



The Senate, 26 June 2024

President & Vice-Chancellor's Report – Main 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. In response to the recent Council Effectiveness Action Plan, the report now comprises two parts, the main report and a supplementary report with additional information and updates.

1. EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT

1.1 GRADUATE VISA ROUTE RETAINED

- The independent Migration Advisory Committee has [published](#) the outcome of its rapid review of the Graduate Visa Route, which recommended that the Route be retained in its current form. The Graduate Visa Route allows international students to remain in the UK to work for 2 or 3 years after their studies and helps to make the UK a competitive international study destination. It has also been key to efforts of UK universities to diversify their intakes of international students.
- Following this, the government [announced](#) a package of measures to 'tackle student visa abuse' but it will not make any changes to the Graduate Visa Route in a move [welcomed](#) by the higher education sector. It remains to be seen whether the measures will be implemented, given a new government may be returned at the General Election. The measures announced include regulating the agents used to recruit international students, raising the financial maintenance requirements for a Student Visa application, requiring universities to confirm Student Visa holders' course outcome upon completion, revising the compliance thresholds that universities must meet, imposing restrictions on the remote delivery of teaching and continuing with a review of English language assessments that is already underway.
- There were some concerns in the sector that a commitment to remove the Graduate Visa Route might be included in the Conservative manifesto and that Labour would come under pressure to make a similar commitment. However, the Conservative manifesto did not make such a commitment and indeed the Conservative commitment to cap worker and family visas excludes students, which could see student visa policy more detached from the politics of immigration, something the sector has been calling for over a number of years. The University will continue to make the case to the next Government for policies that attract and recognise the value of international students to the UK.

1.2 GENERAL ELECTION – Polls point to Labour winning the General Election, but no detail on Labour’s plans on financial sustainability for the sector

- In a surprise move the Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak MP, announced that the General Election will take place on Thursday 4 July. The Labour party campaign has been judged by many commentators to be the more cautious, whilst the Conservative party campaign has included more new policy announcements. Both approaches are a reflection that Labour has maintained its approximate 20 point lead in the opinion polls since the election was called. If it were to maintain that lead that suggests Labour would form the next government.
- There is a notable difference in tone towards the sector from Labour with Shadow science Secretary Peter Kyle MP [pledging](#) that the “war against universities will stop” if Labour wins. In the first week of the campaign Rishi Sunak MP [announced](#) the Conservative Party would provide 100,000 more apprenticeship places per year by 2030 funded by “cracking down on rip-off degrees”. Labour’s manifesto in contrast says it “will continue to support the aspiration of every person who meets the requirements and wants to go to university.”
- Labour’s manifesto shows a focus on early years and schools. It recognises that the higher education funding settlement “does not work for the taxpayer, universities, staff, or students” and that Labour will “act to create a secure future for higher education.” Labour has also committed to setting ten-year research and development budgets to provide stability for researchers and investors, but detail about the level of funding is again to be confirmed. The Labour manifesto does not propose action in respect of potential university insolvencies.
- Much of the election debate has been focused on taxation and spending plans of the parties. It is worth noting that according to the Resolution Foundation, there are £19 billion of cuts to unprotected spending pencilled in for after the election. “Unprotected” spending means areas other than the NHS, defence, overseas aid, schools, childcare, and the devolved administrations. The impact of reduced public spending for the University would mean the R&D budget, teaching grant, and funding for our regional partners is likely to come under increasing pressure following the election.
- There is a General Election [hub](#) on the University's website, which includes the latest academic insights and information about the 2024 UK general election. It also includes [guidance](#) for staff on what the University can and cannot do during the election. Students are entitled to be registered to vote at their home and their University address if they do not know where they will be on polling day, but to only vote in one place. This will be the first general election where voters will need to bring photo identification with them to be able to vote.

1.3 RESEARCH SECURITY - Increasing focus on research security

- Following a Research Security Roundtable for the 24 research intensive Russell Group universities, the government announced at the end of April that it intended to consult on measures to protect UK university research from national security threats posed by foreign states. The Vice-Chancellor attended the roundtable for the University, which also included the MI5 Director General and the head of the National Cyber Security Centre. It involved a briefing on security issues and discussion of potential policy options.

