

STUDENT SUMMARY

FINANCE FIGURES FOR STUDENTS 31 JULY 2020



This publication is prepared by the University of Exeter to aid all students, staff and key stakeholders in understanding how the University generates revenue and spends money.

This financial overview provides transparency to students and explains how, where and why the University's tuition fee income is spent.

As a charity we don't make a profit. We reinvest our surpluses to support the delivery of teaching and research.



FOREWORD

THE 2019/20 ACADEMIC YEAR WAS EXTRAORDINARY, WITH THE GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTING A NATIONAL LOCKDOWN IN MARCH 2020, IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 GLOBAL PANDEMIC

The safety and wellbeing of our students and staff remained our top priority, alongside protecting academic outcomes and delivering the best possible student experience in challenging and changing circumstances. The year also saw national disruption to teaching as a result of industrial action related to changes to the USS pension scheme.

Here we present a high level view of the University's finances over the 2019/20 year, with a focus on students.

You can find a more comprehensive analysis in our 'Annual Report and Financial Statements to 31 July 2020' available here: www.exeter.ac.uk/finance/financialstatements.



THE IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND **OUR RESPONSE**

On the 23 March 2020 the UK Government announced a national lockdown in an attempt to control the spread of COVID-19. As early as January 2020 the University had implemented significant measures to manage the risk that the virus, then reported to be spreading in Italy and Spain, posed to our campuses and our communities. The safety of our staff, students and our region has been paramount in our planning and response throughout.

Teaching and Examinations

Enhancing our teaching

We promptly established a new £12m initiative, called Project Enhance, to establish a blended teaching model for the whole of our taught portfolio incorporating live teaching, both in-person and online, along with the development and delivery of high-quality digital material available anytime, anywhere. Our investment in this project included the appointment of 40 new Postgraduate Teaching Assistants, and 69 graduates as Digital Learning Developers. 107 current students were appointed to internships as Digital Learning Assistants. The engagement of recent graduates and current students was accompanied by investment in new digital infrastructure and an additional £1.8m of digital library resources including e-textbooks.

Online Examinations and the No Detriment Policy

In close partnership with the Students' Guild and Students' Union, our approach to examinations in summer 2020 focused on supporting students to succeed in hugely challenging circumstances. In particular, this included our sector-leading No Detriment Policy, through which we were able to provide students with a 'safety net' for their grades based on pre-pandemic performance, protecting them as far as possible from the unpredictable impacts of the pandemic. All examinations were undertaken online, in 'open-book' format during the May and August examination periods, either within 24-hour windows (papers of unfixed or fixed duration), or in alternative coursework formats. Students were given the option to defer any or all May assessments to either August 2020 or May 2021. In total, 16,107 students undertook 944 examinations in the May assessment period, representing 55,929 individual examination scripts which were then

marked online by academic colleagues. A further 2,468 students undertook 797 Deferred and Referred examinations during August, representing 5,343 scripts. Prior to the May examination period, only 342 students (2%) had opted to take up the option to defer all of their assessments to a later period. Through this approach, we successfully supported more than 20,000 taught students to complete the 2019/20 academic year with robust academic outcomes, to progress into the next stage of their studies or on to employment or further study.

Wellbeing

The wellbeing of our staff and students is our priority. Wellbeing Services are provided at both our Exeter and Cornwall campuses, along with digital support, including the online self-help tool 'SilverCloud'.

Student Rents

The University refunded the last two weeks of Term 2 student rents and waived Term 3 rents entirely, for those who were unable to return to occupy their University owned and managed student accommodation in Exeter and Penryn, at a cost to the University of £14m.

Hardship

A new 'Success for All Fund' was set up for those suffering financial hardship as a result of COVID-19. In addition we offered an IT Bursary or Loan for those in need of essential IT equipment.



THE **COST** OF COVID-19

The University of Exeter invested £17m in 2019/20 across all four campuses in response to the pandemic, working with students' unions as well as our partners Falmouth University and FX Plus in Cornwall.

