



The Senate, 15 March 2023

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 now comprises two parts, the main report and a supplementary report with additional information and updates, available in the Reading Room.

1. EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT

1.1 Policy change on international students expected

- Reports suggest that the government may look to restrict international student numbers coming to the UK. This could be by changing rules on bringing family members, increasing income thresholds that have to be met before coming, preventing students from switching to a work visa until they have finished their course and/or making changes to the Graduate Visa Route. Changes to the Graduate Visa Route would have the biggest negative impact on the University, whereas the suggestion to prevent visa-switching is supported by the sector. These policy proposals come in response to publication of figures in November showing net migration to the UK reached 504,000 in the year to June 2022, up from 173,000 in 2021, with international students accounting for a large part of the growth. This is in the context of the Conservative Party 2019 manifesto commitment that overall migration numbers will come down. Any intervention to limit international students would run counter to the Government's 2019 International Education Strategy, which set a target to boost the value of Britain's education exports to £35 billion per year.
- The University has made a robust case for the value of this student group both to Sheffield and the wider country. Following discussion with the University, Sheffield Central MP Paul Blomfield [highlighted](#) in Parliament the immense contribution that international students make to the UK economy (£30 billion per year). The University provided a briefing to all regional MPs and continues to work with the sector to make the case for international students and the benefits they bring to all students, as well as to wider society and the local and national economy.

1.2 Research spending protected but international collaboration uncertainty remains

- The Sunak government has protected the Research & Development budget and the previously announced increase to £20 billion public R&D investment by 2024-25. The Chancellor, Jeremy Hunt MP has stated that the UK is now close to meeting the target to invest 2.4% of GDP in R&D, however, a significant reason behind this is recent changes to how the [data](#) is calculated. The sector is working to ensure therefore that the political parties are more ambitious in their manifestoes at the next general election.
- The UK and EU have reached an agreement on trading arrangements for Northern Ireland, referred to as The Windsor Framework. This removes the biggest obstacle to the UK being able to associate to Horizon Europe, the EU's €95 billion research and innovation programme, which arose from the UK reneging on previous trading arrangements. The EU has stated it is keen to begin work on an association agreement once the agreement in principle is implemented. UK research, innovation, and business bodies, including the Russell Group, have issued a joint statement urging rapid progress on association.
- When pressed in Parliament by Sheffield Central MP Paul Blomfield on association, however, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak gave a non-committal response, and the Treasury's recent clawback of £1.6 billion reserved for association raises further doubts about the government's priorities in this area. The University is working with the Russell Group to continue to press the case regarding the benefits of association to Horizon Europe.

1.3 New free speech obligations on universities close to becoming law

- The Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill honours a Conservative manifesto commitment to extend and strengthen existing legislation upholding freedom of speech and academic freedom at registered higher education providers and students' unions. The Bill continues to progress through parliament and in December the House of Lords supported a government amendment to ban universities from using non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) in bullying and harassment cases, including but not limited to sexual misconduct. The University does not use NDAs in the cases outlined in the Bill and last year signed up to the #CantBuyMySilence pledge committing to not using NDAs in these circumstances.
- The Bill broadens the powers of the higher education regulator, the Office for Students, including requiring universities to report overseas income (with a threshold to be determined); and introduces a complaints scheme if an institution does not comply with its free speech duties. A statutory tort is also proposed that would allow individuals to sue universities for breaching free speech obligations.
- Throughout the Bill's passage through parliament, the University has liaised with the Russell Group to make it as workable as possible for the sector. In January, Smita Jamdar, from the law firm Shakespeare Martineau, was invited to host a workshop on free speech with a senior management group and also delivered a presentation to Council on free speech at its meeting in February. Work is underway to ensure that the University meets all current and future obligations with regards to freedom of speech and academic freedom.