- The increasing focus on security issues is likely to continue, whatever the outcome of this year's General Election. In a recent speech Shadow Foreign Secretary, David Lammy MP said that "the government does not know the full extent of Chinese finance within UK universities, research institutes and critical national infrastructure. A major focus for the next Labour government will be to identify vulnerabilities. The yard around which we must erect a higher fence. That is why the next Labour government will launch a comprehensive audit of UK-China relations on entering office."
- The University has recognised the threat in this area and has already taken actions, for example reviewing its due diligence procedures, and it will continue to work with partners on the threat. For more information and guidance on the University's policy on security-related issues in international research collaboration, including contact details for queries, see the [Trusted research and innovation](#) webpages.

1.4 OFS – Universities regulator says sector finances are weaker than last year and will get worse

- An Office for Students (OfS) [analysis](#) of the financial data provided to it from higher education providers in England finds the overall financial performance of the sector was weaker in 2022-23 than 2021-22 and is expected to deteriorate further in the short to medium term. It identifies five financial challenges facing the sector, including inflation eroding the value of UK undergraduate student fees and overreliance on international student fees. This year's annual report on financial sustainability from the regulator is in sharp contrast to last year's report which said that university finances "generally remain in good shape". University insolvencies are reported to be one of the six issues on Labour's risk register of the most immediate problems Labour would face in office if it wins the election. Nevertheless, the Labour manifesto does not propose action in respect of this, beyond recognising the problem and a commitment to bring forward a strategy for post-16 education.

2. EDUCATION

2.1 DELIVERY OF THE PORTFOLIO

2.1.1 Admissions

- Early forecast intake models suggest that we will be under target for undergraduate overseas, postgraduate home / overseas and could exceed our undergraduate home target with careful management of decision making during confirmation and clearing.
- The current forecast intake position for undergraduate home reflects the continued recovery of market share with an overall increase in applications, offers and accepts compared to this point last year. UCAS in-cycle data further illustrates this shift with the University seeing an increase in UK applications against sector and competitor group declines.
- The international forecast intake at both undergraduate and postgraduate illustrates the emergence of multiple sector wide challenges in market behaviour and international student mobility this year.
- Scenario planning is taking place with key stakeholders from Faculty, SRMA, Global Engagement and Strategic Planning & Change to model expected intake against a set of

confirmation principles designed to maximise intake from our current offer pool and carefully manage where we may need to recruit through Clearing.

- The overarching approach to confirmation and clearing this year will be balanced, aligned with University strategic aims and focused on maintaining overall student attainment levels upon entry in order to protect University reputation and maintain the positive trajectory in relation to non-QS university rankings.

2.1.2 Student Recruitment and Marketing

▪ Clearing Marketing

Based on previous clearing campaigns, our priority across both phases will be brand level advertising, but with flexibility to allow us to react closer to the time for specific subject/market needs:

Phase 1 (4 June - 14 August): Digital advertising to target Overseas and Home markets to raise awareness of the University of Sheffield leading with the University of the Year messaging.

Phase 2: (results day): Drive people to phone lines/website with focus on factual information to guide prospective students through the process.

▪ University of the Year

We are ensuring maximum exposure of our three award wins at the WhatUni Student Choice Awards (University of the Year, Student's Union of the Year, and Best Student Life). Starting with our upcoming pre-application Open Day on Saturday 22 June and stretching across all on and off-campus placements and markets including advertising sites near key competitors and Category A schools. Phase two will focus on conversion of prospective students from Home and Overseas markets in the 2024 cycle to confirm and enrol. Phase three will leverage the awards in support of 2025 student recruitment targets.

▪ Customer Service & Events

Bookings for our June and July pre-application open days, which opened on 4th March, have reached over 7,900 (up 20% from last year). We are continuing to develop our open day offering, including our new student society exhibition, photobooth and a new 'Here and Now' insight survey, providing us with on the spot feedback to continually improve our offer.

▪ Lead Generation

There has been a 42% increase in UCAS leads and a 52% increase from attending more UK University Search events since the launch of the new student recruitment and marketing service. Between May and July, over 20 schools and partners will have been hosted on campus, with a notable increase from the Midlands.

▪ Digital Enablement

Work is in train to underpin the new service, formally launched in February, with a market-leading Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system. Salesforce has been selected and the University has made contractual commitments to Salesforce and a delivery partner to support the University with implementation. Detailed timelines are

currently being worked up, anticipating that first functionality will be available before the Summer.

- **Onboarding of new university advertising supplier**

We will be onboarding our advertising supplier Education Cubed in July who will supply paid for media for Home and Overseas markets.