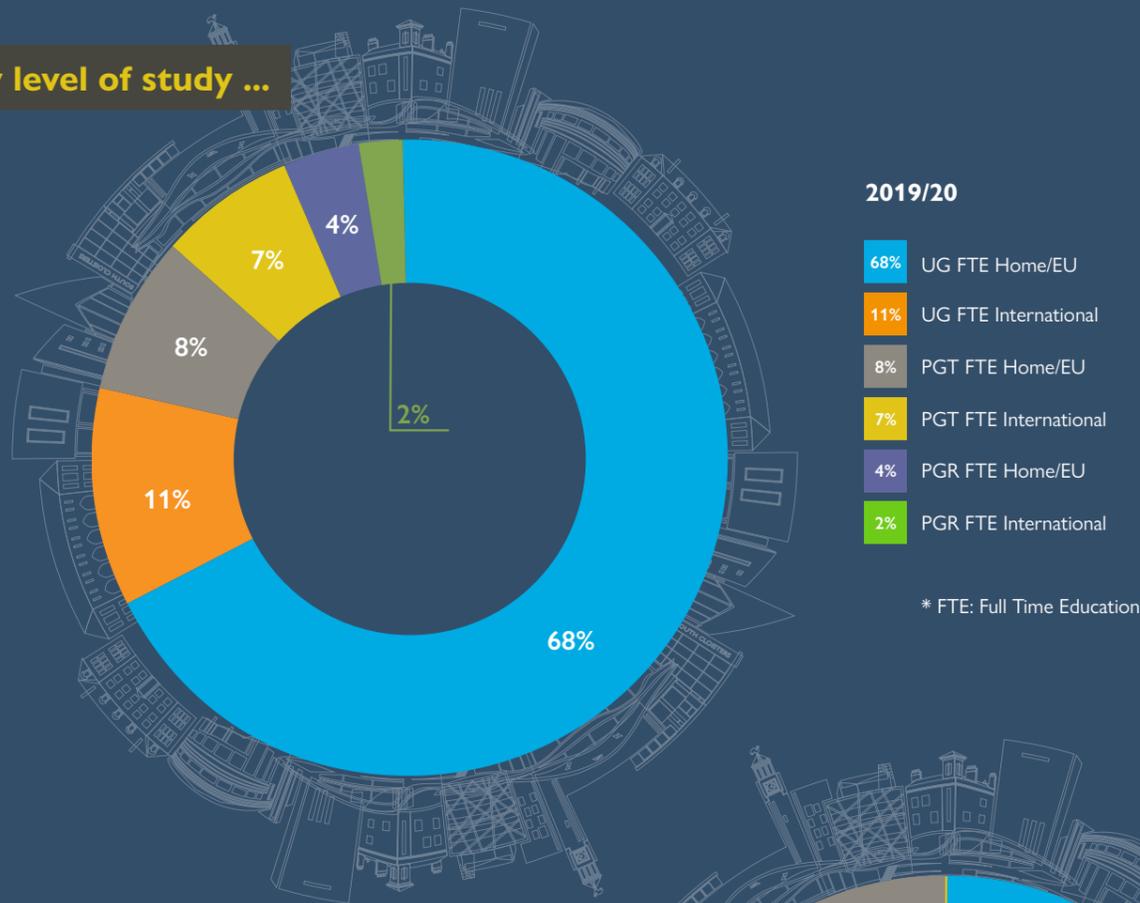
Investments as result of COVID-19	Description	2019/20 £000	Forecast* for 2020/21 £000
Rent waiver for students in University-owned or managed accommodation throughout lockdown periods (from 23rd March 2020)	The University waived rents for those living in University-owned and managed student accommodation in Exeter and Penryn	14,000	13,000
Project Restart/Sustain and Campus works	Campus developments to enhance sustainability and provide safe learning and researching environments. Health & Safety investments including student and staff wellbeing, COVID-19 testing, deep cleaning, signage and PPE	1,992	10,176
Project Enhance	Accelerating IT investment to provide the very best online and in-person learning experiences and on demand resources for our students	236	9,145
Project Student Experience	To ensure that our new and returning students were able to have the 'Exeter Experience' across all our campuses, despite the disruption due to COVID-19 restrictions	172	1,760
Hardship fund and IT bursaries and loans	Financial support and essential IT equipment for students experiencing unexpected financial challenges, affecting their ability to study.	522	1,550
Total		16,922	34,835