1.4 Cost of living for students – government measures inadequate

- The government has [announced](#) student fee and support arrangements for higher education students undertaking a course of study in the 2023/24 academic year, including an increase to increase hardship funding of £15 million and award an uplift to the maintenance loan. Universities UK has [cautioned](#) that the measures announced do not make up for the real terms cut to maintenance that students have experienced since inflation began to rapidly increase. The IFS [stresses](#) that errors in previous inflationary forecasting have not been rectified by the move and calculates that students from the poorest families will in the future be approximately £1,500 worse off per year than they would have been if inflation forecasts over the past two years had been correct.
- The OfS [published](#) its initial research on the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on students, noting “particular concern that those student groups already facing the greatest risks to equality of opportunity are experiencing greater levels of hardship”.

The University has committed up to £3 million to support students facing financial difficulties due to the rising cost of living and [further information](#) on support for students is available online.

2. EDUCATION

2.1 DELIVERY OF THE PORTFOLIO

2.1.1 Undergraduate Admissions

- As of 01 February, we have seen a good increase in UG Home applications when compared with the same point last year. This upward trend has been consistent throughout the 2022-2023 cycle, illustrating our recovery of market share.
- After a slow start, we have now also seen an encouraging increase in UG Overseas applications compared with this point last year. This is due both to a late recovery in application numbers from mainland China as well as other key international markets seeing an increase in applications this year.
- Following the UCAS equal consideration deadline we now move much of our focus onto supporting offer-holders in making their decision whether to accept our offer. Applicants have until 08 June to make their choices.

2.1.2 Postgraduate Taught Admissions

- PGT Home applications are again lower than at this point last year, and offers are correspondingly down. This sector-wide trend over the last 3 years is likely to continue, with key drivers linked to the cost of living crisis and employment market.
- Conversely, the increase in PGT Overseas applications continues. This is a trend across all faculties and although applications from China have increased, they now constitute a smaller percentage of the University’s PGT applications overall with the proportion of applications from other key markets increasing and bringing increased international diversity.

2.1.3 Postgraduate Research Admissions

- PGR Home applications are again down in comparison to this point last year and this continues the trend over the last 5 years. Application windows for most UKRI

studentships run until January-March each year so we are still hopeful that further applications will be received.

- PGR Overseas applications are marginally up this year, which continues the post-Covid recovery in this area. China remains our biggest international market at PGR level with numbers from other markets stabilising.

2.1.4 Registration

- As of the 1 December census point the University had registered 13,100 new entrants against a target of 13,437. The 1 December census point is the last time in the year we report on registrations and is used for statutory returns that inform teaching grants and funding. The table below shows the full position:

New Student Registrations Against Targets

Category	2022 Intake target (1 December 2022)	Intake registered at 1 December 2022	Variance between registrations and target
Undergraduate Home (UGH):	4,363	4,890	+527
Undergraduate Overseas (UGO):	1,296	1,336	+40
Postgraduate Taught Home (PGTH):	2,209	1,494	-715
Postgraduate Taught Overseas (PGTO):	4,768	4,742	-26

- For the academic year 2022/23, Registration opened for new students on 26 August and ran until the Latest Registration Start Date of 17 October. The model of new student registration adopted during the pandemic was maintained for the start of this academic year, premised on a mixture of online registration actions and in person events (for required ID and immigration checks and for uCard collection) attended by appointment. Although the approach worked well, with 77% of respondents to the annual registration survey reporting a student experience of excellent or good, 38% of respondents felt that the waiting time was longer than they had expected. Module selection also remains an area for improvement and a project group, drawing representatives from central and academic services, is reviewing the approach to module selection and considering the options to improve on the information for students and the process.

2.1.5 Student Recruitment and Marketing

- In 2022, 19,950 prospective student bookings (up 20% on 2019) were made for 5 pre-application University Open Days, meaning 20% more prospective students can be

targeted with our Apply Now campaign. Attendance rates were affected by rail strikes and the death of the Queen and work in 2023 will focus on improving attendance.