- **2026 student recruitment creative concept**

We have appointed Wash Studio as our creative agency to deliver the 2026 student recruitment campaign. A variety of creative concepts will be tested with target markets. The new campaign begins with the UG prospectus in September.

2.1.3 Teaching Excellence

- **QS World University Rankings 2025**

The QS world rankings are out and we have moved up to 17th in the UK. Overall we remain out of the Top 100, ranking 105th. Over the next 12 months we will work to improve our ranking in the areas we can influence, reassuring our audiences that we continue to be a world-class University. [About our University: Rankings](#)

- **QS India Summit 2024**

The P&VC attended the QS India Summit 2024 from Thursday 8 - Sunday 11 February, 2024. This was a vital opportunity to engage with key stakeholders from QS, as well as a host of Indian and international institutions. The VC featured on a panel entitled, “Innovating Interactions: Interdisciplinary Research & Education Collaboration Best Practices”, and was able to hold meetings with senior members of staff from the University of Auckland; Mahidol University; Penn State and the India Business Group (the latter of which is currently working with the Sheffield City Council on a consultancy piece for the city’s engagement with India). The visit enabled Sheffield to highlight its expertise in an array of research and educational initiatives, as well as being able to boost the University’s profile to another external audience. Global Engagement is currently working on the follow-up.

- **University of Cape Town Summer School**

The UCT summer school application window closed on the 1 April, with 97 submitted applications for 15 places. This 2-week long summer school has been created especially for University of Sheffield students. The programme will cover a broad range of important themes from global citizenship to social and environment transformation to social justice and reconciliation. The University of Cape Town is an institution level, strategic partner of the University of Sheffield.

- **Case Western Reserve University Visit**

12 March saw an inbound visit from Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio. With particular strengths in Engineering, multiple meetings were held to highlight our respective strengths in education, with tours provided around our campus and the city, showcasing the Diamond (including the iForge), the Heartspace, and our student accommodation. With representation from three academic departments in their delegation - meetings were held to discuss curriculum alignment to improve the process for inbound and outbound students alike - by undertaking the mapping up front to

ensure compatibility. Representatives met with their counterparts from Computer Science, Aerospace Engineering, and Bioengineering/Materials.

▪ **Education Development**

New [Staff Principles for Generative AI in learning and teaching](#) have been published alongside a new series of [Student Principles](#).

2.2 EMPLOYABILITY

2.2.1 Apprenticeships

- Sambit Sen, Director of Apprenticeship Delivery and Compliance has been formally appointed as the co-chair of the Russell Group Apprenticeship Network. He will be working closely with other RG universities to share ideas, innovate, debate and lobby government agencies and influence policies for apprenticeships across the sector.
- The national achievement/outcome rates for apprenticeship education in 2022/23 have been published by the [Education Skills Funding Agency](#). The national achievement rates for 2022/23 remain low at 54.6%, against the University's achievement rates of 80.2%.
- The AMRC Training Centre will become the first training provider in South Yorkshire to deliver a composites apprenticeship. In partnership with McLaren Racing and McLaren Automotive, the AMRC Training Centre will deliver a new advanced level composites technician apprenticeship, in addition to the metallic machining apprenticeship the centre is already delivering with McLaren. The apprenticeship launch was celebrated during National Apprenticeship week with a team of McLaren engineers unveiling a recent Formula McLaren car which is on long-term display in the reception at the Training Centre.

2.3 DIGITAL EXPERIENCE

2.3.1 Mark Management and Case Management

- Projects are in progress to develop a means of better managing marks for students ('Marks Management') and to address challenges in the management of complaints and appeals ('Case Management'). SITS has been determined to be the best fit solution for Marks Management with a team currently completing detailed feasibility to ensure the solution will be fit for purpose. A different instance of Salesforce will be deployed to provide us with Case Management capability. Both projects aim to deliver change within the next 6-18 months.

3. RESEARCH

3.1 RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

3.1.1 Postgraduate Research Funding Success

- The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) ran a recent competition to commission Centres for Doctoral Training. 65 Centres have been funded; Sheffield is involved in 10 of those 65. There is significant concern in the sector about the financial sustainability of research; the sector recovers less than 50% of the costs of PGR provision, but the contributions of research students to the research we undertake and the outputs we produce is enormous. The funded Centres have committed significant match funding from internal resources and leveraged from industry and this pressure to match is unlikely to decline, despite Russell Group pressure.

