faculty of Medicine, primarily relating to Lynparza. This income is offset by an increase in related expenditure of £8.4m, meaning that the results include a net benefit of £1.6m compared to budget.
 - Underspends in Faculty core of £3.2m (1.8%) and Professional Services of £4.0m (6.1%).
 - Underspends in Shared costs of £5.1m (3.5%), including underspends in depreciation of £1.7m, other estates costs of £2.3m, central IT of £1.0m and additional VAT recovery of £0.9m, offset by an overspend in overseas agents' fees of £2.2m. Some of these underspends relate to non-recurrent items.
 - The contribution from Residences, Catering and Conferences is £1.9m less than included in the budget and reflects reduced income due to the shortfall in Home student recruitment. This is only partially offset by reductions in expenditure and due to additional depreciation charges arising from the July 2018 revaluation of the University's residential properties.

Underlying financial performance in 2017/18 has also exceeded the outturn forecast, with the draft results showing a positive difference of £11.0m compared to the outturn forecast surplus of £9.0m (+1.4% of underlying income) due to lower levels of

expenditure than predicted in the outturn review.

Total University results: published accounts 2017/18 (draft)

- The total surplus ('comprehensive income') for the University for 2017/18 is £144.3m (2016/17 £18.3m surplus). The improvement of £126.0m in the financial performance between the two years illustrates the volatility arising from some large non-operational accounting entries shown in the 'Other activities' column, which mask the underlying results. The main one being a reduction of £87.3m in the accounting estimate of the University of Sheffield Pension Scheme (USPS) liability from £147.2m in 2016/17 to £59.9m in 2017/18, the movement being recognised in the statement of comprehensive income.
- The other main non-operational movements between the two years include additional capital grant income of £31.0m and set against this are lower property revaluation net gains, which are £47.4m less than in the previous year (relating mostly to the University's residential properties).

Balance Sheet:

- The University's net assets have increased by £144.3m during the year.
- The provisions for the University's share of the USS Pension scheme deficit, and the USPS scheme overall deficit decreased by £93.9m. This is comprised of a reduction of £6.6m for USS to £60.7m and a reduction of £87.3m in the USPS to £59.9m (both of which result in a corresponding increase to the net asset position).
- Net cash has increased by £31.1m in comparison to the same position at 31 July 2017, reflecting an increase of £28.8m in cash and cash equivalents and a reduction of £2.3m in debt.
- The cash flow statement shows that the cash inflow generated by operating activities was £100.5m (2016/17: £79.9m), but this was reduced by a net cash outflow for capital expenditure of £98.5m (2016/17: £106.4m). The net cash inflow for the period was £28.8m, in comparison to a net cash outflow of £30.9m to the same position at 31 July 2017. The movement of £59.7m is mainly due to the improvement in the surplus for the year.
- Fixed assets show an increase of £12.2m, reflecting £98.5m of capital expenditure and revaluation gains of £0.2m less depreciation of £80.5m and disposals of £2.5m.

8. POWER OF PEOPLE

8.1 Pensions - USS

- Following the UCU industrial action earlier in 2018, the employers and trade union representatives agreed to form a Joint Expert Panel (JEP) to consider the USS 2017 Valuation. The industrial action was suspended whilst the JEP formed and deliberated. The [JEP report](#) has now been released and has been welcomed by most commentators.
- The JEP estimates that if all of its recommendations were applied to the valuation process, without any changes to benefits (except the removal of the match), then total contributions would increase by c.3.2% compared to 10.6% under the current valuation position. This would require all stakeholders (including the USS Trustee and Pensions Regulator) accepting the recommendations, and for the USS Joint Negotiating Committee (JNC) to agree alternative proposals, based on the JEP report, to recommend to the USS Trustee.

- In the meantime, the current [USS member consultation](#) on the prevailing USS Trustee valuation continues and will run until 2 November 2018.
- The University's joint [USS Working Group](#) is reconvening to consider the latest position and to help inform the University's response to it..
- The risk of further industrial action over pensions is reduced as a result of the JEP report, though the dispute remains live and the risk of further disruption remains.
- Further information is available [online](#).

8.2 National pay negotiations

- The Employers made a [final offer](#) of a 2% uplift on all pay points of the national pay spine with additional loading on the lowest 15 points. This was accepted by GMB but rejected by UCU, Unite and UNISON (and EIS in Scotland). [The joint trade union claim](#) was for a 7.5% increase or £1,500 whichever was greater. The University, on the advice of its national representative UCEA, has implemented the final pay offer with effect from 1 August 2018.
- UCU, UNISON and Unite are now in dispute with the employers over the pay negotiations. UCU and UNISON have ballots open for industrial action. Unite have not yet indicated who or when they will ballot.
- UCU is balloting its c1,600 members at the University for strike action and action short of a strike (ASOS). This is a disaggregated ballot where UCU are seeking a mandate for action at each individual employer.
- UNISON is balloting nationally in an aggregated ballot for strike action only. This means to take action they will need to get a 50% turnout in the vote nationally. UNISON has around 360 members at the University.
- If either trade union achieves a mandate for industrial action, the earliest we could expect that to be called is early/mid-November. The University is planning for the possibility of industrial action. Further information is available [online](#).

8.3 Academic career pathways

- A new Academic Career Pathway was launched across the University in June 2018, ahead of implementation in 2019. The Pathway forms a key part of our excellence and ambition agenda and sets out the expectations of academics at each academic grade across Research, Teaching, Academic Leadership and Professional Standing & Wider Engagement. It will be used to underpin standards of academic performance through processes such as recruitment and selection, induction, probation, the annual staff review and development review process, reward and promotion.
- The Pathway expectations define the level of performance an academic should achieve in their current role and what they need to achieve to be promoted to the next level, building on the existing understanding of what constitutes an academic role and providing greater clarity and specificity around expectations. The Pathway was developed through extensive consultation with focus groups, academic leaders, the University Executive Board and trade unions. An extensive programme of engagement with each faculty is underway.

8.4 Sheffield leader - impact

- Sheffield Leader: Impact is the next phase of the University's leadership development programme. It will equip those in or aspiring to priority leadership positions with the skills, behaviours, confidence and drive to respond to and deliver change that is necessary for them to accomplish their own leadership roles

and to take collective responsibility for delivering the University's ambition of excellence. In our rapidly changing environment it is vital we instil the management confidence and capability in our leaders so they can deliver innovative and creative solutions to the pressing challenges we face.

- The development offer comprises personal leadership development and executive team development. Those new to the role of Head of Department and those identified as future leaders are included as separate cohorts. The offer continues to be designed and co-created with our partner consultancy, and aims to launch later in 2018.

8.5 Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) report – EEA workers in the UK labour market

- The MAC published its report on EEA workers in the UK labour market on 18 September 2018. MAC recommends that free movement from the EU should end and that a future immigration system should be based on existing Tier 2 (General) system with no preference for EEA workers over non-EEA workers. In this scenario the MAC recommends the following:
 - Abolition of the Tier 2 (General) cap
 - Medium-skilled jobs should be eligible for Tier 2 (General) not just high skilled jobs as at present
 - The salary threshold at £30,000 should be retained but the list of eligible occupations expanded.
 - The Immigration Skills Charge should also cover EEA citizens.
 - Abolition of the Resident Labour Market Test.
 - In-country ability to change employers should be made easier for Tier 2 migrants.

Following publication of the MAC report the Government is due to publish later this year a White paper on the future migration system for the UK.

8.6 New President & Vice-Chancellor

- Professor Koen Lamberts, our new President & Vice-Chancellor starts at the University on 1 November.
- In the weeks leading up to his official start date, Professor Lamberts has held a number of thematic meetings with senior staff around the University. An induction has been developed and is underway, with all other arrangements on track and we look forward to welcoming Professor Lamberts.

8.7 New senior appointments

- Professor Thomas Helleday has been appointed as a Professor of Translational Oncology in Oncology & Metabolism from Karolinska Institutet.
- Professor Matt Field has been appointed as a Chair in Psychology in the Department of Psychology from the University of Liverpool.
- Professor Bojan Bugarcic has been appointed as a Chair in Law in the School of Law from the University of Ljubljana.
- Professor Tscahi Karen-Paz has been appointed as a Chair in Law in the School of Law from Keele University.
- Professor Robert Hierons has been appointed a Chair in Testing in Computer Science from Brunel University.
- Dr Andrew Slark has been appointed as a Professorial Fellowship in Chemistry

from De La Rue International.

- Dr Serena Corr has been appointed as a Chair in Functional Nanomaterials in the Chemical & Biological Engineering.
- Professor Frank Hall has been appointed as Regional Director of Nuclear AMRC. He was previously a Consultant for R.Hall Consultant.
- Dr AbdouMaliq Simone has been appointed as a Professorial Research Fellow at the Sheffield Urban Institute. He is currently a Research Professor at Max Planck Institute.
- Mr Michael Jacobs has been appointed as a Professorial Research Fellow in SPERI. He is currently Director of IPRR Commission of Economic Justice at the Institute for Public Policy Research.

8.8 New Heads of Academic Department

- Professor Graham Leggett, Head of Chemistry with effect from 1 August 2018.
- Professor Joe Bray, Head of the School of English with effect from 1 September 2018.
- Professor Jan Windebank, Head of School of Languages and Cultures with effect from 1 September 2018.
- Dr Simon Keegan-Phipps, Head of Music with effect from 1 September 2018.
- Professor Caroline Jackson, Head of Archaeology with effect from 1 September 2018.
- Professor Tim Chico, Head of Infection, Immunity & Cardiovascular Disease with effect from 1 September 2018.
- Professor Robert Freckleton, Head of Animal & Plant Sciences with effect from 1 September 2018.
- Professor Anna Jorgensen, Head of Landscape Architecture with effect from 1 September 2018.
- Professor Adrian Bingham, Head of History with effect from 11 September 2018.
- Professor Graham Gee, Head of the School of Law with effect from 1 October 2018.

9. REPORTABLE EVENTS

- In its role as principal regulator of HEIs, the OfS requires that serious incidents have been appropriately notified under registration condition F3(i). Reports are made on behalf of Council, and it is therefore appropriate that Council should be informed on a regular basis about incidents reported to the OfS. The OfS defines a reportable event as 'any event or circumstance that, in the judgement of the OfS, materially affects or could materially affect the provider's legal form or business model, and/or its willingness or ability to comply with its conditions of registration'.



The
University
Of
Sheffield.

The Senate, 12 December 2018

President & Vice-Chancellor's Report (The Council, 26 November 2018)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Report provides summary information on current and forthcoming developments, both internal and external, and is based on the President & Vice-Chancellor's Report to Council on 26 November 2018.

The President & Vice-Chancellor will introduce the Report at the 12 December 2018 Senate meeting and will provide members of Senate with the opportunity to raise questions on any aspect of the Report.

1. EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT

1.1 Review of Post-18 Education and Funding

- The Department for Education states the report from the panel chaired by Philip Augar is expected before the end of the year. There has been much publicised speculation that the Review will propose cutting the Home/EU undergraduate fee to between £6,500 and £7,500. Connected to proposals on fees, the Office for National Statistics has [said](#) it will announce its decision on how student loans will be treated in the public accounts on 17 December 2018. A change in treatment would have significant impact on calculations for the public sector national debt.
- **TUoS interest:** TUoS has modelled the impact of a fee cuts on University finances and revised the scenarios in the capital business case for the Social Sciences Hub.

1.2 TEF

- The Department for Education (DfE) has [published](#) a summary of responses it received on the subject-level TEF pilots, along with a Government response outlining the next steps. The key decisions include:
 - a combination of the two TEF models initially proposed, which include both a provider-level assessment and a subject-level assessment.
 - the grade inflation metric is retained and will be further tested by the Office for Students (OfS).
 - the Government has decided that the teaching intensity metric "would be better addressed outside of the TEF."
 - new metrics on 'student voice' and one on 'learning resources'.
- The subject-level TEF will be in operation from 2021. All those institutions with awards set to expire in 2020 will have those extended until 2021. Conversely, all institution-level awards given in 2019 will expire in 2021. Furthermore, the period

for which an award will be valid will be extended from four years to six years, although the option to re-apply sooner remains.

- The decisions have informed the design of the second year of subject-level pilots. The statutory review of TEF will run alongside this second year of pilots and its recommendations will be considered before subject-level TEF is implemented in 2021. The OfS has [published](#) its own findings from the first-year of subject-level TEF pilots, which informed the Government's response.
- **TUoS interest:** The University of Sheffield received a Silver institution-level award in 2017 and intends to re-apply in January for a 2019 (Year 4) institutional level award.

1.3 International students

- The All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) [report](#) on international students, co-chaired by Sheffield MP Paul Blomfield, was launched on Tuesday 6 November in Parliament. Evidence sessions received input from a range of experts in education, business, trade and local communities. The report makes 12 recommendations.
- The Report calls for a major change in the Government's approach to international students; and for an ambitious and positive plan to drive sustainable growth in the UK's seventh biggest export market and deliver significant benefits to the UK's students, universities, colleges, schools and local economies.
- **TUoS interest:** The University provided secretariat support to the enquiry and the report, 'A Sustainable Future for International Students in the UK', was co-authored by the University of Sheffield's Senior Policy Officer, Jennifer Knapp-Wood. The University provided in-kind support to the Inquiry and final report design. It has implications for the entire sector and our international competitiveness, and aligns with the aims of the #WeAreInternational campaign.

1.4 Brexit

- A draft agreement on the UK's withdrawal from the European Union (EU) has been agreed by Cabinet; the full text of the agreement has been [published](#). The agreement includes: citizens' rights for EU citizens in the UK and UK nationals in the EU; a 21-month transition period during which the UK would continue to follow all EU rules; and the financial settlement whereby the UK will pay at least £39bn to the EU to cover all its financial obligations. The Agreement is subject to ratification by the House of Commons, EU Council and EU Parliament. Alongside the Agreement, the initial [Political Declaration](#) (a fuller version expected) sets out the framework for the future relationship between the EU and the UK. It appears to cover research through reference to "science and innovation" and to cover Erasmus through reference to "culture and education" under the Basis for Cooperation which include: "terms for the United Kingdom's participation in Union programmes, subject to the conditions set out in the corresponding Union instruments, such as in science and innovation, culture and education, development, defence capabilities, civil protection and space.
- **TUoS interest:** The University Secretary has conducted an assessment for UEB of the impact on the University of a no-deal Brexit in order to identify proportionate contingency measures where it may possible to mitigate some of the risks. UEB agreed the additional actions as set out in the paper and will receive an update in the New Year. A Business Continuity Group would be established in December so that it could meet, if required, from January 2019 onwards.

1.5 Student mental health

- Mental health and student well-being continue to be priority areas for the Government. The OfS has [announced](#) a new challenge competition to support student mental health. It will make £6 million of funding available for proposals which focus on transition for all types of students, early intervention, and a step change in support.
- This comes alongside news that the number of students seeking support has increased by more than 50% in the last five years, according to [analysis](#) from the BBC. The data from 83 universities shows the number of students seeking help rose from 50,900 in 2012 to 78,100 in 2017.
- **TUoS interest:** Council approved a University-wide strategy for mental health in November 2017. Council received an update on the ongoing implementation of that strategy in October 2018. The University is leading a bid to access national funding to support further local initiatives.

1.6 Budget 2018

- The Chancellor, Philip Hammond, delivered the Budget on Monday 29 October. He reiterated the claim that “austerity is coming to an end” but added that “discipline will remain”. A [special edition](#) of the Policy Briefing provides a fuller briefing on the Budget.
- There were very few new announcements of direct relevant to HE. There was a headline figure of £1.6 billion of investment to support the Government’s industrial strategy, but a question mark has been raised about how much of this is new funding.
- **TUoS interest:** The views of Sheffield academics on the Budget can be found [here](#).

2. EDUCATION AND STUDENT EXPERIENCE

2.1 Annual Planning Round

- The Planning Round was launched in early October. The cycle will begin with discussion of Faculty aspirations in a series of meetings led by the DVC with support from the VPE, VPR&I and relevant Professional Services Directors. Professional Services will support Faculties in their planning activities.
- UEB has previously considered the current level and pace of change in the sector across all areas of activity. This has created new challenges to which UK universities must respond whilst maintaining their financial stability and continuing to deliver innovation and dynamism in student experience, research and knowledge exchange. The main challenges are:
 - The demographic downturn has increased the pressure in a highly competitive market with consequences for tariff, realistic target setting and financial forecasting.
 - The related changing ‘mix’ within the student body, i.e. an increased proportion of PGT, and their different expectations of the student experience.
 - Significant changes in Government policy and the regulation of higher education:
 - The full operation of the new Office for Students (OfS) regulatory framework has come into effect and will become further embedded. Value for money is a key, although narrowly defined, focus and the

regulator will scrutinise the efficient use of students' and taxpayers' contributions.

- The outcome of the Post-18 Funding Review and any change to student finance process and fee regime or to student numbers will also have a significant impact on the sector.
 - The challenges and opportunities brought about by Brexit. There will be a global repositioning of the UK higher education sector which will affect all areas of our teaching and research.
 - The impact of UK immigration policy and UKVI requirements on the recruitment of international students from Europe and globally.
- o Subject-level TEF furthers the agenda for a student-centred system and presents a new performance measure.
 - o Substantial changes in the research and KE landscape, including increasing emphasis on knowledge exchange as a central university mission (as exemplified by the forthcoming KEF and the functioning of the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund), the formation of UKRI, and the ongoing development and roll-out of the Global Challenges Research Fund and, in due course, the Strategic Priorities Fund.
- In summary, the planning round themes for 2018/19 focus on responding to TEF, REF and KEF. The two internal themes for this cycle focus on operating efficiently and delivering financial sustainability.
 - Faculties (and where relevant Professional Services) have been asked to respond to the following areas in developing action plans. They continue some themes from the 2017/18 planning steer, where these present fundamental longer term challenges, and new areas for specific focus in this year's planning process:
 - o Prepare for subject level **TEF** focussing on improvements to NSS and graduate employability, supported through the PLA implementation process.
 - o Maximise **student recruitment** at quality based on alignment with broader strategy, realistic, market-informed targets, and via departments continually refreshing the programme portfolio informed by market insight.
 - o Adopt a new approach to **PGR student recruitment** which builds greater realism into target setting and supports students during their studies in order to improve submission rates.
 - o Develop viable 4* impact case studies and plans to deliver on the **REF** strategy of maximising 4* outputs and securing a top ten ranking across all submissions (for November 2020).
 - o Respond to the **Industrial Strategy** and the emergence of **KEF** by embedding and optimising knowledge exchange, maximising partnership income and promoting a culture of excellence which encourages translation from blue skies thinking to practical responses to societal challenges.
 - o Optimise performance in '**grand challenge**' funding opportunities, particularly the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund (ISCF), which encourages developing greater capacity for interdisciplinary working and national and international collaboration.
 - o An explicit link between forecast income and expenditure, with a stronger focus on **planning expenditure** relative to income ambition.
 - o Prioritise **efficient estate usage** through better income realisation from space usage and/or disinvestment.

- Ensure Faculties and Professional Services work together to operate consistently and effectively in responding to the **external compliance agenda** set by the OfS, UKRI, UKVI and CMA.
- Engage in appropriate **workforce planning**, including action plans to grow the diversity of our staff and students in support of the University's **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion priorities**.
- The planning outcomes will be discussed by UEB in March/April 2019 in the context of the financial forecasts and at the subsequent Away Day.

2.2 Student recruitment

- The University monitors and reports on registrations regularly until the 1 December census date and this will be included in future reports to Council.
- The University has continued to prioritise the quality of the incoming undergraduate cohort, choosing to admit only the strongest candidates during the Confirmation, Adjustment and Clearing period. This has delivered a further improvement in quality on last year and the overseas cohort are of similar quality. Maintaining a high quality intake should ensure that the University is well positioned to capitalise on the significant growth in the 18-year-old population that follows the demographic dip.
- Recruitment to postgraduate taught programmes shows a home position under target but accompanied by strong performance in the overseas markets, especially in Social Sciences and particularly Management, where a 'staged' approach is being implemented for 2019 entry admissions, aiming to improve quality and diversity in a managed environment.
- There has been growth in both home and overseas PGR recruitment, with home exceeding target and overseas currently slightly below intended levels. PGR students do not all register in September so the final position may yet improve. This year has seen the introduction of a government loan available for home fee-paying PGR students and the number of self-sponsored home students has increased by c.40 students, with approximately the same number applying to access the loan. Particular consideration is being given to target-setting for PGR in each department for 2019 entry onwards, which will support a vibrant PGR community.
- Registration numbers for new full-time students as at 1 November were as follows:

Category	2018 Intake target (1 December 2018)	Intake registered at 1 November 2018	Variance between registrations and target	Change from 1 October 2018
Home (UK/EU) undergraduate:	4729	4408	-321	-0.4%
Overseas undergraduate:	1065	1129	+64	+5.1%
Home (UK/EU) taught postgraduate:	1809	1577	-232	-0.6%
Overseas taught postgraduate:	3431	4012	+581	+3.1%

Home (UK/EU) research	423	417	-6	+19.1 %
Overseas research postgraduate:	344	333	-11	+25.2%

- The University monitors and reports on registrations regularly until the 1 December census date and this will be included in future reports to Council. PGR students will continue to register so we expect to get a little closer to target.

2.3 The Student Experience

- The University Counselling Service (UCS) and the Student Access to Mental Health Service (SAMHS) are the only UK university services to have received accreditation from the Accreditation Programme for Psychological Therapy Services (a collaboration of the Royal College of Psychiatrists and the British Psychological Society). The accreditation process measures clinical outcomes, client satisfaction, leadership, safety and responsiveness. This is the second period of accreditation for UCS and a significant achievement for SAMHS after just one year of operation.

3. RESEARCH AND ITS IMPACT

3.1 Research awards

- New research grant and contract awards for the 12 months ending September 2018 were £173.8m. This is a decrease of £7.1m (4%) on the previous 12 months. There were 3 new awards for over £1m during September 2018: £2m from Boeing; £1.7m from ERDF; and £1.1m from Wellcome Trust.
- The total research net contribution (representing net recovered research overheads) on new awards for the 12 months to September 2018 was £35.0m compared with £32.9m to September 2017. Improvements in RNC are attributable to funder mix and level of research capital awards (which typically do not include overhead return).
- The value of new awards for the 12 months to the end of September 2018 has shown a small rise in the EU Framework and Industry Sponsor Categories, with a larger rise of £6.6m in UK Government awards compared to the 12 months to September 2017, due to the timing and increase in value of the AMRC's annual Catapult funding. The value of new awards for Charities, Overseas and RCUK sponsor categories has fallen by £3.6m, £4.2m and £8.3m respectively between September 2017 and September 2018.
- There has been a fall of 158 in the number of new grants opened for the 12 months to the end of September 2018. The number of new awards has fallen in all categories apart from EU Framework which has remained unchanged between September 2017 and September 2018 over the last 12 months. This reflects the national picture which is a move to fewer larger grant awards.
- As at September 2018 research grants Work In Progress (Research Order Book) stood at £281.5m (£257.5m excluding AMRC) which is an increase of £18.2m (7%) on September 2017 (£263.3m).

3.2 Research development

- The University has undertaken a comprehensive process to identify the first group of University Research Institutes. These flagship, cross-disciplinary research institutes, will receive focus and support and act as exemplars of our excellent research and impact. In October Senate approved the following URIs:

- The University of Sheffield Research Institute for Energy: Directed by Professor Mohamed Pourkashanian, this Institute will provide focus for world leading 'energy' research and capitalises on leadership, expertise and facilities already present at the University of Sheffield in existing flagship centres: Energy Storage; Nuclear; Wind Generation; Low Carbon Energy Systems; and the Resource Efficiency & Circular Economy. The centre will improve the visibility of the University's excellent energy research and provide a focal point for cross-disciplinary research, with a common contact point for industrial interaction and enquiries.
- The University of Sheffield Research Institute for Healthy Lifespan: Co-directed by Professors Ilaria Bellantuono and Alan Walker, this Institute will focus on Multimorbidity (MM). This is a rapidly increasing global epidemic due to population ageing that is recognised as a 'grand challenge' by many organisations, including WHO and UK Government, and as the major health research priority by the Academy of Medical Sciences. The Institute will lead multidisciplinary scientific efforts to prevent or delay MM by the production of new policies, practices and products. It will work to understand the common biological and social processes underpinning MM and discover novel ways to intervene at different stages of the lifecourse.
- The University of Sheffield Research Institute for Neuroscience: Directed by Professor Dame Pamela Shaw, this Institute will bring together a group of internationally recognised research leaders working with NHS staff to understand the causes and discover new treatments for neurological and sensory-related diseases. The Institute will support over 100 individuals, across three Faculties to create a coherent and focused Centre of Excellence for Neuroscience research to maximise existing strengths, support major new ambitions for securing funding to advance our understanding of human neurobiology, and deliver diagnostic tools and therapeutic interventions to improve human health and well-being.
- The University of Sheffield Research Institute for Sustainable Food: Co-directed by Professors Duncan Cameron and Peter Jackson and with involvement from all five Faculties, this Institute will undertake innovative, interdisciplinary research addressing the epochal challenge of global food security. It will take an integrated approach to understanding contemporary agri-food systems at a range of scales. There will also be a combination of fundamental research in natural and social sciences with a strong commitment to translating research findings into practical policy-relevant outcomes, working with a range of stakeholders to identify and implement more sustainable modes of food production and consumption.

3.3 Impact, innovation and knowledge exchange

- In October 2018, Business Secretary Greg Clark officially opened Boeing Sheffield – Boeing's first production facility in Europe- located alongside the University of Sheffield's Factory 2050. A key part of the region's emerging 'Global Innovation Corridor', Boeing has also initiated a major new research programme with the AMRC to develop new manufacturing techniques that can be applied to the new facility.
- The University is in the second year of a two-year partnership with Sheffield Hallam University, funded by Arts Council England, to manage and develop 'Off the Shelf'; a long-standing literary festival held in Sheffield during October. More than 130 events took place during this year's festival, which featured a diverse programme of events, talks and discussions from some of the world's most renowned authors as well as events highlighting research from academics at

both universities. An evaluation of funding models, box office income and additional revenue will inform the future development of the festival.

4. STRATEGIC PARTNERS

4.1 Funds raised

- Cash Received and Funds Secured (new donations, including pledges) in the current financial year 2018/19 (with a comparison to 2017/18):

Cash Received	Value	Funds Secured	Value
01/08/2018 – 31/10/2018	£2,858,932	01/08/2018 – 31/10/2018	£1,147,097
01/08/2017 – 31/10/2017	£170,847	01/08/2017 – 31/10/2017	£557,866

- Cash Received and Funds Secured (new donations, including pledges) in the previous financial year 2017/2018 (with a comparison to 2016/17):

Cash Received	Value	Funds Secured	Value
01/08/2017 – 31/07/2018	£7,244,965	01/08/2017 – 31/07/2018	£8,280,522
01/08/2016 – 31/07/2017	£8,700,942	01/08/2016 – 31/07/2017	£11,869,882

4.3 Alumni Volunteering

	2018/19*	2018/19 Target	2017/18	2016/17
Volunteers	96	950	979	1558
Volunteer hours	161	10,000	10,277	12,240
Volunteer instances	96	1,200	1,195	1,932
Philanthropic prospects engaged in volunteering	2	105	141	117
Number of student beneficiaries	1,440	4,700	4,667	

*as at 31 October 2018

- **Ementoring:** 214 alumni have been matched to students on the autumn Careers Service eMentoring scheme, providing one to one advice to students.
- **Speed networking:** In October, 6 alumni supported a Geography Speed networking event talking to 20 students about their career journeys since graduation.
- **Employer Fairs:** In October, an alumni relations presence was piloted at the Careers Service Employer Fairs, capturing and updating contact and employment details for 63 alumni employers and informing them about opportunities to engage with the University.
- **Understanding Your Engineering Career Options:** Eight alumni took part in presentations and a Q&A session with 40 students in the lead up to the STEM Employer Fair.
- **Northern City Connections:** 30 Arts and Humanities students from widening participation backgrounds have signed up for the Northern City Connections event on 21 November, where they will be connected with companies and career opportunities available to them in Sheffield and the wider region. They will visit

local companies to taking part in tours, workshops and presentations, followed by an evening networking event at The Crucible Theatre.

5. OUR PLACE: LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY

5.1 Outbound visits:

- **University of Ghana:** Professor Dave Petley, Dr Malcolm Butler and Dr Robert Akparibo (SchARR) visited the University of Ghana, a Worldwide Universities Network partner, to explore areas of common interest and potential opportunities to collaborate on GCRF projects.
- **Germany - Research collaboration/ HE networking conference:** This event, organised by the British Council Germany provided an opportunity to network with representatives from German universities and research institutions, to strengthen ties, and to explore future possibilities for cooperation post-Brexit.
- **European Science and Engineering Network – CESAER:** The Faculty of Engineering is a member of CESAER, an association of 52 leading specialised and comprehensive European universities of science & technology. Colleagues attended the annual conference in Bucharest in October to participate in a number of task force groups and network with the other institutions in the network.
- **Hong Kong and China visits:** This visit incorporated a discussion with colleagues at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, about current collaboration via the Study Abroad Programme and the Worldwide Universities Network; the Principal of the Sino British College; and the President of the University of Shanghai for Science and Technology (USST). The University was represented at the inaugural conference of the University Consortium of the Maritime Silk Road (UCMSR) at Xiamen University.

5.2 Other activity

- **University of Oregon:** An agreement has been signed to facilitate UG student exchange.
- **Global Opportunities & Exchanges Fair:** This enabled students and staff about opportunities to study at one of our partner universities around the world and opportunities to work overseas. More than 850 students attended.

6. PUBLIC RESPONSIBILITY

6.1 Milestones and significant developments

- The University has raised £1.87m towards the Sheffield Scanner MRI-PET Campaign.
- Our Scholarships Fundraising Campaign for students starting in 2019 launched in September. We have already raised funds to support 37 UG scholarships, from our target of 165, and 21 PGT scholarships from our target of 50.
- The Guillemots Campaign with Professor Tim Birkhead has now raised over £60,000 towards a target of £100,000.

6.2 Reputation and communications

- The University generated 1,993 pieces of coverage in the media between 25 September and 5 November 2018, including in the US, India, China, Pakistan and Germany. Recent examples include:
 - Local and national coverage of the 'Off the Shelf' festival.
 - National coverage of a new report showing a sharp decline in youth drinking across all age groups over the last 15 years.

- Northern Powerhouse Minister, Jake Berry MP, and Mayor of the Sheffield City Region, Dan Jarvis MP, visited Sheffield to open three new multi-million-pound research centres which aim to boost the region's reputation as a hub for advanced engineering and industrial digital technologies. The event was featured in local and national coverage.

6.3 Sustainability Strategy

- The University's first sustainability strategy launched in October with a week of focused activity, including talks by academics, a Q&A about Sustainability at Sheffield, talks by the Grantham scholars, SU events and talks by other organisations, such as Carbon Neutral University and the SU Sustainability Committee.

6.4 Success and achievement

- The University of Sheffield has been ranked 67th in the world for teaching and research in the arts and humanities and social sciences, according to the Times Higher Education World University Rankings by Subject.
- The University of Sheffield has been ranked 106th in the world in the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2019 - one of the most comprehensive rankings of higher education institutions across the globe.
- The Leavygreave Plantables Scheme, a large area of green space at the heart of the University campus, has received the Open Spaces Award at the Sheffield Design Awards.
- The University has been awarded a share of £100 million funding to train the next generation of environmental scientists.
- An engineering researcher at the University of Sheffield's Nuclear Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre, Dr Rahul Mandal, won The 2018 UK Great British Bake Off.

7. POWER OF PEOPLE

7.1 Pensions – USS

- The University [response](#) to the UUK consultation has been submitted and broadly supports the JEP proposals. The overall position of employers and whether they will support the JEP is unknown at present.
- A national UCU meeting on 7 November considered its position at the forthcoming USS Joint Negotiating Committee (JNC), which meets in early November before a proposal is expected to be put before the Trustee. The Trustee has indicated that if a proposal is received, it will look to run a valuation as at 31 March 2018 to incorporate the proposals and allow the 2017 valuation to conclude.
- Member consultation on cost-sharing concluded on 2 November. There are approximately 5,200 USS members at this University, of which 130 have responded, mostly using a standard UCU template protesting the whole valuation.
- It is likely that the cost sharing arrangements will be implemented from 1 April 2019.
- If the JEP proposals are agreed and a March 2018 valuation is run, later increases in costs, currently scheduled for October 2019 and April 2020, would be superseded and should be contained at an estimated c3.2% increase.
- If the 2017 valuation is concluded, JEP will proceed to Phase 2 of its work to look at a longer term position re valuations.

- It is possible that the USS Trustee and/or the Pensions Regulator will not agree to an alternative approach which exposes the sector and sponsoring employers to more risk.

7.2 National pay negotiations

- The Employers made a [final offer](#) of a 2% uplift on all pay points of the national pay spine with additional loading on the lowest 15 points up to 2.8%. This was accepted by GMB but rejected by UCU, Unite and UNISON (and EIS in Scotland).
- The results from the UCU Ballot at Sheffield were a 50.2% turnout; 69% (c560) in favour of strike and 78% (c630) in favour of action short of a strike.
- Nationally, seven Universities reached the 50% mandate required to call industrial action (plus four in Northern Ireland where there is no minimum turnout threshold) out of c147 balloted.
- UCU have confirmed that they will not call members to action in those institutions with a mandate.
- UNISON ran an aggregated national ballot for strike action only and achieved a 31% turnout so did not reach the required threshold to take industrial action. Of those who voted, 62% voted in favour of action.
- Unite have taken the decision not to ballot members at Sheffield.
- Further information is available [online](#).

7.3 Staff Survey

- The Staff Survey 2018 is live and staff have been encouraged to complete the survey before it closes on 16 November. As at 6 November, the University's response rate was 48%. This is the first time the survey will be able to capture the views of casual staff who have worked at the University over the past year.

7.3 New senior appointments

- Mr David Murphy has been appointed as Operations Director at the AMRC with Boeing with effect from 5 November 2018. Mr Murphy was previously Director of Projects at PCT Group Sales Ltd.
- Ms Bella Abrams has been appointed as Director of IT in Corporate Information & Computing Services with effect from 7 January 2019. Ms Abrams is currently Chief Information Officer at Sheffield City College.

8. REPORTABLE EVENTS

- In its role as principal regulator of HEIs, the OfS requires that serious incidents have been appropriately notified under registration condition F3(i). Reports are made on behalf of Council, and it is therefore appropriate that Council should be informed on a regular basis about incidents reported to the OfS. The OfS defines a reportable event as 'any event or circumstance that, in the judgement of the OfS, materially affects or could materially affect the provider's legal form or business model, and/or its willingness or ability to comply with its conditions of registration'.
- Details of reportable events notified to the OfS will be notified to Council. A register of the on-going registration conditions and reportable events will be maintained by the University Secretary and appear as a matter of regular report.