2.1.6 Teaching Excellence

- The University's Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) submission was completed ahead of the 24 January 2023 deadline, in accordance with the [OfS' TEF Guidance](#). Over the coming weeks a TEF panel will consider the University's written submission, the TEF [dataset](#) (which draws heavily on NSS performance and student outcomes data), and a submission from the Students' Union, to determine an overall rating of Gold, Silver, Bronze or Requires Improvement. The provisional outcome is expected in July, and the final results will be published from September 2023. Both the University and the SU Submissions are available in the Senate Reading Room.
- The National Student Survey 2023 opened on 6th February and will close on 30th April. This will be the first NSS survey since the OfS announced changes to the questionnaire. The results will be reported in July.

2.1.7 Student Support Services

- Cost of Living (CoL):

Following the announcement in September of a £3M University support package for facing financial difficulties due to the rising cost of living, the measures adopted included:

- financial support grants dispersed by application
<https://students.sheffield.ac.uk/financial-support/application>
- increasing the funding available for the Participation Grant from £26,000 to £40,000 - to ensure all students can engage with extracurricular activities.
- a 10% increase to widening participation bursaries for eligible home-fee paying students.
- a 10% stipend increase for University of Sheffield funded postgraduate research students, from 1 October, in line with UKRI's announced policy.

To date, these measures have translated into:

- 905 applications for financial assistance, of which 705 have been for CoL support total spend to date is £773,899. This compares with a total of 435 applications for assistance in 2021/22 with a spend of £175,535.
 - 270 students received a participation grant to enable them to afford to join in Student Union and Sport Sheffield activities.
 - 5073 undergraduate home students receiving a higher value bursary.
 - 1086 postgraduate research students receiving a 10% uplift to their stipend.
- Student Exam Preparation:
In recognition that many students arriving at University this year have had little or no prior experience of physical exam environments (due to the pandemic) and in response to feedback that additional help would help alleviate student anxiety about what to expect, resources have been reviewed, enhanced and brought together to help students prepare for invigilated paper-based and online examinations. Resources include [videos](#),

exam experience sessions (including a practice exam paper and invigilators), web resources and study skills information ([Managing Failure](#)). In addition, work is underway with the Digital Learning Team and the SU to produce observational/walking tour style guides (using 360 platforms) enabling students to choose the media and content that works best for them.

2.2 EMPLOYABILITY

2.2.1 Careers

- The Department for Lifelong Learning will be hosting the sector-wide Foundation Year Network Annual Conference from 13-14 July 2023. The theme of the conference will deal with and explore failure, mistakes and taking non-linear paths through education and careers in general, and foundation years in particular.

2.2.2 DIGITAL EXPERIENCE

- 300 laptops were supplied to support the enlarged Computer Science cohort to have more adaptable teaching spaces. All laptops are now with Students and in use to support Semester 2 teaching.
- The Creative Media service – an IT team that support teaching and learning by supplying digital media equipment, training students in product and editing and providing podcast, vlog and television studio spaces have been working widely across curriculum areas and have seen a significant uptake in their wide range of services this academic year. For example, in December alone, they loaned 636 pieces of equipment, supported 356 edit suite bookings and facilitated 52 digital studio bookings. The services continues to grow and support a wide range of teaching, learning and assessment.

2.3 STUDENT EXPERIENCE

- Our ongoing work to improve timetabling and student experience continues to offer incremental improvements. As part of our readiness for Semester 1, major changes were delivered to the timetabling software which delivered a stable reliable platform and no issues during the early semester heavy use that have proved problematic in the past. We have continued to build on this stability and increased trust in the platform and are working with the Deputy VP Education and Student Support Services to integrate the digital timetable in iSheffield with a pilot for digital attendance monitoring which is current in beta testing.

3. RESEARCH

3.1 RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

3.1.1 Research Awards

- See section 5, Finance.