- A significant strand of the Research Excellence priority in the University Vision and Strategy was to review our research entities. One output from this piece of work is an entirely refreshed web presence highlighting our institutes and centres, including those which are prestigious and externally funded. This fits well with our work on the University's reputation and brand: <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/research/centres>
- Another outcome of our Research Excellence priority is the establishment of an Established Researcher Forum. Consultation with the academic community revealed a gap in our support and development provision for established academic researchers. We anticipate that this forum will provide peer support, a focus for development opportunities, and a network, with the aim of enabling grant applications and excellent research outputs and impact.
- The AMRC will play a significant role in the recently awarded EPSRC Centre for Doctoral Training in Machining, Assembly, and Digital Engineering for Manufacturing which is being led by Professor Neil Sims from the Department of Mechanical Engineering.

4. INNOVATION

4.1 SOUTH YORKSHIRE

4.1.1 Regional Innovation

- The University of Sheffield is now a member of the Sheffield Pride of Place Board set up by Business in the Community. The Board consists of city leaders from the public, private and voluntary sectors and has the aim of helping to boost economic opportunity in the city and address inequalities impacting people living and working in Sheffield. The University will be supporting forthcoming educational outreach activities.
- The President & Vice-Chancellor has been invited by City of Doncaster Council to sit on a new City Centre Board and support the development of a new City Centre Strategy.
- The South Yorkshire Children & Young People's Health Research Network (SCYPHeR) was officially launched in March with the aim of building collaborations between the University of Sheffield, Sheffield Children's Hospital and Sheffield Hallam University to embed high-quality research and practice to tackle regional challenges in children's healthcare.
- The Northern Triangle Talent Project, led by the University of Sheffield in partnership with the universities of Leeds and Manchester, has received £1.5m from Research England's Connecting Capability Fund (CCF) to develop the talent ecosystem and accelerate the growth of intellectual property-rich startups and spinouts in Northern England. As part of the project, fellowships will be offered to Early Career Researchers to engage in the commercialisation journey at their universities, a mentor community will be created as well as co-delivered events and training.
- The South Yorkshire Institute of Technology was officially launched at South Yorkshire Skills Expo in Rotherham in March. The University of Sheffield AMRC Training Centre is a key member of the new Institute of Technology (IoT), which is a collaboration of educators and employers from across the region committed to delivering higher-level technical education to invest in people and help close skills gaps in digital and green skills.

4.1.2 Regional Innovation Funding

- A consortium which is led by a team from AMRC has secured £2.7M from the Government's Open Networks Research and Development Fund for a £4.7M project 'The Factory of the Future Open RAN (FoFoRAN)'. The project aims to explore ways manufacturers of all sizes could benefit from open radio access networks (Open RAN), a concept of mobile network architecture that provides the use of non-proprietary subcomponents from a variety of vendors.
- NAMRC hosted a series of Small Modular Reactor supply chain events for Holtech, GE Hitachi and Westinghouse. Each of these events attracted 100+ UK companies to understand opportunities in the supply chain and build new connections.

4.1.3 City, Culture and Public Engagement

- The University of Sheffield is continuing to support Sheffield City Council (SCC) with the shaping of its Cultural Strategy and the recruitment of two new strategically important Culture roles at SCC. A draft of the Strategy is expected in May 2024.

5. ONE UNIVERSITY

5.1 COLLABORATIVE AND SUPPORTIVE CULTURE

5.1.1 Senior Recruitment

- Provost & Deputy Vice-Chancellor

Professor Robert Mokaya OBE, FRS, will take up the role on 17 June 2024. Professor Mokaya is currently the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Global Engagement for the University of Nottingham and is also the Professor of Materials Chemistry. In line with all UEB Professorial appointments, the appointment is for an initial five-year term of office, extendable by mutual agreement.

- Vice-President and the Head of the Faculty of Social Sciences

Professor Ruth Blakeley took up the role on 1 June 2024. Professor Blakeley has previously been Head of the Department of Politics & International Relations and Director of the White Rose Doctoral Training Centre. In line with all UEB Professorial appointments, the appointment is for an initial five-year term of office, extendable by mutual agreement.

- Director of Estates and Facilities Management

Linda Goodacre joined the University on 25 March 2024. Linda has previously worked at Barclays Bank as the Head of Retail Strategy and Portfolio Execution and as Director of Estates at Nottingham University.