* Forecast as at April 2021

HOW MANY STUDENTS?

OVER 25,000 STUDENTS, AT ALL LEVELS OF STUDY, ARE BASED ON OUR FOUR CAMPUSES IN EXETER AND CORNWALL

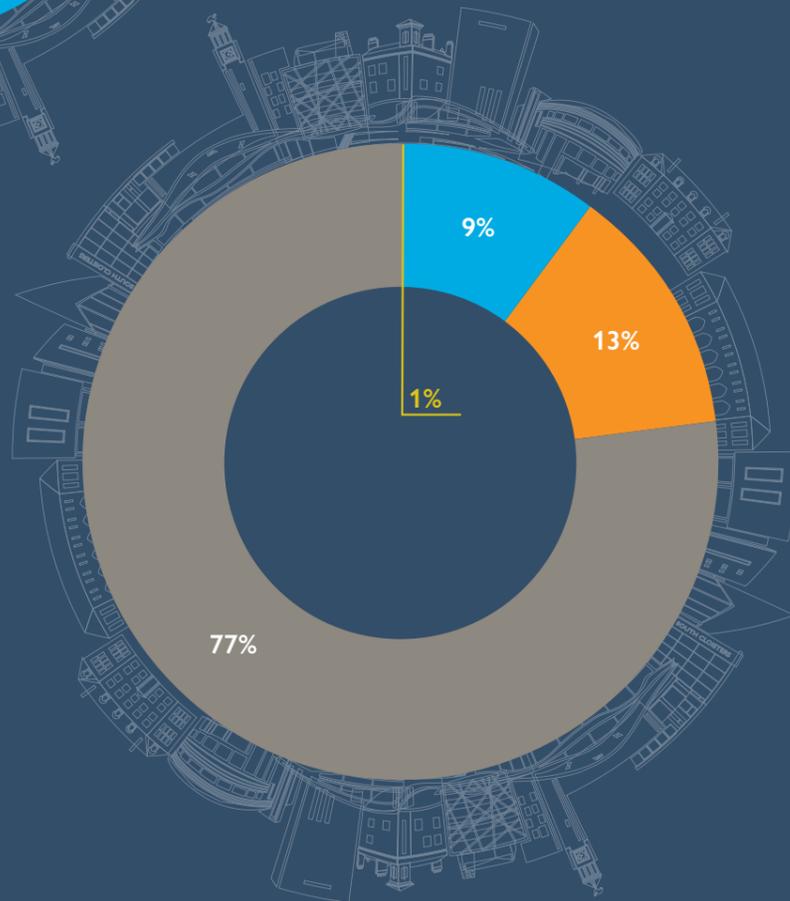
By level of study ...



By campus ...

2019/20

- 9% Penryn, Cornwall
- 13% St Lukes, Exeter
- 77% Streatham, Exeter
- 1% Truro, Cornwall



OUR INCOME

WHERE OUR MONEY COMES FROM

Income from tuition fees is our largest source of funding making up 56% of our total income.

In the UK, tuition fees for home undergraduate students are capped at £9,250 a year, supplemented by recurrent grant income administered by the Office for Students (OfS) to support, among other things, the teaching of high-cost STEM subjects, the Erasmus+ scheme, overseas study programmes and programmes to support successful student outcomes. International tuition fees range from £17,800 to £35,000 for high cost subjects such as Medicine. The average international fee in 2019/20 was £18,200.

For Home and EU students, the University receives fees from the Student Loans Company who are in turn repaid by graduates through the tax system, while International students pay their fees during their study.

Our students fees are paid by:

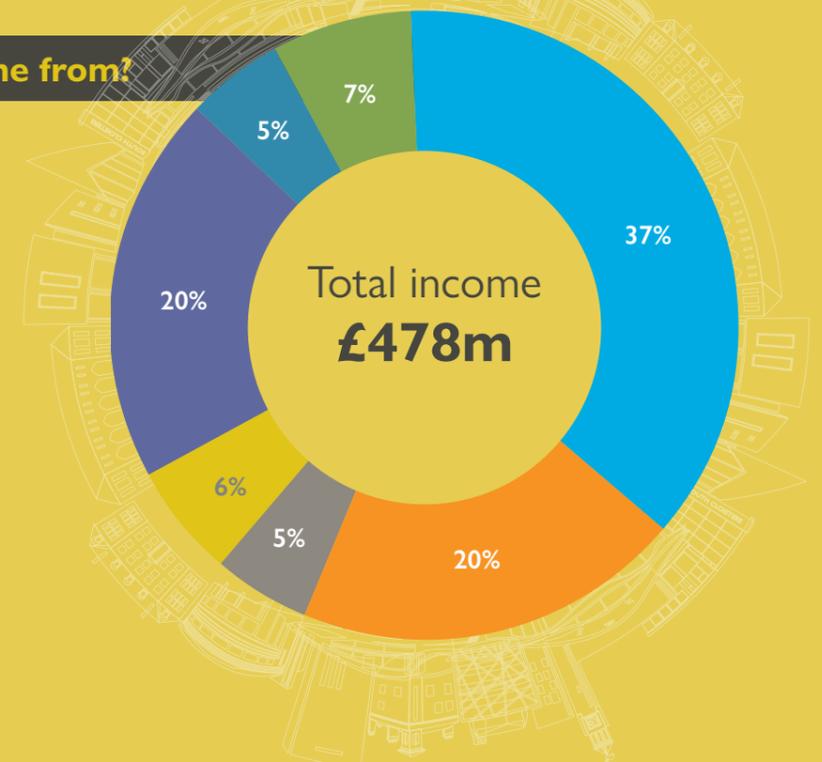
- Home and EU students
- International students
- Students undertaking short courses
- External bodies (e.g. the NHS)

Other sources of income include:

- Funding body grants (e.g. Office for Students, Research England)
- Research grants (e.g. Research Councils, EU)
- Other income (e.g. our Commercial Services)
- Investment income (e.g. interest generated on cash reserves)
- Donations (e.g. external organisations, individuals and alumni that support the University)

Where does our income come from?

- 37% Home/EU student fees £179m
- 20% International student fees £96m
- 5% Government teaching grants £26m
- 6% Government research grants £27m
- 20% Research grants and contracts £93m
- 5% Residences, catering and conferences £26m
- 7% Endowments, retail and other income £31m



