

UNIVERSITY OF
EXETER

Annual Report 2006



Vice-Chancellor's introduction

The University ended 2006 in optimistic mood having achieved top 20 status in the 2006 *Sunday Times* league table. Exeter rose seven places to 18th – its highest ever position. It also made major gains in *The Times* league table. The move upwards was a reflection of the changes made to the University over the previous two years. Those changes were designed to focus resources on our strongest performing areas of academic activity.

Through the league tables a picture emerges of a University whose strengths include high entry tariffs, strong student satisfaction, low drop out rates and a high proportion of students achieving Firsts and 2:1s. Growth is another indicator of success and Exeter is now the third largest teaching grant holder in the 1994 Group. Increases in student numbers have enabled the University to gain critical mass and spread overheads.

One of the major factors in our league table improvement has been a strong performance in the National Student Survey. We came tenth in the UK for the second year running, demonstrating high levels of student satisfaction.

Our efforts during 2006 were concentrated on improving every aspect of the University's performance; but there were some which received special focus. These were research, employability, and international and postgraduate student numbers.

Research grant income further improved in 2006 from £15.3 million to £16.5 million. If you include the University's annual research 'QR' grant from the funding council then Exeter invested £29.4 million in research last year. Research quality has also risen fast and we currently plan to submit a high proportion (90% or more) of staff in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise. During 2006 we undertook a 'mock RAE' with the use of external assessors which confirmed that our expectations were realistic. Although this will be the last RAE in its present form, it is still vital to do well since the result will inform our funding for



several years to come. Future research income will increasingly be informed by the use of metrics (value of research grants, number of postgraduate research students etc), so our research strategy has also focused on ensuring we succeed in the new world as well as the old.

During the year the University increased its graduate level employment indicator again – a rise of six points in two years. Our partnership with the Students' Guild was strengthened through the opening of *The Works*, a new centre for work and training opportunities based in the main students' building, Devonshire House. We invested in extra careers advisers for the Careers and Employment Service and launched a new £500,000 employment initiative called *Devon Graduate Futures* with Plymouth University.

Postgraduate student numbers have remained at about the same level over the past few years, so we decided the time had come to take a look at our entire portfolio. In particular we felt we needed to become more 'market-focused'. The Graduate School has therefore led a review of our postgraduate provision with the Marketing Office, to help schools better identify why certain courses recruit well and how they might change their offerings to better reflect

market demand. This process is ongoing, but it will enable us to concentrate our efforts on courses which attract larger numbers of students, more of which are premium fee.

International student numbers have shown a steady increase in recent years, but we felt we needed a 'big idea' to move forward in this area. Shortly before Christmas 2006 we therefore signed a partnership agreement with INTO University Partnerships to create a £35 million study centre for 500 international students. The joint venture will provide world class teaching facilities and accommodation on the Streatham Campus. International students will come to Exeter for English language, foundation, pre-masters and other courses that will prepare them to progress to undergraduate and postgraduate degrees at the University. Quality assurance of the joint venture will reside wholly with the University and students will be taught to the same high standard as Exeter's other 14,000 students. The first newly-recruited students will join the University this summer. The partnership with INTO will provide us with excellent new facilities and the marketing power to reach out to students around the world. This is a very good example of how universities and the private sector can bring different skills to the table. It is very much a model for the future.

2006 was also the year in which universities, Exeter included, modernised their pay and grading structures and negotiated an important new national pay deal. The University worked in partnership with the local trade unions to implement the Framework Agreement. A system of formal job evaluation (HERA – Higher Education Role Analysis) was used to place all staff below professorial level into one of eight grades on a single 54 point pay scale, thereby ensuring that staff receive equal pay for equal levels of responsibility wherever they work and whatever type of work they do. As a result of the regrading exercise, around 20% of staff were placed on a higher scale point than the top of their previous grade. The opportunity was also taken to harmonise terms and conditions, resulting in significant benefit improvements (such as reduced hours of work and better holidays) for many groups of staff. Following much debate a national pay award of 13.1% over three years was agreed by all campus unions and came into effect in August 2006.

We were delighted to welcome Floella Benjamin as Chancellor and she undertook her first official duties at the summer graduation ceremonies. Floella quickly won over both students and staff and has injected new energy and life into our degree ceremonies. She enthuses everyone she meets with her passion for the University.

Throughout 2006 the University made important progress on a large number of fronts. There remains much to do and we are determined to achieve more in 2007. However I am confident that the University is in good shape to perform even more strongly in the future.

Steve Smith

Professor Steve Smith
Vice-Chancellor



More than 100 Vice-Chancellors and other senior managers from UK higher education institutions converged on the campus in September for the annual UUK conference. The event featured speeches from both the Higher Education Minister Bill Rammell and the Education Secretary Alan Johnson.

Research developments

The future of research funding

The research environment was a turbulent one during 2006 with an important national debate about the future of the Research Assessment Exercise. The Vice-Chancellor Professor Steve Smith was heavily involved in this debate as Chair of the 1994 Group. The conclusion of the debate is that the 2008 RAE will go ahead as normal and is expected to inform research funding in science, medicine and technology until 2010/11. After that, metrics (research income, number of postgraduate students, citations etc) will increasingly be used. Other subjects will be RAE-driven until 2014/15 and then funded through 'light touch' peer review informed by metrics.