5.1.2 New Heads of School for Start of School Structure in 2024/25

Faculty of Arts and Humanities

- School of History, Philosophy and Digital Humanities - Professor Adrian Bingham
- School of Law - Professor Richard Kirkham

Faculty of Engineering

- School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering - Professor George Panoutsos

- School of Mechanical, Aerospace and Civil Engineering - Professor Martin Mayfield
- School of Chemical, Materials and Biological Engineering - Professor Joan Cordiner
Faculty of Science
- School of Mathematical and Physical Sciences - Professor Jeremy Oakley
Faculty of Social Sciences
- School of Education - Professor Rebecca Lawthom
- School of Architecture and Landscape - Professor Helen Woolley
- School of Journalism, Communication and Media - Professor Briony Birdi
- School of Geography and Planning - Professor Stephen Hincks
- School of Politics & International Relations/Sociological Studies - Professor Felicity Matthews

5.2 DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

- LGBT+ History Month was marked in February with information on support and events shared with staff and students.

5.3 SUSTAINABILITY

- The website for the [South Yorkshire Sustainability Centre](#), in which the University is one of four core partners alongside Sheffield Hallam University, the University of Manchester, and SYMCA, is now live. The centre supports a just and sustainable to net zero for the region.

6. FINANCE

6.1 RESEARCH

6.1.1 Research Awards

- The total value of new awards for the 12 months to the end of March 2024 was £172m, a small decrease of £1m (1%) compared to £171m in March 2023.
- There was also a decrease in the total number of awards - for the 12 months to the end of March 2024, the number of new awards opened was 864 compared to 970 as at March 2023. There was a fall of 53 in the number of RCUK awards in the 12 months to March 2024 compared with March 2023 whilst the number of AMRC Catapult awards was lower by 26.
- In contract the number of Charity awards has increased by 33.
- The value of new awards for the 12 months to March 2024 showed the biggest rise in Charity awards which increased by £22m to £41m and was the highest value for the last 3 years, whilst the value of UK Government has increased by £6m. However, the value of RCUK award fell by £25.4m. This was partly due to the ending of the UKRI funded Horizon Europe Guarantee Scheme with only £4m of new awards in the 12 months to March 24 compared with £13m in the 12 months to March 23.
- Excluding Capital Projects, as at March 2024 in addition to the above figures, £56m awards have had notification of being successful, as compared to £49m in March 2023.

- The value of the Research Net Contribution is £42m for the 12 months to March 2024 compared to £44m for the 12 months to March 2023 a fall of £2m (5%).
- As of March 2024, research grants work in progress (research order book) which excludes capital projects, stands at £337m which is an increase of £3m on the work in progress figure of £334m recorded in March 2023.

7. LEGAL AND REGULATORY MATTERS

7.1 REPORTABLE EVENTS

- Since the previous report to Senate no reportable events have been notified to the OfS.



The Senate, 26 June 2024

President & Vice-Chancellor's Report – 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. In response to the recent Council Effectiveness Action Plan, the report now comprises two parts, the main report and a supplementary report with additional information and updates.

1. EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT

No supplementary content.

2. EDUCATION

2.1 DELIVERY OF THE PORTFOLIO

2.1.1 Student Recruitment and Marketing.

▪ Undergraduate Offer Holder Days

Over our first three Offer Holder Days in February and March, we took 4252 bookings (+289 or 7% in 2023) and recorded attendance of 3577 (+393 or 12% in 2023). Bookings for our final event on 13th April stand at 1631 students and we expect to exceed numbers seen last year ahead of the increase in offers made overall by the end of this part of the cycle. A Net Promoter Score of 59.5 shows a greater proportion of visitors would recommend us to others based on their visit experience in 2024 than in 2023.

▪ Schools

575 interactions have been delivered by the Lead Generation Team to 440 target schools so far this cycle, up 2% on last year. Last cycle, the team engaged 514 schools and is forecast to exceed that with bookings to engage 535 (+4%) target schools before the end of the cycle.

▪ UCAS

Over March, the team has delivered 5 UCAS events, collecting a total of 3390 leads (a 108% increase in leads last year from the same events). At Manchester and London the immersive City based approach was used and this will now be rolled out at further large scale events.

- **STEM Event**

The STEM event on 27 February sought to inspire and empower Y9-11 girls, trans, and non-binary pupils, highlighting the value they bring to STEM fields, demonstrating that there is a place for them within STEM, and promoting equality. The event was a great success, with 188 pupils from eight schools across Sheffield attending.

- **PGT Home Campaign Event**

Our first local out of home PGT campaign was launched on 1 April, including digital street hubs, roadside 6 sheets, bus rears and tram passenger panels in the local Sheffield area to compete with Hallam for high quality UG progressors. This activity forms part of our work to increase our PGT applications, offers and acceptance. Our principal call to action in this campaign is to book our upcoming PG online open day (17 April) for which there are 622 bookings, 234 of these (38%) are from the home market. A dedicated Sheffield Live session on “UG to PG progression” targeting current UoS students and promoting the Alumni discount, ran on 27 March.

2.1.2 Teaching Excellence

- **CARA Visit**

On 22 February, Malcolm Butler, Director of Global Engagement, hosted a visit from Zeid Al Bayaty, Deputy Director & Fellowship Programme Manager from the Council for At-Risk Academics (CARA). Rachel Eustice, HR Advisor from Human Resources and Prof Patrícia Martuscelli, Co-Director of the Migration Research Group also attended the meeting.

- **Hiroshima University Visit**

From 20-22 February we hosted visitors from Hiroshima University, Japan. In addition to our existing student exchange, Global Engagement and the School of East Asian Studies are working jointly with the University of New South Wales and Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS- Pilani) on a project led by Hiroshima and funded by Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport, Science and Technology, Japan. The project aims to develop student exchange, COIL (Collaborative Online International Learning) and ‘Agile’ entrepreneurship development workshops for students. This is the second year of the project and we are planning to select and fund students to participate in this year’s Agile workshop hosted in Goa, India.

- **International Education Association of Australia (IEAA) Exchange Fair Circuit**

Global Engagement attended study abroad fairs and met with staff at 10 partner universities in Australia and New Zealand between 10 and 28 March, some of which had not been visited in over 5 years. These events reinforce our cooperation and raise the profile of Sheffield for staff and students. Additionally, they provide an opportunity to check in with our students on exchange at those universities. Those students can also give back by volunteering at the fairs to speak with potential applicants about their experience of studying at Sheffield.

The universities visited are: the University of Western Australia, Queensland University of Technology, Griffith University, University of Tasmania, University of Sydney, University of New South Wales, University of Auckland, University of Canterbury, University of Melbourne, Monash University.

2.2 EMPLOYABILITY

2.2.1 Employability & Placements Hubs

- There are now 3 Employability & Placements Hubs established on campus:
 - The central Hub in the SU (operated by the Careers & Employability Service);
 - Cornerstone in the Wave (operated by the Faculty of Social Sciences);
 - Jessop West (overseen by the Faculty of Arts & Humanities).
- All three Hubs welcome students from any Faculty and can handle their queries, provide information and signposting to appropriate support or services. The Wave and Jessop West are also large enough to host various workshops, information events and employer pop-ups. These events include Placement Drop-ins for UG students interested in taking up the opportunity to include a placement year as part of their course.

2.2.2 Inspiring Student Worker Awards

- The annual [Inspiring Student Worker Awards](#) attracted 104 nominations. Judging will commence shortly and the winners will be announced in a ceremony for students and their employers on 13 May.

2.2.3 British Council Study UK Career Development Workshop

- The University has been selected as one of only four UK institutions to host a British Council Study UK Career Development Workshop for Chinese students studying in the UK. Over 200 of our students will have the opportunity to meet a number of Chinese employers.

2.3 DIGITAL EXPERIENCE

2.3.1 WondaVR Discovery and Proof of Concept

- We have delivered a proof of concept to explore the potential for AI to provide authentic scenarios to support learners having interactions within an educational environment.

2.3.2 Digital Enabled Adaptable Teaching

- An experimental teaching space has been created in 301 Glossop Road supporting the exploration of digital teaching, in particular trailing a bring your own device teaching model, to enable digital skills to be embedded within academic programmes.

3. RESEARCH

3.1 RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

3.1.1 Institutional Culture and Environment: Digital Excellence

- **Data Analytics Service (DAS)**

Since the start of the financial year, the Data Analytics Service (DAS) has supported the generation of £7.3M in research income for the University. Team members have been embedded within 15 different research projects, including those for the Nextrode group (CBE), the Foster Lab (Biosciences), and the NLP group (Computer Science). Additionally, working within the ITS-driven Google Data Cap project, their expertise has helped to identify 0.48PB of orphaned and inaccessible data - a significant contribution towards our reduction target of ~1.35PB.

- **Data Safe Haven**

In a significant milestone, the Data Safe Haven (DSH) platform and its accompanying Information Security Management System (ISMS) achieved ISO 27001 international information security standard certification in August. This was confirmed by a rigorous external audit and assures both researchers and research grant funding bodies of the platform's security, thereby enabling larger scale computational research on sensitive data.

- **ShARC High Performance Compute (HPC) Platform**

The platform was retired in December and is being donated to the Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute in Ukraine as part of our ongoing partnership. Currently undergoing preparation for transport, ShARC will help to empower research and innovation and the Institute and further strengthen ties between our institutions.

- **Research Computing Support Service**

The service continues to drive research efficiency, resolving 75% more support calls compared to the same period last year. To further empower researchers, three new TEF funded training courses were developed and launched:

- Deep Learning for Non-Computer Scientists: Designed for both social and natural science disciplines
- Parallel Computing: Aimed at enhancing the efficient utilisation of our HPC facilities, and
- Profiling and Optimisation: Supports sustainable and reproducible scientific coding practices.

Registration for the three courses is now open, and two additional offerings, 'Advanced Visualisation Techniques' and 'Image Segmentation for Medical Sciences', are in development, further expanding researchers' skill sets and accelerating their work.

4. INNOVATION

4.1 INNOVATION IMPACT

4.1.1 Success and Achievement

- We marked National Apprenticeship Week 2024 with coordinated internal and external communications activity on our apprenticeship training and provision. This included a press release, a thought-leadership piece on apprentices closing the UK skills gap, enhanced social media activity and a themed stakeholder newsletter. This also coincided with a visit by the Department for Education to learn more about the University's apprenticeship programmes.
- The University of Sheffield Energy Innovation Centre, with Boeing as a founding member, was opened by Lord Callanan.
- A feature on CognoSpeak – a new AI tool that could help doctors assess the early signs of dementia and Alzheimer's more quickly and efficiently, developed by researchers at the University of Sheffield – was featured on BBC Morning Live.
- 150 researchers from universities across the country took part in the Science Media Centre: Introduction to News Media event at Firth Hall, which included presentations

from the University of Sheffield Media Team, a panel of national science and health reporters, a panel of scientists and a closing speech from Professor Sue Hartley.

- A press release on the negative side effects of forestation was picked up in the Science Media Centre's comment round-up and received significant national and international coverage including the Times, Daily Mail and New Scientist.
- A press release covering new AI research at University of Sheffield being awarded a share of £100 million government funding received local and trade press coverage, including the Yorkshire Post.
- Google's investment in the South Yorkshire Digital Health Hub, led by the University of Sheffield, was announced with a press release.
- A comment piece by Professor Ashley Blom, on tackling health inequalities with digital technologies to help people live longer, was published in the Yorkshire Post.
- The news that the University of Sheffield has partnered with the University of Oxford to create the world's largest database of weeds to help scientists understand how traditional agricultural systems were managed throughout history received significant regional and national coverage including The Daily Express and The Yorkshire Post.
- The news that the University of Sheffield will train the next generation of digital engineers, following a £1 billion investment from the Government into science and technology, received significant trade coverage.
- A release on developing an effective treatment for preventing infection in chronic wounds that does not involve antibiotics was featured in the Yorkshire Post and on BBC Radio Sheffield.

4.2 SOUTH YORKSHIRE

4.2.1 City, Culture and Public Engagement

- As part of its role within Sheffield's Culture Collective, the University along with other regional partners attended '*The Future of Local Cultural Decision Making: South Yorkshire Summit*' organised by SYMCA and the Culture Collective and brought to the region by policy and advocacy specialists, Culture Commons. The policymaking summit included a presentation by UoS School of Architecture (Carolyn Butterworth) showcasing Urban Rooms, as part of the Castlegate regeneration scheme to evidence how similar approaches could translate into sustainable citizen-led place shaping around the UK. Evidence gathered during the day will be analysed by researchers as part of the open policy development plan, and fed into the policy design phase of the programme.
- For this year's [Festival of the Mind](#) (19-29th September), 43 projects from academics across the Faculties have been awarded funding to work with creative partners in the region to produce content for the Festival which this year will take place in three city centre venues: the Spiegeltent in Barkers Pool, Millennium Gallery and Persistence Works next to Site Gallery.
- For this year's [Pint of Science](#) - a worldwide science festival which takes place in May - eight PhD students are being supported by the City, Culture and Public Engagement team to run events across four venues in the city. Across the three nights there will be **36 academics** taking part with short talks/presentations, quizzes and mini experiments to

engage the public with their research under the Pint of Science themes: Beautiful Mind, Our Body, Our Society and Tech Me Out.

5. ONE UNIVERSITY

5.1 COLLABORATIVE AND SUPPORTIVE CULTURE

5.1.1 Corporate Communications

- An email from the VC was shared to all students offering support to those affected by global crises and highlighting expected standards of behaviour.
- The University's internal staff newsletter, *This Week In Focus*, has been shared with staff throughout the semester to communicate key institutional updates on the new schools structure, as well as information on events and resources.

5.1.2 AMG Health and Safety Management

- The AMG's certification for ISO45001 (Health and Safety Management) was recertified in April 2024 following a successful two-day on-site audit. Particular commendations were made in connection with adoption of digital technology and the commitment to continuous improvement.

5.2 PHILANTHROPY

5.2.1 Milestones and Significant Developments

- Event plans for the University's *Forged in Sheffield* Campaign launch are now confirmed. An external launch for our most distinguished and successful alumni and friends will take place at the Royal Institution in London on Tuesday 15th October. An internal launch event for University staff will take place on Wednesday 20th November in the Octagon.
- Nine alumni groups have been launched on Sheffield Connect as part of the continued roll-out of the platform. Of these, four are specifically aimed at employability and the remaining five are designed to drive engagement. The total number of Sheffield Connect users has now reached **1467**, with a roughly 50:50 split between alumni and students.
- CAR's inaugural dinner in Singapore, hosted by alumna and British High Commissioner, Kara Owen CMG, has led to introductions to new foundations and family offices. The dinner is part of a new focus on prospective donors and influencers in south-east Asia.
- Three high profile alumni worked with CAR to deliver events in April and May. These events have attracted considerable interest from US alumni and from some UK alumni who have not previously engaged with the University:
 - Andy Haldane (alumnus, Chair of the AMRC's Industrial Board and former Chief Economist at the Bank of England) hosted a dinner in New York.
 - Internationally-acclaimed author Lee Child led an event for US alumni, also in New York.
 - Lord Blunkett hosted a dinner after the annual House of Lords alumni event.

5.2.2 Alumni Engagement and Volunteering

Financial Year	Volunteer hrs (target)	Total hrs to date	Campaign Target
	2023/2024		
Volunteer hrs**	5,749 (15,000)	71,673	108,924
Volunteer hrs (students) ***	15,098 (20,000)	142,119	187,021
	20,847 (35,000)	209,602	295,945

** Figures have been updated to include hours contributed by Alumni and friends. 'Friends' are defined as non-alumni who are not TUoS staff.

*** Data on student volunteer hours covers the period 01.08.18 – 31.03.24. Further data on student volunteer hours will be included in subsequent reports as it becomes available.

- The Careers' Service spring eMentoring programme was run on the new Sheffield Connect platform. Over 150 students were matched to an equal number of alumni mentors. Feedback is now being collected.
- Our virtual networking programme, Coach Cafe (part of the Law Family Ambition Programme) delivered two cross-faculty events for Arts and Humanities and Social Sciences, and Science and Engineering. An additional spotlight Coach Cafe on Careers in the Built Environment. Overall, Coach Cafe engaged 53 alumni from across the globe to share their support and advice with 150 students.
- The upcoming alumni-alumni Coach Cafe will see 80 alumni give advice to around 60 recent graduates and graduating students, helping them to kickstart their careers.
- Our flagship London City Connections took place, this time with a combined event for the Faculties of Social Sciences and Arts and Humanities. The new format enabled a 50% increase in student beneficiaries. 60 students enjoyed a day of business visits and an evening networking event in the impressive Lloyds building where they were able to network with a range of successful alumni forging their careers in the capital.
- The latest in CAR's popular alumni webinar series, [Bright Minds](#), attracted 168 attendees from 50 countries to hear PhD student Dr Tobias Moll talk about his research into motor neurone disease. Of those in virtual attendance, 60 guests were first time event attendees, and 35 were previous donors with gifts totalling more than £1.14m collectively.

6. FINANCE

No supplementary content.

7. LEGAL AND REGULATORY MATTERS

No supplementary content.