3.1.2 Research Development

- Our Research Strategy Delivery Plan commits us to ensuring coordinated support for large and/or strategic funding bids. We have Steering and Management boards in place for our applications for Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council Centres for Doctoral Training. These carry significant reputational benefits as well as impacting on our ability to attract high quality PhD candidates in Engineering and Physical Science. Expressions of Interest are due in March with invited submissions due in September.

- We have recently submitted a bid to the recommissioning of the Social Sciences Doctoral Training Partnership, worth £20M across seven partners. This is the third iteration of the DTP which funds PhD students across the social sciences.
- We are implementing the lessons learned from our Research Excellence Framework review. UEB has agreed to target some investment on top performing units to enable them to maintain and enhance their performance, and on those just below the top tier to enable them to move up for the next exercise in 2027. We are also implementing findings around structures to support REF preparation, in EDI training, in stocktakes for outputs, staff, impact and environment.
- National negotiations with Springer Nature led by Jisc/UUK with are ongoing. Following the success of national negotiations with Elsevier in 2022, the sector continues to work together to ensure a deal which offers value for money and compliance with funder requirements for immediate open access.

3.1.4 World Universities Network

- Two University of Sheffield projects were successful in the annual WUN Research Development Fund and will receive £13,000 each in seed funding to foster research collaborations among academic staff at WUN member universities:

4. INNOVATION

4.1 COMMERCIALISATION

4.1.1 Commercialisation of our Intellectual Property

- Further to their initial fundraising of £215M in May 2022, Northern Gritstone (NG) is raising further funds with £30M committed and several overseas groups aiming to close by the end of March. NG has made its first investments in Sheffield in two spin-out companies and one collaborative partner of the AMRC.
 - £3.3M investment in Opteran in a £10M round
 - Iceotope (collaborative partner) £5M investment in a £30M round
 - Phlux - see Regional innovation and activities, below

4.2 REGIONAL INNOVATION

- The University of Sheffield's Sustainable Aviation Fuels Innovation Centre (SAF-IC) will be undertaking the pre-screening of the sustainable aviation fuels which will be used in the first ever net-zero transatlantic flight taking off from the UK later this year. The SAF-IC will be joining the project as part of the British consortium leading the project, which includes Rolls-Royce, Boeing, Imperial College London, Rocky Mountain Institute and ICF.
- The University and Sheffield Hallam University have launched a new partnership that will support the expansion of the Children's University in South Yorkshire. Children's University is a national initiative that celebrates participation in learning activities and opportunities outside school hours and encourages young people from the age of five to try new learning experiences. Joint funding of £120k has been agreed by both universities to fund the continuation of South Yorkshire Children's University for the next two years.

- A University spin-out company has secured £4 million in seed funding to bring a revolutionary infrared sensor to the mass market - specifically for robotics and self-driving machines. Securing the backing of leading deep tech investors, Phlux Technology has been spun out of the Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering.

4.3 PARTNERSHIPS AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

- Knowledge Exchange (KE) activity across the University is now supported by the new Partnerships and Knowledge Exchange Service; a dedicated team formed to support the growth of academic and student-led KE in line with the University's KE ambitions set out in the University Vision. This integrated, locally delivered service includes dedicated teams aligned to faculties, flagships and interdisciplinary themes, with KE support located close to academic colleagues.
- The Digital Innovation Zone (DIZ), based in The Diamond, is a newly expanded initiative with Siemens where the latest technologies in industry are available to students, SMEs and business partners to promote innovation. The unique facility houses a number of digital demonstrators and student-accessible workstations and acts as a living lab to assist students to gain the digital skills they will need in an ever-changing engineering landscape and graduate market. Later this year, the DIZ will be launched to local companies to further develop partnerships and collaborations.

4.4 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- The [University of Sheffield Player](#) - a new streaming platform for hosting public-facing podcasts, videos and digital exhibitions showcasing the University's research - has been officially launched. The Player is believed to be a first for digital development amongst UK universities with more than 300 pieces of curated content (at launch) and enables the University's research to be accessed anywhere. Further digital public engagement content will continue to be added to the Player in line with academic activity. In the first five days of the Player launch, more than 27,701 people viewed the trailer on Twitter and the hashtag #shefuniplayer was seen by more than 700,000 people.

