

The University of Exeter

Education Strategy

2014-2020

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Introduction

The University of Exeter is an ambitious, strongly inter-disciplinary, international university. We work together in a vibrant community of staff, undergraduate, masters and research students.

We provide education of the highest quality, inspired by world-leading research, on our campuses in the South West of England and with partners across the world.

At the heart of our approach is a strong supportive partnership between staff and students. Exeter students make a difference because they engage and are highly participative; features of the Exeter Experience central to our success. Our values underpin the experiences of all our students and shape the difference they make in the world.

Higher education is undergoing momentous change internationally, with the very best universities in the world transforming their approaches to education and research through innovative methods and partnerships. Our new Education Strategy for the Exeter Experience sets out our plans for future excellence in this challenging international environment.

Our confidence in delivering the very best education is founded on the longstanding synergy between our education and research strategies. This Education Strategy builds on our strengths, further extends our leading position through creative innovation, and charts a course for where we will be by 2020, with clear measures of success. It is both ambitious and achievable.

Our Vision

An education that transforms dreams and ambitions into global opportunities for success

Our Values

Our values are central to the quality of the Exeter Experience¹. We believe that belonging to a supportive, challenging and inspiring community with strong values at its heart helps our students to flourish and our graduates to succeed.

The renewal and restatement of these values reinforces our community. They underpin the actions we take in implementing this strategy. We will revisit and test them regularly.

¹<http://www.exeter.ac.uk/about/vision/>

Our Mission

To create an internationally exceptional educational experience for all our students that equips them to make a positive difference in the world.

Attributes of the Exeter Graduate and Postgraduate

To enable our graduates to make that positive difference, our students will develop a range of attributes. These attributes embody our values and prepare students for future success.

All our students, whether undergraduate or postgraduate, will be inspired by intellectual challenge to acquire expertise within and beyond their chosen academic field.

In addition the Exeter Graduate will be:

- **An imaginative and critical thinker and problem solver**

The ability to think critically, analyse, and challenge, is the essence of what makes Exeter students valuable citizens, attractive graduate employees and investable entrepreneurs.

- **An active global citizen**

Our graduates will leave the University of Exeter with a commitment to actively engage in society, an awareness of sustainability issues, and an understanding of the cultures and view of others in the world, and a desire to further the common good.

- **A creative and enterprising team player**

Exeter graduates will possess the creativity and drive to inspire change, with an ability to work collaboratively with the widest range of people, whatever their chosen professions.

- **An engaged and participative leader able to effect change**

All Exeter students will graduate with experience of leading and effecting change, empowering them to make a responsible and sustainable difference as a future leader, whatever the context.

- **A confident, resilient and adaptable individual**

Exeter graduates will be equipped to be effective and influential in any context, with the integrity, attitude, mental resourcefulness and knowledge to succeed, regardless of personal circumstance.

Our Strategic Aims: Shaping the Exeter Experience

The strategic aims and supporting objectives detailed below will ensure the University succeeds in creating an exceptional experience for all Exeter students:

Strategic Aim One: Academically-able students from across the world empowered as engaged learners and agents of change

- I. To attract the most academically-able applicants to Exeter, from the UK and across the world
- II. To increase levels of proactive student engagement with their academic studies
- III. To inspire students to lead change, in the University and community, both globally and locally

Strategic Aim Two: Excellent opportunity for high quality placements and internships and the development of employability attributes

- I. To measure and improve the employability attributes of all students through course, extra-curricular and out-of-term-time activities
- II. To provide the opportunity for every student to gain a placement or internship

Strategic Aim Three: Research-inspired, inquiry-led learning and discovery

- I. To enable every student to learn with the creators of world-leading research
- II. To extend the opportunities for students to discover and learn in innovative ways through their own research and inquiry in each year of study
- III. To improve the research environment by enhancing the quality of support and facilities for postgraduate students and research

Strategic Aim Four: International learning, research and work experiences

- I. To significantly increase opportunities for students to study, research or work with a university, employer or voluntary body in another country
- II. To provide international perspectives in all programmes and a multi-cultural experience for all students
- III. To grow the numbers of international staff and students in our academic community

Strategic Aim Five: First class face-to-face educational experiences enhanced with a variety of technologies

- I. To ensure all students are taught and supported by the very best educators, providing inspiring, challenging and innovative learning
- II. To make available the best learning spaces and technologies
- III. To equip students and staff with the ability to use technologies effectively for learning and student success

Strategic Aim Six: Multi-disciplinary learning that tackles contemporary global challenges

- I. To make learning from more than one discipline a feature of all programmes
- II. To provide all students with the opportunity to explore the relevance of different disciplines to contemporary challenges facing the world

Our Impact

We will judge our success in delivering our mission through two overarching measures:

“Exeter will be a world top 100 university for teaching and postgraduate research. All subjects we offer will rank in the top 10 percent of institutions in the UK for teaching and graduate destinations.”²

“Employers and our alumni will recognise the contributions of our graduates in the world and the attributes they developed at Exeter.”³

In addition we will use specific indicators and targets to measure our performance against each of the aims defined in this strategy.

An annual report will be produced of performance against the mission, aims and objectives of this strategy, to inform planning for subsequent years.

² Measured using the ‘teaching’ element of the most recent QS or THE World Rankings; For UK top ten, the average of the seven section scores of the most recent National Student Survey and the measure for the percentage of graduates in ‘graduate-level’ destinations as defined in the most recent Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education.

³ Data gathered by the University from surveys of its alumni and employers and using the ‘employer reputation’ element of the QS World University Rankings