OUR EXPENDITURE

WHAT OUR MONEY IS SPENT ON

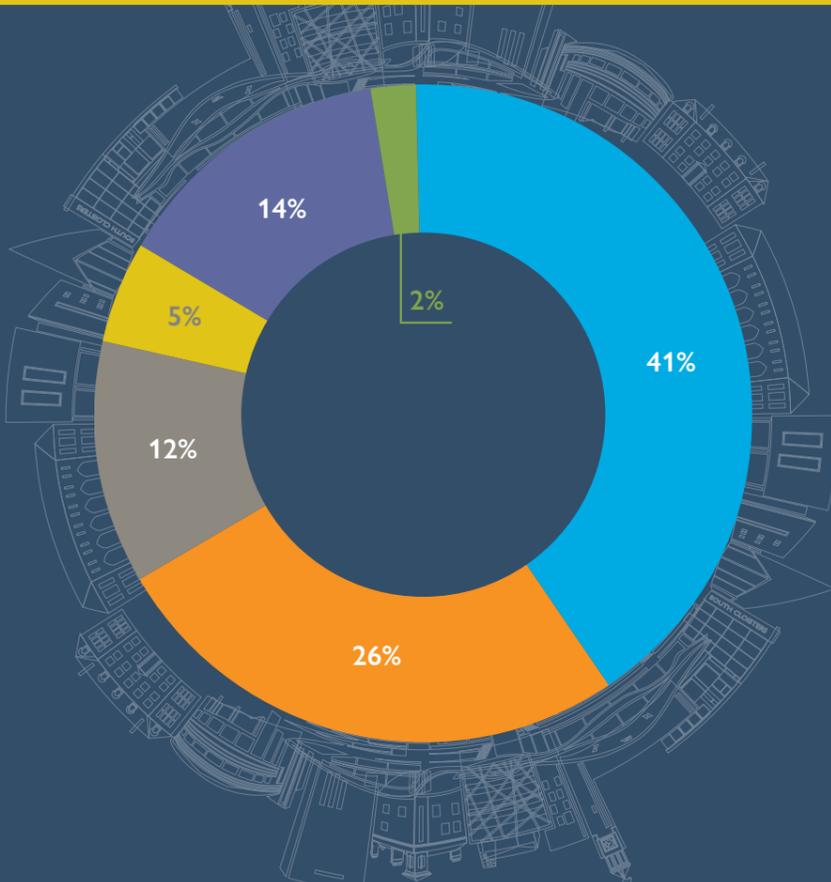
Our total expenditure of £477m* in 2019/20 included:

- Day-to day running costs of teaching, conducting research and providing services to students;
- Providing financial support and outreach to students;
- Managing University operations (for example, recruiting talented staff, promoting the work of the University, recruiting and admitting students);
- Maintaining, improving and creating student and staff facilities, maintaining and improving campuses and accommodation facilities;
- Investing in new teaching spaces, research facilities and IT and digital infrastructure, refurbishment of existing buildings.

67% of our expenditure relates to academic services and student support

£1.8m awarded to the Exeter Students' Guild in 2019/20

£375k awarded to Falmouth and Exeter Students' Union



Expenditure allocation £477m*

- 41% Academic colleges and services £194m
- 26% Central services and students support £126m
- 12% Premises £56m
- 5% Residences, catering and conferences £27m
- 14% Research spend £66m
- 2% Interest Payable £8m

* excludes accounting credits and charges for pensions

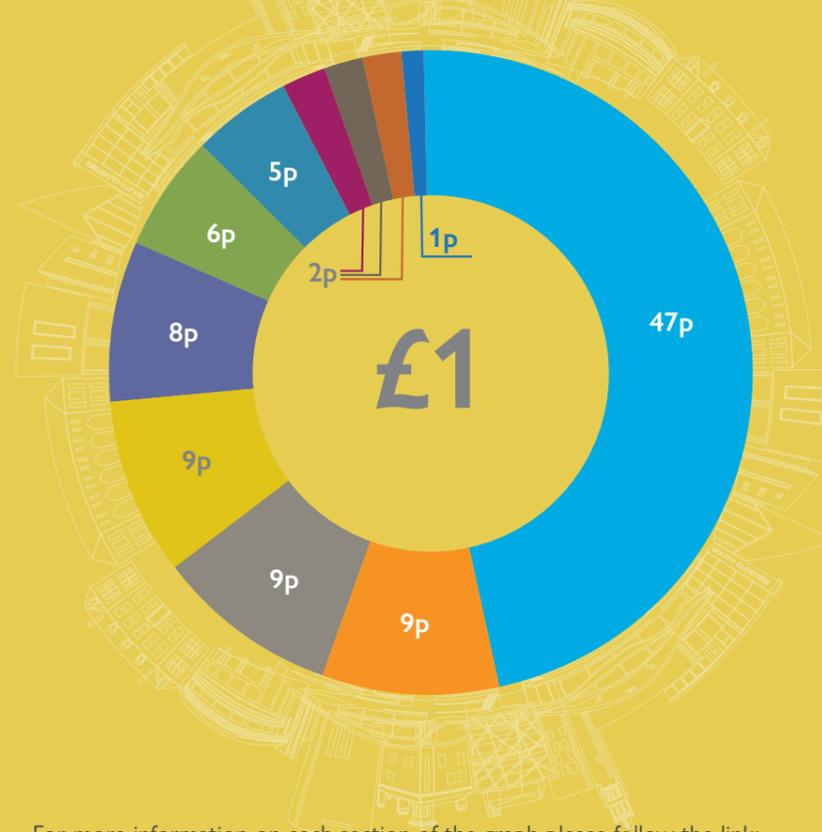
HOW YOUR TUITION FEE IS SPENT

OUR UNIVERSITY DELIVERS A MIX OF TEACHING AND RESEARCH ACTIVITIES ACROSS A RANGE OF ACADEMIC DISCIPLINES

Teaching is offered at a range of different levels, including undergraduate, postgraduate taught and postgraduate research.

While the chart below shows where we invest our tuition fee income, it does not convey whether this represents value for money. Value for money is determined by the outcomes that are achieved in relation to inputs. Our strong and consistent performance in the National Student Survey, coupled with our good performance in graduate destination surveys and recent data showing that the earnings of Exeter graduates compare well with others reflect the return on the financial investment that our students make when they choose to study with us.

Our research drives our reputation and also informs our teaching and the value of an Exeter degree. Exeter features highly in league tables reflecting our high academic performance and once more enhancing the value of your degree.



Where my student fees go*

For every £1 from your tuition fee:

- 47p Academic departments
- 9p Capital investment
- 9p Teaching and academic space costs
- 9p Scholarships and bursaries, outreach and widening participation, student recruitment
- 8p Leadership and Professional Services
- 6p Library and IT
- 5p Wellbeing
- 2p Career Zone and Employability opportunities
- 2p Sport
- 2p Students' Unions
- 1p Interest payments

For more information on each section of the graph please follow the link:

[Where do my fees go? | Current students | University of Exeter](#)

*the figures represent the latest information available (2018/19)

MITIGATING THE IMPACT OF INDUSTRIAL ACTION ON STUDENTS

Industrial Action

The University made significant attempts to ensure learning opportunities and assessment outcomes were not impacted as a result of national industrial action during 2019/20. This included rescheduling lectures, placing learning materials online, providing recordings of lectures, agreeing extensions to assessment deadlines and reviewing examinations to ensure topics not taught were not assessed.

Many students suffered no or very limited impact due to the strike action but some departments were affected more than others. While every effort was made to mitigate the impact of strike action we recognised that in some cases learning inputs may not have been replaced to a sufficient level. To address this we implemented a financial compensation scheme for the academic year 2019/20.



OUR SURPLUS

Total income
£478m

Total expenditure
£477m

Operating surplus
for reinvestment
£1m*

As a charity we don't make profits but we reinvest any financial surpluses to support the delivery of our Strategy, to provide excellent education and make the most of our resources.

Surpluses are the result of careful management of the University finances. Our aim is to generate small cash surpluses each year to reinvest directly in the University and to ensure that:

- We remain financially viable and sustainable;
- We can replace and refurbish existing buildings and equipment;
- We continue to improve your experience through investing in a range of capital projects including a rolling programme of investment in digital and IT, premises, teaching and learning spaces, research facilities – all to enhance our academic quality;
- There is a contingency against any unexpected occurrences that may cause a significant financial problem.

Previous years' surpluses have helped to fund



Laboratories



IT



Classrooms



Student facilities



Libraries



Sports facilities

* excludes accounting credits and charges for pensions