5. FINANCE

5.1 RESEARCH

5.1.1 Research Awards

- The total value of new awards for the last 12 months to the end of December 2022 now stand at £168m. This is a decrease of £15m (8%) on the £183m in December 2021.
- There has been a fall in the total number of awards opened. For the last 12 months to the end of December 2022, the number of new awards opened stood at 934 compared to 991 as at December 2021. The biggest decrease in numbers of awards is Charities down by 20 to 183 and EU Framework down by 13 to 6, whilst the number of RCUK awards has increased by 30 to 245.
- The value of new awards for the 12 months to December 2022 has increased in Charities, RCUK and UK Health Authorities which have grown by £6m, £4m and £1m respectively. The biggest falls are in UK Government and EU Framework awards of £15m and £6m respectively.
 - Whilst there has been a fall in the numbers and values of awards between December 21 and December 22 there are several factors which can explain this:

- there were 3 RCUK and 2 UK Government awards in excess of £5m each in the December 2021 figures compared to only 1 RCUK award for over £5m in the 12 months to December 2022.
- There were also 30 fewer AMRC Catapult awards in December 2022 compared to December 2021, albeit the combined value was £0.7m higher.
- The number of EU Framework awards opened in the last 12 months is 6 compared to 19 in the 12 months to December 2021 which is in turn much lower than the 12-month average of 42. As previously mentioned, the reason for this is that there continues to be a delay in the receipt of new Horizon Europe funding caused by UK and EU contract negotiations. The UK Government is offering a Horizon Europe guarantee scheme through UKRI whilst these discussions continue. There have now been 28 new awards opened which have used this scheme with UKRI as the funder.
- There was £54m of awards, not included in the above figures, as at December 2022 where we had received notification of being successful compared to £46m in December 2021.
- In the 3 months since the last report, there have been 6 new awards for over £1m, the largest of these was for £9m awarded by EPSRC to the Faculty of Engineering for the NEF Epitaxy renewal
- The value of the Research Net Contribution is £40m for the 12 months to December 2022 compared to £45m for the 12 months to December 2021 a decrease of £5m (1.1.3%)
- As of December 2022, research grants work in progress (research order book) which excludes capital projects, stands at £342m which is a decrease of £7m on the work in progress figure of 348m recorded in December 2021.

6. LEGAL AND REGULATORY MATTERS

6.1 OFFICE FOR STUDENTS UNDER INCREASING SCRUTINY

- England's higher education regulator, the Office for Students (OfS), has come under increasing scrutiny five years after it was established. Sector bodies have [called](#) for Parliament's cross-party Education Select Committee to review its operation, with the body's own independent [research](#) suggesting room for improved engagement with the sector and independence from government.
- A review of the OfS was announced last month by Government as part of the Public Bodies Review Programme to look at governance, accountability, efficacy and efficiency. But it will not take a bigger picture look at whether the OfS is doing what it was intended to do and exercising its powers as it should.
- The House of Lords Industry and Regulators Committee has subsequently [announced](#) its own inquiry into the Office for Students (OfS), which will include examining OfS performance against duties since its establishment, and look at its independence from and relationship with the Government.
- The OfS was established in 2018 by the Higher Education and Research Act 2017 (HERA) to regulate the higher education sector in England, working in the interests of existing and potential students. A review of the research funding body established by the same Act, UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) has already been undertaken.



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President & Vice-Chancellor's Supplementary 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 now comprises two parts, the main report and a supplementary report with additional information and updates, available in the Reading Room.

1. EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT No supplementary content

2. EDUCATION

2.1 DELIVERY OF THE PORTFOLIO

2.1.1 Student Recruitment and Marketing

- Almost 3000 bookings have been taken, so far, across four Offer Holder Days from February to April, which aim to persuade those who have applied to make Sheffield their first choice. This is up over 700 on the same time last year.
- The first online Meet Your Department Day (replacing full scale online open days) ran in November. This offer was reviewed and adapted for two further events in April (PG) and May (UG). Sheffield Live sessions, which cover everything from personal statements to university life, have been delivered to 2,500+ attendees so far with another 1,400+ bookings for January - Easter 2023 sessions. These numbers show the demand for the online offer alongside the face to face events.
- The Schools Liaison Team has delivered 321 interactions to target schools this cycle, with 300+ interactions still planned. The University is attending 40 UCAS events and 13 UK Uni Search events and hosting a UK Uni Search event on campus in March. Contingency planning across this area is extensive where events coincide with teacher and rail strikes.
- The new look 2024 prospectus is printed for UCAS fairs starting February. It provides course listings and entry requirements with short links and/or QR code linking to in-depth, accurate, up-to-date course information in our online prospectus and video content. The reduced page count also makes it significantly more sustainable in terms of print and transportation.

The second phase of this campaign is complete with a third phase of activity taking place in February. This phase includes geo-targeting prospective students attending London and Birmingham UCAS fairs, where we will be hosting a bespoke Sheffield City stand alongside the University's usual stand.

Student Recruitment and Marketing Service Design Project:

The project is progressing well with high level service design activity now complete and approved by the Project Board. The project is now moving forward with more detailed service design, with a current focus on understanding the current systems landscape.

2.1.2 Teaching Excellence

- The main Tell US module survey window for Semester 1 closed on 16th December 2022, with an institutional response rate of 43%. This is a significant improvement on previous years and shows increased engagement with the survey. The next step is to share reports so that departments and teaching staff can begin to use the data to reflect on learning and teaching.

2.1.3 Annual Planning Cycle

- Academic departments have been provided with guidance to support optional mid-year reviews of their annual action plans, to ensure actions are on track and updated where required. An audit of the action planning process is being undertaken by PwC in Feb-March with recommendations informing the process, guidance to departments and reporting of progress in May-July. Action plans for the 2023/24 academic year will be developed in June and signed off by UEB by July.

2.1.4 Data Returns

- The University's final annual Higher Education Students Early Statistics (HESES) return was submitted in December 2022. This data provides an early indication of the number of higher education students studying in 2022-23, and informs the allocation of teaching funds for 2023-24. Our Data Futures submission continues to be developed and we are on course to export our 50% submission for the May deadline and will replace the HESA Student annual return.

2.2 EMPLOYABILITY

2.2.1 Careers

- Work is underway to launch the Postgraduate Researcher Experience Programme (PREP), which contributes to knowledge exchange by providing funding to enable PGR students to apply existing skills, knowledge, insights and develop networks beyond academia. This opens to applications in February 2023 and funding can help students to access internships, work-shadowing, professional conferences and training courses.
- In partnership with the Students' Union content is being finalised for the 'Careers Week - What Next?' which takes place w/c 13 February in conjunction with the Students' Union.
- The launch of the Inspiring Student Worker Awards for 2023 will also take place in February 2023. These awards recognise students who have made an impact through their part-time work, vacation job or short term/ summer internships.
- A new student extracurricular activities database launched on 6th February. The new database links activities to the Sheffield Graduate Attributes framework to support students to identify activities that could help them develop particular skills and

attributes to enhance their future employability. It can also be used alongside the mySkills portfolio tool and assessment.

2.2 DIGITAL EXPERIENCE

- Phase 1 of the MDH student placements project went live in January supporting the first cohort of students. Future phases will roll out for the remainder of this academic year.
- The Wonda Virtual and Augmented Reality platform also went live in January and is now available for all staff to develop 360 media spaces for teaching, learning and student recruitment/virtual tours.

2.3 STUDENT EXPERIENCE

- Full access to Western Bank Library, including all study spaces was restored 12th January, in time for the return to academic session and busy assessment period. Works to upgrade the ventilation and cooling system, as well as the overall air quality are in the final stages and due to complete 17th February.

3. RESEARCH

3.1 RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

3.1.1 Research Development

- The N8 group of research intensive universities launched a joint statement on Rights Retention in January with a commitment to support researchers in retaining rights to their work when published in a journal. The University of Sheffield has enacted this commitment through the Research Publications and Copyright Policy approved by Senate in December 2022.

3.1.2 Cultural Update

- Harmony Works is a visionary project which will repurpose Canada House, a listed building in the heart of Sheffield, to make a new cultural/education centre for young musicians. The planning application for the project has been approved and the University's involvement with the project aligns with the current partnership with Sheffield City Council on the successful Future High Streets Fund bid. The University's Head of Cultural Engagement also sits on the Sheffield Music Academy Board to support the Harmony Works project developments. Various academics and students are also involved with Harmony Works including Masters students in the School of Architecture through Live Projects, Department of Engineering students using the project as a case study for 'Creative Re-use of Heritage Buildings' and discussions are underway regarding academic-input from the Department of Music.

3.1.3 Marshall Scholar

- We are delighted to be receiving a Marshall Scholar to study a Master's in September 2023. The Marshall Scholarship programme is a highly prestigious UK government scholarship looking for future leaders who will strengthen US-UK relations.

3.1.4 World Universities Network

- Two University of Sheffield projects were successful in the annual WUN Research Development Fund and will receive £13,000 each in seed funding to foster research collaborations among academic staff at WUN member universities:

- Dr John Richmond (ScHARR): [Health System Resilience for Extreme Weather Emergencies](#)
WUN Partners: University of Alberta, University of Ghana, University of Leeds, Mahidol University, National Cheng Kung University, University of Technology Sydney.
- Dr Sergio Vernuccio (Chemical and Biological Engineering): [Sustainable Production of Hydrogen through Photoreforming of Organic Waste](#)
WUN Partners: University of Alberta, University of Cape Town, Ruhr University Bochum (RUB), University of Technology Sydney.

4. INNOVATION

4.1 INNOVATION IMPACT

4.1.1 Success and Achievement

- Research from Dr Paul Brindley, Landscape Architecture, revealed the greenest city centres in Great Britain after ranking 68 urban centres based on their tree cover, vegetation and the presence of parks. The findings were covered by 209 media outlets and detailed plans underway to make Sheffield city centre greener.
- Throughout COP27, events were held in the Students' Union on a variety of sustainability topics, Union which were open to staff, students and the public. Details of University Academics with expertise in climate topics have been shared with local and national media.
- A new report from Dr Julie Posetti, from University's Centre for Freedom of the Media, and Professor Kalina Bontcheva and Dr Diana Maynard, Computer Science, investigated online violence against women journalists, and called for urgent action by UK policymakers to protect lives, livelihoods and press freedom. The findings were covered by BBC News, The Guardian and The Times.
- The University is playing a key role in the world's first ever net zero aviation flight, which will see a plane fly across the Atlantic using solely sustainable aviation fuel. This story achieved positive media coverage and details were shared with industrial partners to raise awareness.
- The University was ranked one of the top 50 most international universities in the world, and 15th in the UK, according to Times Higher Education.
- New research from Dr Christine Huebner, Sheffield Methods Institute, revealed that lowering the voting age to 16 in Scotland has led to a boost in long-term participation in elections. The news was covered by national and local media around the UK.
- New research from Professor Allan Pacey, Head of the Departments of Oncology and Metabolism and Infection, Immunity and Cardiovascular Disease, found that less than four in 100 men are accepted to be sperm donors.
- The University is jointly funding the South Yorkshire Children's University in partnership with Sheffield Hallam University to ensure that every child and young person in the region can be encouraged and rewarded for taking part in extracurricular activities. The partnership has now been announced publicly.

- Communications were sent to staff and students regarding the launch of the cost of living hub, which aims support both staff and students with the increasing cost of living. A press release was also shared outlining the support available, and the news was widely reported by local and regional media.

5. ONE UNIVERSITY

5.1 PHILANTHOPHY

5.1.1 Alumni Engagement and Volunteering

	Volunteer Hours (target)	Total volunteering hours to date	Campaign target
Financial year	2022/2023		
Volunteering hours (alumni and friends)**	5,223 (13,000)	57,123	80,000
Volunteering hours (students)***	11,356 (20,000)	101,756	120,000
	16,579 (33,000)	158,879	200,000

** Figures include hours contributed by Alumni and friends. 'Friends' are defined as non-alumni who are not University of Sheffield staff.

*** Data on student volunteer hours covers the period 01.08.18 – 16.12.22.

- Autumn semester's e-mentoring scheme matched 287 students to an equal number of alumni mentors. This is the largest number to date.
- The Engineering You're Hired and Global Engineering Challenge project weeks have taken place with online and on-campus participation from 100 alumni volunteers supporting the entire first and second year cohorts of Engineering students.
- With support from Global Engagement, alumni receptions were held in Singapore and Kuala Lumpur in November.
- Over 100 alumni in Hong Kong have signed up for an in-country reception that will be hosted at the China Club during CAR Director's February visit to Hong Kong.

5.2.5 Honours

- Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire:
 - Professor Cathryn E. Nutbrown (PhD Education, 1997). Professor, School of Education, University of Sheffield. For services to Early Childhood Education.
- CBE (Commander of the Order of the British Empire):
 - Professor David C. Crossman (Former Staff). Chief Scientist (Health), Scottish Government. For services to Public Health in Scotland.
 - Professor Andrew D. Curran (Honorary Professor). Chief Scientific Adviser and Director of Research, Health and Safety Executive. For Public Service.

- Peter J. McGhee (BSc Maths 1986; Postgraduate Certificate in Education 1987). Principal, St John Rigby Sixth Form College, Greater Manchester. For services to Further Education.
- OBE (Member of the Order of the British Empire):
 - Ewen M. Harrison (Statistics 2012; MSc Stats with Med App DL 2015). Professor of Surgery and Data Science, University of Edinburgh. For services to the Covid-19 Response
 - Professor Mohamed Pourkashanian (Current Staff). Managing Director, Energy Innovation Centre, University of Sheffield. For services to Net Zero Research and to Innovation.
- MBE (Member of the Order of the British Empire):
 - Oluwole O. Folayan (BEng Chemical Process Engineering and Fuel Technology 1999). Co-founder, Association for Black and Minority Ethnic Engineers UK. For services to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in Engineering.
 - Dominic Jacquesson (MSc Occupational Psychology 1994). Vice President, Insight and Talent, Index Ventures. For services to Technology and to Entrepreneurship.
 - David (Barney) N. Lerner (Former Staff). For services to the Environment in Bradford, West Yorkshire.
 - Dr Shaid Mahmood (PhD Chemistry 1993). Chair of Governors, Leeds City College Group. For services to Further Education in Leeds.
 - Charles J. Ritchie (Applied Maths and Computer Science 1975; MA World Music Studies DL 2011). Co-Founder, Gambling with Lives. For services to Charity and to the Families Bereaved by Gambling Related Suicides.
 - June D. Sanders (BA English, 1966). President, Family Lives. For services to Charity and Mental Health.
 - Professor Helen M. Sweetland (MBChB Medicine 1983; MD Medicine 1992). Emeritus Professor, School of Medicine, Cardiff University. For services to Patient Care and Medical Education.
 - Helena Whitbread (Honorary D.Litt, 2023). Historian and Editor. For services to History and to Literature.
- BEM (Medal of the Order of the British Empire):
 - Mark B. Glossop (BEng Mining, 1959). For services to the community in Worcester.

6. LEGAL AND REGULATORY MATTERS - No supplementary content