A strong performance in the 2008 RAE is critical to the University's future ambitions and we undertook a pilot RAE in 2006 to test our assumptions about the eventual outcome. This involved the use of external assessors and proved extremely useful in helping calibrate tactics and improvements for the final submission. At present it is planned to submit more than 90% of eligible staff in 2008 – a significant improvement on the last RAE in 2001.

Investing in research

The value of research grant income showed a further improvement from £15.3 million to £16.5 million. The University also received a research 'QR' grant of £12.9 million to make a total investment in research of £29.4 million. There were some very significant new grants won during the year, notably a further £4 million for Egenis (the ESRC Centre for Genomics in Society). The grant, from the Economic and Social Research Council, will enable the Centre to continue its research into the impact of genomic science on society for a further five years.

The University has responded to national changes in research funding which are increasingly directing funding at research which involves a number of different academic disciplines. A total of £480,000 has therefore been invested in eight 'Interdisciplinary Thematic Networks' which are designed to bring together groups of researchers from different academic areas to work on joint projects.

New academic staff

Around 100 new academic staff – including 23 professors – were recruited during the year to boost the University's research performance in advance of the 2008 RAE. The University was able to make some excellent appointments which have significantly increased the strength of



Melanie Williams (School of Law)

many of its research teams. In a competitive recruitment market the University was also able to retain key researchers.

15 new professors took up appointments in 2006. They are

School of Arts, Languages & Literatures

- Tim Kendall PhD *Oxon*. Appointed to a Chair in English. Formerly, Reader in English Literature at the University of Bristol.
- Lisa Downing PhD *Oxon*. Appointed to a Chair in French. Previously, Reader in French Discourses of Sexuality, Queen Mary, University of London.

School of Biosciences

- Murray Grant PhD *Otago NZ*. Appointed to a Chair in Plant Molecular Biology in the School of Biosciences. Previously, Reader in Plant Molecular Biology, Imperial College London.
- Richard French Constant PhD *Lond*. Appointed to a Chair in Molecular Biology. Previously, Professor of Insect Molecular Biology and Royal Society Merit Award Holder at the University of Bath.

School of Business & Economics

- David Gwilliam BA *Camb*. Appointed to a Chair in Accounting. Previously, Ernst & Young Professor of Accounting, University of Wales, Aberystwyth.



- Barry Wilkinson PhD *Aston*. Appointed to a Chair in Management. Previously, Professor of International Business, University of Bath.

School of Education & Lifelong Learning

- Rupert Wegerif PhD *Open*. Appointed to a Chair In Education. Previously, Reader in the School of Education at the University of Southampton.
- Wendy Robinson PhD *Camb*. Appointed to a Chair in Education. Previously, Senior Lecturer, University of Warwick.

School of Engineering, Computer Science and Mathematics

- David Butler PhD *Lond*. Appointed to a Chair In Water Engineering. Previously, Professor of Water Engineering, Imperial College, London.
- Peter Cox PhD *Lond*. Appointed to a Chair in Climate Systems. Previously, Science Director for Climate Change, Natural Environment Research Council.
- David Stephenson PhD *Edin*. Appointed to a Chair in Applied Mathematics. Previously, Reader in Statistical Climatology, University of Reading and Adjunct Professor for Climate Research, University of Bergen, Norway.

School of Geography, Archaeology & Earth Resources

- Paul J Cloke BA *Lond*. Appointed to a Chair in Human Geography. Previously, Professor of Geography at the University of Bristol.

School of Humanities & Social Sciences

- Alan Booth PhD *Kent*. Appointed to a Chair in History (Cornwall Campus). Previously, Reader in Economic History at Exeter.
- Colin Wight PhD *Aber*. Appointed to a Chair in International Politics. Previously, Senior Lecturer in International Politics, University of Sheffield.

School of Psychology

- John Endler PhD *Edin*. Appointed to a Chair in Animal Behaviour. Previously, Professor of Biology, University of California.

A further eight professors were appointed in 2006 to take up positions in 2007. They are:

School of Arts, Languages & Literatures

- Derek Flitter PhD *Oxon*. Appointed to a Chair in Spanish from 1 January 2007. Previously, Reader in Modern Iberian Literature and Ideas, University of Birmingham.
- Professor Valerie Worth-Stylianou PhD *Oxon*. Appointed to a Chair in French in the School of Arts, Languages & Literatures from 1 February 2007. Previously, Chair in French, Oxford Brookes University.

School of Biosciences

- Professor Jeremy Lakey PhD *E.Anglia*. Appointed to a Chair in Chemical Biology from 1 April 2007. At present, Professor of Structural Biochemistry, University of Newcastle.

School of Education and Lifelong Learning

- Anna Craft MA *Open*. Appointed to a Chair in Education from 1 January 2007. Previously, Reader in Education, Open University.

School of Law

- Melanie Williams MA *Sus*. Appointed to a Chair in Law (Cornwall Campus) from 1 January 2007. Previously, Professor of Law, University of Swansea.

School of Humanities and Social Sciences

- Ian Netton PhD *Exon*. Appointed to the Sharjah Chair in Islamic Studies from 1 May 2007. At present, Professor of Arabic Studies and Head of Department of Arabic and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Leeds.
- Andrew Pickering PhD *Lond*, PhD *Edin*. Appointed to a Chair in Sociology from 1 August 2007. At present, Fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioural