



The  
University  
Of  
Sheffield.

Office  
Of The  
President &  
Vice-Chancellor.

## The Senate, 16 March 2022

### President & Vice-Chancellor's Report

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Report provides summary information on current and forthcoming developments, both internal and external, for the information of Senate members. The President & Vice-Chancellor will introduce the Report at the meeting and members will have the opportunity to raise questions. This report is structured around the University Vision's four Pillars and their respective Priorities, after a section about the external environment. Where information relates to more than one Pillar or Priority it is included under the most relevant theme.

The report includes updates on the institutional response to Covid-19 in the context of wider institutional activities.

#### 1. EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT

##### 1.1 Levelling Up White Paper

- The Government has published its long-awaited Levelling Up White Paper with the aim to “transform the UK by spreading opportunity and prosperity to all parts of it.” At the centre of an approach to tackle regional and local inequalities are 12 national Missions to be achieved by 2030 covering: the economy; digital connectivity; education; skills; health; well-being; pride in place; housing; crime; and local leadership. These are described as cross-government and cross-society efforts.
- A range of metrics will track progress and the government will legislate so that it will have a statutory duty to publish an annual report on the progress of these Missions. A Levelling Up Advisory Council will also be convened to advise on the design, delivery and impact of its levelling up policy. The Missions are reliant on allocations in the Chancellor's October 2021 Spending Review announcements.
- In particular, Mission 2 is focused on R&D funding and aims for domestic public investment in R&D outside the Greater South East to be increased by at least 40% by 2030, and by at least one third over the Spending Review period. The Mission regarding skills commits to 200,000 more people completing high-quality skills training annually in England, and 80,000 more people completing courses in the lowest skilled areas.
- Analysis suggests that changes to the overall R&D funding balance may be modest and that the ambition to increase the number of skilled training places does not replace places lost from previous funding cuts.
- **TUoS interest:**

Universities are well placed to contribute to long term and sustainable efforts to tackle regional inequalities and the University has a strong record in driving levelling up. We welcome the Government's ambition to broaden R&D funding across the country and will explore how we can maximise the opportunities presented.

## 1.2 Fees and Funding – Government response to Augar Review

- After a number of false alerts Government responded to the Augar Review on Thursday 24 February through a Written Ministerial Statement from Michelle Donelan MP, Minister for Higher and Further Education, a Ministerial statement to the House of Commons by Nadhim Zahawi MP, Secretary of State for Education, and publication of a [consultation document](#), *Higher Education Policy Statement and Reform*.
- Part 1 of the document is a policy statement covering the following areas where Government has announced its policy:
  - (a) Tuition fees: The maximum tuition fees for undergraduate degrees will be frozen, up to and including academic year 2024/25, at £9,250. The maximum tuition fee will have remained at £9,250 for seven years, which has an impact on the sector as the value of the tuition fee income reduces in real terms each year it is frozen.
  - (b) Interest rates on student loans: The rate of interest for new borrowers starting their courses in academic year 2023/24 onwards is reduced to inflation only, RPI+0%.
  - (c) Repayment threshold and duration for student loans: For new student loan borrowers from September 2023 onwards, the repayment threshold, the level at which graduates are required to make repayments on their loans, will be £25,000, then rising with inflation from April 2027 onwards. For this group of borrowers the number of years over which repayments are made before any outstanding debt is written off will be 40 years, rather than the current 30 years. For post-2012 student loan borrowers the income threshold will remain at its current level of £27,295 until April 2025. Their loan term will remain at 30 years. The government does not propose to change the repayment threshold for pre-2012 student loan borrowers which is currently £19,895 and increases annually in-line with RPI. The government currently does not plan to change the repayment threshold for postgraduate loans, which stands at £21,000.

Analysis from the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) concludes that the impact of the student loan borrowing reforms will affect those borrowers with lower middling earnings the most, translating into a lifetime earnings loss of more than 1%, or more than a penny in each pound they will ever earn.
  - (d) Post-Qualification Admissions: Government has published a consultation outcome which confirms that it will not be pursuing a policy of post-qualification admissions. Government will instead “focus on working with sector bodies to address identified problems within the current arrangements in a way which is supportive of all students.”
  - (e) Higher Technical Skills: Government has stated it will extend student finance access to Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs) and allow part-time learners to access maintenance loans, as they can with degrees. HTQs are level 4 and 5 qualifications approved by the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education. They will be offered by further education colleges, universities, independent providers, and Institutes of Technology.
  - (f) Funding: As part of the Spending Review 2021 there is an additional £300 million investment in the Strategic Priorities Grant recurrent funding and a total of £450 million capital funding across 2022-23 to 2024-25, and up to £75 million of new funding for a scholarship to support talented, disadvantaged students.

- Part 2 of the consultation document covers those areas where Government is consulting on future policy:
  - (a) Students Number Controls: Government suggest that Student Number Controls could potentially be used to prioritise provision which offers the best outcomes for students, society and the economy. It is argued that Student Number Controls could prevent a 'race to the bottom', whereby some providers are incentivised to compete by offering low cost, low value provision. The Government explicitly states that it is not taking a position on what the correct proportion of people going to university should be. The document sets out different Student Number Control approaches that could be taken from a basic sector-wide cap on all providers and subjects through to more granular outcome-based judgements about what provision should be capped and at what level. The options could be nuanced to create variable caps, which allow for uncapped growth or controlled growth of some subjects.
  - (b) Minimum eligibility requirements: Government is consulting on the principle of whether there is a case for a Minimum Eligibility Requirement (MER) to access HE student finance, the specific low level at which any requirement could be set, and the correct exemptions. Government propose a low level MER that focuses on a pass (grade 4) in English and mathematics at GCSE, but it is interested in evidence that it would be more appropriate to set the MER at level 3 with two E grades at A level or equivalent required.
 

Exemptions for those students for whom the MER is not the best indicator of their potential are proposed, including not applying the MER to students aged 25 and over, or part time students. If a MER were to be set at level 2 an exemption is proposed for people who achieve at least CCC grades at A level. There would be an exemption to any MER for students who enter Higher Education via an integrated foundation year.

Government state that setting the MER at level 2, with the proposed exemptions, would have affected around 4,800 English 18-24-year-olds in the academic year 2019/20, 0.8% of total level 6 entrants. Setting the MER at level 3 as outlined would, it is estimated, have affected up to 6,200 English 18-24-year-olds in the same year, or 1.0% of total level 6 entrants.
  - (c) Foundation year fees: Government proposes reducing the fees charged for foundation years to align with current Access to HE diploma fees (where the current maximum fee is £5,197).
  - (d) Eligibility for the national state scholarship: Government is working on proposals for a national state scholarship to support talented, disadvantaged students to succeed in higher education. It is seeking views through the consultation on how eligibility for the national state scholarship should be set.
  - (e) High-quality level 4 and 5 courses: Government is seeking views on barriers faced by providers in offering and promoting level 4 and 5 courses and the role of the fee and funding system in affecting provider and learner behaviour.
- Government also published a separate Lifelong Loan Entitlement consultation document. The Lifelong Loan Entitlement (LLE) will provide individuals with a loan entitlement to the equivalent of four years of post-18 education to use over their lifetime. Government's ambition is for LLE to support increased access to high-quality technical qualifications, bring greater parity of access across

technical and academic education, and bring further education and higher education closer together.

- The Government had separately [announced](#) in January that the repayment threshold for post-2012 student loans will remain at £27,295 per year for the 2022/23 financial year. The repayment threshold for postgraduate student loans will remain at £21,000 per year. The Institute of Fiscal studies has described the measures as a “tax rise by stealth on graduates with middling earnings” calculating that those earning £30,000 will pay £113 more towards their student loan in the next tax year than originally anticipated. There had been speculation that the repayment threshold would be reduced so that the government would recoup a greater proportion of the money that is lent in student loans.
- **TUoS interest:**  
We will continue to lobby Government for a sustainable funding model that protects funding for universities so that we can continue to provide the highest quality education and student experience. We will respond to the consultations. The student loan arrangements need to be fair and transparent and the terms need to be stable to give young people the confidence to take advantage of a HE experience and benefit from the increased life chances that this brings.

### 1.3 Office for Students Consultations

- In November 2021 the Office for Students (OfS) launched a consultation on its strategy proposing three areas of focus for the period 2022-2025: quality and standards; equality of opportunity; and enabling regulation. A consultation on Data Futures was launched at the end of 2021 and in mid-January consultations were published on the Teaching Excellence & Student Outcomes Framework (TEF) and graduate outcomes.
- On TEF it is proposed that universities that do not demonstrate sufficient excellence in their provision would be given a “requires improvement” TEF result, similar to those awarded by Ofsted. The ‘medal’ system of awards would be retained and an award would be made for a four year period. The graduate outcomes consultation spells out proposed new minimum acceptable outcomes for students, setting thresholds for drop-out rates, course completion and graduate employment. If institutions fail to meet the baselines they would face the risks of potentially being fined or stripped of access to student loan funding by the OfS, in line with other breaches of its conditions of registration.
- **TUoS interest:**  
The University welcomed the opportunity to comment on the OfS’ proposed strategy, noting support for the OfS’s stated commitment to use a risk-based and proportionate approach towards regulation and the importance of clearly defining HE’s role in addressing those problems situated within wider societal structures. On TEF and graduate outcomes, we are examining the detail and will coordinate an institutional response. We will work with mission groups as they develop a response on behalf of the sector, emphasising the ongoing importance of reducing unnecessary administrative burden on institutions.

### 1.4 Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill

- The next stages for the Bill in the parliamentary process is the Commons Report Stage and Third Reading, before it goes to the House of Lords. The date for the Commons Report Stage is yet to be confirmed. There has been speculation that the new Secretary of State, Nadhim Zahawi MP, is not as supportive of the Bill as his predecessor was and that there may no longer be enough parliamentary time for the Bill to pass its remaining stages.

- In January Jesse Norman, a Conservative backbench MP, proposed a new clause to the Bill creating a duty to disclose overseas gifts and contracts affecting freedom of speech. This would require HE providers to disclose to the OfS the names of foreign donors above a threshold of £50K and require the OfS to produce an annual register of donations. It is understood that the amendment was tabled after soundings had been taken as to the likelihood of it being adopted by Government and the Education Secretary, Nadhim Zahawi MP, responded positively via Twitter.
- However, the sector has raised concerns about the wide scope of the proposal, the need to report retrospectively and whether the requirement is proportionate to the issue that it seeks to address. The proposal would require institutions to report to the OfS significant numbers of research partnerships, personal financial arrangements of students and staff and, potentially, fee income for international students.
- **TUoS interest:**  
The University places the utmost importance on its duties to uphold freedom of expression continues to monitor the progression of the Bill closely. Once the final text of the legislation, the explanatory notes and guidance are published, an action plan will be proposed to UEB to ensure that the University thoroughly assesses risk and responds to the new duties. We are collating information on the potential impact of the proposed amendment to assist UUK and the Russell Group with their lobbying efforts to Government, highlighting its impact on individual institutions, the sector collectively and the OfS as the recipient of large volumes of additional data.

## 1.5 Social Mobility Targets

- The Government and OfS have set new widening access and social mobility targets for universities in England and universities will have to rewrite their Access and Participation Plans. There should be ambitious targets for increasing the proportion of student studying degree apprenticeships, higher technical qualifications, or part-time courses. Universities will also be required to reduce drop-out rates and to help local schools and colleges improve education outcomes for disadvantaged students.
- This has come alongside analysis from the Institute of Fiscal Studies (IFS) and the Sutton Trust that ranked universities in terms of their contribution to social mobility. The analysis found that whilst students from low-income families who go to Russell Group institutions do very well in the labour market, very few students who were eligible for Free School Meals in Year 11 are admitted to these universities, leading to an average mobility rate of just 1%. The Russell Group responded, highlighting its investment in outreach and widening participation activities, the increasing proportion of students in its universities from poorer backgrounds, and the support students from under-represented backgrounds receive once they get to university.
- John Blake has been appointed as Director for Fair Access and Participation at the OfS, replacing Chris Millward. Since leaving the OfS, Professor Millward has published a working paper on regulating fair access in England between 2006 and 202 in which he commented on a failure to improve access for people entering HE later in life, part-time, through further education and whilst in work. Millward has also spoken out against the possible introduction of minimum grade thresholds to access HE.

- **TUoS interest:**

The OfS Director of Fair Access and Participation held a briefing meeting on 8 February, which the University attended. He outlined the next steps in access and participation, the vision for access and participation and introduced the regulatory requirements for 2022. Written guidance is expected to be published in the spring and the University's Access and Participation Plan will be amended accordingly.

## 1.6 Sexual Violence and Harassment

- The Universities Minister, Michelle Donelan MP, has urged more universities to follow the lead of six universities who pledged to end the use of Non-Disclosure Agreements (NDAs) in cases of complaints of sexual harassment. The pledge, backed by MPs and campaign groups, commits universities to not use legally-binding NDAs against students and staff who come forward to report abuse, amidst fears victims are being pressured into signing agreements which stop them from speaking out and protect the reputations of perpetrators.
- The University and College Union (UCU) has published a report on sexual violence against staff in tertiary education.

- **TUoS interest:**

The UEB Sexual Violence and Harassment Steering Group, chaired by the Provost & Deputy Vice-Chancellor, maintains awareness and oversight of sexual violence and harassment issues affecting both staff and students, approves institutional policy and associated action plans and has due regard to OfS guidance and ensures compliance with regulatory requirements. The University does not use NDAs in cases of sexual misconduct involving students, and neither would it do so for staff if such a situation arose. The University has signed the Pledge, signalling its support for this initiative.

## 2. EDUCATION

### 2.1 DELIVERY OF THE PORTFOLIO

#### 2.1.1 Registration of new students

- As of the 1 December census point the University had registered 13,645 new students against a target of 13,991.

When counting registrations across all years of study and level, the University saw 30,129 registrations in the 2021/22 academic year. The 1 December is the last time in year we report on registrations and is used for statutory returns that inform teaching grants and funding.

Category	2021 Intake Target (1 December 2021)	Intake registered at 1 December 2021	Variance between registrations and target
Home (UK) undergraduate:	4,332	4932	+600
Overseas undergraduate:	1,343	1360	+17
Home (UK) taught postgraduate:	2,304	1944	-360

Overseas taught postgraduate:	5,180	4728	-452
Home (UK) research postgraduate:	452	384	-68
Overseas research postgraduate:	380	297	-83

### 2.1.2 Undergraduate Admissions

- Approaching the equal consideration UCAS deadline, the UG Home application position is slightly below last year's position. This is mirrored across our closest competitor group and the sector in general. The position is expected to recover closer towards the deadline because many schools, colleges and students waited until after Christmas to submit applications. The international position has settled to be slightly above last year's position and also slightly ahead of competitors and the sector, with increases both from our larger markets and from growth areas.
- - Mature Student recruitment and achievement:
  - Recruitment through the Department for Lifelong Learning's (DLL) degrees with integrated foundation years continues to return approximately 30% of all incoming home UG first degree mature student entrants to the University.
  - DLL students are twice as likely to be in receipt of a University bursary, to commute, to come from a low participation neighbourhood, and/or to have declared a disability.
  - Whilst many arrive at DLL without any prior attainment at FHEQ level 3, the proportion achieving a good honours degree at graduation stands at 94% in academic year 20/21 - exceeding overall University figures for the third year in a row.
  - DLL continues to monitor the potential impacts of external policy drivers on its core foundation provision, including the introduction of the Lifelong Loan Entitlement, changes to Access and Participation Plan guidance, and the OfS's recently published consultation on Student Outcomes and TEF.

### 2.1.3 Postgraduate Taught Admissions

- PGT Home applications are below this point last year. However, it is still early in the PGT home cycle so higher numbers of applications are expected towards the summer months, although this will also depend on availability of graduate job opportunities and appetite from final year UG students to progress to further study straight away, particularly after the disruption to studies that the current cohort has faced.
- PGT Overseas applications were previously below those received last year but have recovered and are now broadly comparable, with increased applications from a range of our international markets.

### 2.1.4 Postgraduate Research Admissions

- PGR Home applications are roughly comparable to last year, with slight reductions in most areas, most likely due to continued sector uncertainty around funding and study options. We expect to see an increase in applications as we approach various funding application deadlines.

- PGR Overseas applications are ahead of last year at this stage as some overseas funding opportunities are finalised. As with the Home position, the number of applications and offers are expected to increase as funding deadlines approach and as departments complete their “gathered field” selection exercises (the process of assessing applications once all have been received).
- Between 2017/18 to 2019/20 the University consistently recruited PGR students with a market share of 10% or more in markets with very high proportions of sponsored students, e.g. Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Mexico and Indonesia. This placed us in the top 3 Russell Group universities for market share. This success has been highlighted in a UUKi report, in which the University was used as a case study of excellence.

### **2.1.5 Recruitment and Marketing update - Undergraduate**

- The majority of schools have continued to welcome in person visits despite COVID, in contrast to the previous year, and the University is seeking to maximising these opportunities. We are working with academic departments to generate an ‘offer’ for schools that is bespoke to their subject. Face to Face UCAS physical events start in March.
- Pre-application days are over for this cycle and applicant days (to support applicants as they consider whether to accept our offer and make us first choice) began in November and run through until April. These will operate both virtually and in person to enable greater reach for those challenged by travel and cost. Over 200 newly recruited student ambassadors will support our on-campus open days and outreach activities.
- Digital marketing activity is generating positive results. The current applications campaign is currently running across multiple channels and performing ahead of industry benchmarks. Coordinated subject-level adverts will be launched in February, maximising the deployment of resource for greater impact.
- Our 2023 UG prospectus for 2023 has a design linking directly to our Undergraduate campaign to give a strong, bold sense of Sheffield throughout the whole suite of marketing activity in use across the University.
- We are also planning a Student City campaign in partnership with Hallam and Sheffield City Council to run from April 2022, which aims to increase awareness of Sheffield as a student destination.

### **2.1.6 Recruitment and Marketing update - Postgraduate**

- In line with insight about the PG market and how these students’ needs are changing, a second online PGT Open Day will take place in February over Zoom in order to ensure full engagement from both Home and International markets. Additional Postgraduate ambassadors will field questions, create more focused, related content and have a greater presence at our online Postgraduate open days and events and on FindAMasters.com.
- The Postgraduate always-on advertising campaign has also launched and subject-level campaigns are being planned. This co-ordinated, One University approach is expected to generate an even higher return on investment and performance will be monitored using a new measurement dashboard to inform future reporting.

### **2.1.7 Student Support Services**

- The University Health Service worked with local partners to provide extra Covid vaccine clinics at The Octagon.

- The new Learning Support Plan and Alternative Exam Arrangements System has been piloted successfully in Philosophy, Journalism and the Faculty of Engineering and this is now available to the Faculty of Arts and Humanities and almost all of the Faculty of Science (excluding the School of Mathematics and Statistics).
- The Student Enquiries Team, which oversees the service known as SSiD, the Impact and Evaluation Team and the Digital Experience Team have been consolidated in a new Customer and Digital Experience Service providing cross-cutting student support.
- The Student Experience, Diversity and Inclusion team in Student Support Services is working with Sheffield Young Carers on the 'Greater Reach, Brighter Futures' Project. This 3 year project, funded by the British and Foreign School Society, will help to identify and support young carers in the University by providing training and awareness raising, specialist resources, consultation and staff development. The project will also undertake monitoring and evaluation in order to measure the effect on young carer's attainment and attendance.
- The Student Administration Service has worked to develop and deliver the institutional response to remote starter students, thereby ensuring that students who have yet to arrive in Sheffield to commence their studies do so before the end of February or are moved to take formal Leave of Absence.

### **2.1.8 University Library**

- The Information Commons remained open most days through the Christmas closure period and was utilised well by students.
- All Library sites re-opened on 4 January and additional learning spaces in buildings across campus and University residences were advertised to students via the [Learning Spaces](#) web site [Assessment Period](#) page from 11 January.
- Assessment periods are typically the busiest times for student learning spaces and the same has been the case this year. Although Library sites have not reached full capacity during this period, the Information Commons has seen up to 950 students studying at any given time during weekday afternoons.

### **2.1.9 Global Engagement**

- The Turing Scheme has been rolled out to students participating in an overseas exchange or work placement. 178 students were confirmed as eligible for a Turing award and payments have been made to all participants who submitted required documentation. Turing funding is also now available to support approximately 70 PhD students to complete a 1-3 month international placement. Preference will be given to those who have submitted their thesis, followed by PhD programmes that require essential overseas travel.
- In December 2021, the University launched a £40k Global Engagement Partnership Development Fund to provide awards of c. £2,000 to foster research collaborations between the University's research flagship institutes and international institutions with potential for long-term partnership development. With an overall focus on achieving research excellence, these awards are intended to help establish and stimulate collaboration with global peers. Through the Fund, Global Engagement will support research flagships to develop targeted world-leading research partnerships with other institutions, including University-level priority partners that add value and are aligned with mutual areas of research strength.
- The University has entered an agreement with the University of Alberta, Canada, for a three year joint research seed grant programme. The theme for the first

year is Energy System Resilience. In January 2022, a virtual match-making workshop, hosted by the University's Energy Institute and the University of Alberta's Energy Signature Area, was held to discuss project ideas for joint research before funding applications opened on 1 February 2022.

## **2.2 DIGITAL EXPERIENCE**

- Nine University MOOCs have been recognised in [Class Central's 'Best MOOCs of All Time'](#), a public vote based on 170,000 user reviews. All nine Sheffield courses feature in the top 100 out of 250 listed. The University also has the most courses in the list, along with the University of Pennsylvania and Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.
- The popularity of MOOCs continues, with c. 533,000 people having enrolled on the two courses that the Careers Service offer (How to Succeed at Interviews and How to Succeed at Applications).

## **3. RESEARCH**

### **3.1 RESEARCH EXCELLENCE**

#### **3.1.1 Research Awards**

- The total value of new awards for the last 12 months to the end of December 2021 now stand at £182.8m. This is an increase of £5m (2.8%) on the £177.8m in December 2020.
- There has been a rise in the total number of awards opened. For the last 12 months to the end of December 2021, the number of new awards opened stood at 991 compared to 937 as at December 2020. The biggest increase in numbers of awards are (54) from the UK Government funding category, whilst the number of Overseas (Non EU Framework) awards has increased by 42. There are an additional 56 Catapult projects included in the December 2021 UK Government awards compared to December 2020.
- The value of new awards for the 12 months to December 2021 has seen increases across all funder categories apart from the EU Framework and Charities which have fallen by £13.5m and £6m respectively. There has been a delay in the receipt of new Horizon Europe funding affecting the EU Framework value. The biggest increases were in the value of UK Government and Overseas awards which increased by £17m and £6.1m respectively.
- There have been 6 new awards for over £1m in the 3 months since the last report, the largest being £5.1m awarded from the ESRC to the Faculty of Social Science.
- The value of the Research Net Contribution is £45.3m for the 12 months to December 2021 compared to £43.3m for the 12 months to December 2020 an increase of £2m (4.6%).
- As at December 2021, research grants work in progress (research order book) which excludes capital projects, stands at £352.2m which is an increase of £13.1m on the work in progress figure of £339.1m recorded in December 2020.

#### **3.1.2 Research Development**

- The University has received a number of short-term funds from Research England to enhance our understanding of, and approach to, research culture, as well as to explore our approaches to participatory research. We are deploying the funds both to accelerate the priorities set out in our strategy delivery plan, as well as to offer researchers to access funding for projects in faculties and departments.

### **3.1.3 Research Excellence Framework**

- We are preparing for the publication of our REF2021 results on May 12. The University will receive the results under embargo on May 10. Research Services and Corporate Communications are preparing a detailed plan for how we communicate and celebrate our achievements, as well as how we learn from the outcomes to inform future plans.

### **3.1.4 Postgraduate research – Centres for Doctoral Training**

- In anticipation of a call for applications for Centres for Doctoral Training from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, we have set up a specific governance structure to ensure our approach to applications is strategic and coordinated. The Centres represent significant income to fund postgraduate research programmes in engineering and physical science disciplines, but are also a marker of reputation in the sector.

## **4. INNOVATION**

### **4.1 INNOVATION IMPACT**

#### **4.1.1 Success and Achievement**

- Dr Jesse Matheson (Economics) studied the impact that working from home would have on retail and hospitality in city centres, and found that in 2022 city centres are set to lose roughly £3 billion. Corporate Communications helped to publicise the research, which led to substantial national coverage – it appeared in 65 national and regional media outlets, including BBC Radio 4's Today Programme, The Times, The Telegraph and Mail Online.
- The University ranked 48th worldwide and 14th in the UK in the Times Higher Education most international universities in the world 2022. This is the third time that the University has featured in the top 50.
- The University will be promoting the impact of apprentices at the University, including through engaging social content, as part of National Apprenticeship Week during w/c 7 February.
- Research from the University's Department of Urban Studies and Planning into the mental health impact of the cladding scandal following the Grenfell tragedy has been widely publicised, including extensive national coverage by the BBC and in a House of Lords debate on the remediation costs to leaseholders.
- Nuclear AMRC will be working with Rolls-Royce to support the next phase of their small modular reactor (SMR) development. The Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, Kwasi Kwarteng, visited NAMRC on the day of the announcement.
- University academics featured in media coverage of the COP26, which dominated the news during November.

#### **4.1.2 Queen's New Year Honours 2022**

- Companion of Honour:
  - Sir Paul M Nurse, FRS, FMedSci, HonFREng (Honorary DSc, 2005) Chief Executive Officer, The Francis Crick Institute. For services to Science and Medicine in the UK and Abroad.
- Dame Commander of the British Empire:
  - Professor Sarah M Springman, CBE (Honorary DEng, 2018) Rector and Professor of Geotechnical Engineering, ETH Zurich. For services to Engineering and to International Sports Administration.

- Knight Commander of the Order of St Michael and St George:
  - Professor Stewart T Cole (PhD Microbiology, 1979) Director-General, Pasteur Institute, Paris, France. For services to Science.
- CBE (Commander of the Order of the British Empire):
  - Lisa J Burger (Bachelor of, Music, 1983; Honorary LITTD, 2019) Executive Director and Joint Chief Executive, National Theatre. For services to the Arts.
  - Professor Martin R J Knapp (BA PMA, 1973) Director, NIHR School for Social Care Research and Professor, Health and Social Care Policy, London School of Economics. For services to Social Care Research.
  - Professor Malcolm C Press (Former Staff, Postgraduate Diploma / SLAS (Combined Studies) ACE) Vice Chancellor, Manchester Metropolitan University. For services to Higher and Technical Education.
  - Dr Liane M Smith, FEng (PhD Metallurgy, 1984) Founder and Director, Larkton Ltd. For services to Engineering and Materials Science.
  - Adrian C Vinken, OBE DL (BA Philosophy, 1975) Chief Executive Officer, Theatre Royal Plymouth. For services to Theatre.
- OBE (Officer of the Order of the British Empire):
  - Professor Anthony J Avery (Bachelor of Biomedical Sciences, 1984; MBCHB, 1986) Professor of Primary Health Care, University of Nottingham. For services to General Practice.
  - Professor Helen Davis (Current staff) Head, Division of Ophthalmology and Orthoptics, Health Sciences School, University of Sheffield. For services to Orthoptics.
  - James G Jamieson (MEng Materials Process Engineering, 1986) Chairman, Local Government Association. For services to Local Government.
  - Professor Mahendra G Patel (Current staff) Honorary Senior Lecturer, Academic Unit of Primary Medical Care Medical School, The University of Sheffield; Pharmacist. For services to Pharmacy
- MBE (Member of the Order of the British Empire):
  - Lieutenant Colonel (Rtd) Timothy B J Coombe (BSc Technology, 1975) For services to the community in Brampton.
  - Alan G Davis (Bachelor of Metallurgy, 1982) Lately Director, Human Resources, Organisational Development and Estates, South-West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust. For services to the NHS, particularly during Covid-19.
  - William J Griffiths (BSc Zoology, 1968) Director, Milton Keynes Museum. For services to Museums and to the community in Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire.
  - Dr Vivienne C Lennox (MBCHB, 1987) Chair of Governors, Suffield Park Infant and Nursery School, Norfolk. For services to Education.
  - Reverend Jonathan Swales (MA Biblical Research Studies, 2003) Founder, Lighthouse. For services to the community in Leeds, particularly during Covid-19.

- Andrew C Wright (Bachelor of Music, 1988) For Services to Public Libraries

## 4.2 SHEFFIELD CITY REGION

### 4.2.1 Regional Engagement

- The AMRC Training Centre is part of a South Yorkshire collaboration who have successfully secured over £12million from the Department of Education to establish a new South Yorkshire Institute of Technology (IoT). The collaboration joins FE institutions, HE institutions and local employers to provide pathways from STEM based T-Levels to Higher Technical Qualifications, apprenticeships, and degrees. The IoT will also offer flexible courses for adults looking to reskill or upskill. The AMRC TC is planning to refurbish and upgrade dedicated space with industry-standard digital engineering laboratories.
- The AMRC Digital Meet Manufacturing Commission has been established to accelerate the adoption of digital technologies such as robots, sensors, 3D printing and augmented reality within UK Industry. The Commission will oversee the development of a new digital infrastructure - the AMRC Data Cloud - as well as the launch of a new data science academy to equip engineers with the latest methodologies. The data science academy has backing from the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority and will be delivered by the training provider, EyUpSkills.
- The University has received funding from the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority to pilot an Office for Data Analytics for the region to support evidence-based decision making by regional partners. It is envisaged that the Office for Data Analytics will be a focus for strategic leadership in the region and a catalyst of skills and expertise in the region. This collaborative venture will work mostly as a vehicle to foster and support collaboration between regional partners.
- An innovation programme delivered by the University, Sheffield Hallam University and the SCR Growth Hub has reached a milestone of supporting 400 projects to support regional businesses to deliver new innovations, products and services. The Sheffield Innovation Programme has been running successfully since 2016.

### 4.2.2 Public Engagement

- The University has recently launched a new bespoke platform for hosting public-facing events, activities and digital content. A first for digital development amongst UK universities, the [University of Sheffield Player](#) enables viewers to search and view items such as talks and exhibitions including virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR), performances, films, animations and podcasts, and other curated, high quality content from our University. The Player will allow audiences both nationally and globally to discover new content in a confident showcase of our life-enhancing research, innovation and education.

### 4.2.3 Supporting Cultural Recovery

- Mayor of South Yorkshire, Dan Jarvis, has secured £1m of Additional Restrictions Grant funding to support the cultural and creative industries across South Yorkshire. The University's Off the Shelf Festival of Words will facilitate the distribution of £36,000 of this funding to invest in developing creative practice for individual writers in Sheffield in partnership with publishing partners And Other Stories and The Poetry Business. The funding will

be used to support writers and poets who are seeking to develop their creative practice and to support diverse and disadvantaged artists in their development.

## **5. ONE UNIVERSITY**

### **5.1 SENIOR STAFF RECRUITMENT AND KEY APPOINTMENTS**

- Pooja Furniss has been appointed as Associate Director of HR and Recruitment from 25 November 2021. Mrs Furniss was previously the HR Director at Wirral College.
- Richard Thackaray has been appointed as Head of Enterprise Architecture in IT Services from 13 December 2021. Mr Thackaray was previously the Head of Enterprise Design at the National Crime Agency.
- Professor Sara Fovargue has been appointed as a Chair in Law in the School of Law with effect from 1 January 2022. Professor Fovargue was previously a Professor of Law at Lancaster University.
- Dr Naomi Hawkins has been appointed as a Chair in Law in the School of Law with effect from 1 January 2022. Dr Hawkins was previously an Associate Professor of Law at the University of Exeter.
- Professor Dawn Watkins has been appointed as a Chair in Law in the School of Law with effect from 1 January 2022. Professor Watkins was previously a Professor of Law at the University of Leicester.
- Dr Cristiano Busco has been appointed as a Chair in Accounting in the Management School with effect from 1 January 2022. Dr Busco was previously a Professor of Accounting and Reporting at the University of Roehampton.
- Professor David O'Brien has been appointed as a Chair in Creative and Cultural Industries in the Management School with effect from 1 January 2022. Professor O'Brien was previously a Chancellor's Fellow, Cultural and Creative Industries at the University of Edinburgh.
- Professor Markus Szymik has been appointed as a Chair in Pure Mathematics in the School of Mathematics & Statistics with effect from 3 January 2022. Professor Szymick was previously an Associate Professor at NTNU Norwegian University of Science and Technology.
- Professor Cathy Shrank has been appointed as Faculty Director of One University Strategy Delivery (Arts) with effect from 1 February 2022. Professor Shrank was previously the Deputy Head of the School of English.
- Professor Neil Sims has been appointed as Faculty Director of One University Strategy Delivery (Engineering) with effect from 1 April 2022. Professor Sims is currently Head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering.
- Professor Sheila Francis has been appointed as Faculty Director of One University Strategy Delivery (Medicine, Dentistry and Health) with effect from 17 January 2022. Professor Francis is currently Professor of Cardiovascular Biology and former Head of the Department of Infection, Immunity and Cardiovascular Disease.
- Professor Hugo Dobson has been appointed as Faculty of One University Strategy Delivery (Social Sciences) with effect from 1 September 2022. Professor Dobson is currently Professor of Japan's International Relations and former Head of the School of East Asian Studies and Interim Faculty Director for Learning and Teaching.
- The University is currently recruiting for an Executive Director of Corporate Services, who will join UEB upon appointment.

- Expressions of interest are currently being sought for two new posts: Deputy Vice-President for Research and Deputy Vice-President for Innovation, strengthening the support available to the Executive.

## 5.2 PHILANTHROPY

### 5.2.1 Alumni Volunteering

	2021/22	2021/22 Target	2020/21	2019/20
Volunteers	466	1000	1,115	863
Volunteer hours	4,600	12,000	12,597	8,985
Philanthropic prospects engaged in volunteering	25 (45%)	15%	146 (13%)	127 (15%)
Donors engaged in volunteering	71 (15%)	15%	223 (20%)	133 (16%)
Student beneficiaries	1,683*	7000	6,500**	4,500+

\* Recorded student attendance on events and programmes. Activity across the University is captured where known but this is likely to be an underestimate. The number of students who have accessed online content (e.g. recorded webinars) is not included in figures of student beneficiaries either.

- The first [Coach Cafe](#) networking events of 2021/22 took place in November in collaboration with the Faculties of Arts and Humanities and Social Sciences, as part of the [Law Family Ambition](#) Programme. **120+** students took part, with a significant proportion of attendees coming from Widening Participation backgrounds (**65%**), with **42** alumni volunteers.
- The first School of Law Coach Café, funded by an alumnus/a in memory of their sister, took place in November with **68** student participants, of whom **96%** were from a Widening Participation background, supported by **20** alumni volunteers.
- The University-wide e-Mentoring autumn scheme matched **240** students to alumni mentors to provide one to one advice and support between October and December via email, phone and video calls.
- The first semester of [Sheffield Insights](#) talks took place with inspirational alumni providing advice and insight to students from across the University. Four talks were held online and one on campus between October and December. Talks are all recorded to benefit students across the University.
- Alumni mentors from **100** engineering companies have signed up to support the Global Engineering Challenge and Engineering You're Hired project weeks being held at the end of January and beginning of February.

## 5.3 ACADEMIC AND STRATEGIC PLANNING

### 5.3.1 Annual Planning Cycle

- Academic Departments and Faculties have been working on the development of five-year plans, student intake targets, strategic framework metric targets and risk registers. In December and January Faculties and Academic Departments met to review and discuss department plans before finalising documents and targets for submission on 18 February, after which UEB will complete a process of review and scrutiny.
- Across January, sessions on the Professional Services Planning Cycle have been delivered to department Directors outlining the process and deadlines. Academic plans will be shared with the Professional Services to help inform their plans and enable ambitions outlined by academic departments.

### **5.3.2 Statutory Returns**

- The University's annual Higher Education Students Early Statistics (HESES) return was submitted in December 2021. The HESES data provides an early indication of the number of HE students studying in 2021-22, and, with data supplied to the Higher Education Statistics Agency, will inform the allocation of teaching funds for 2022-23.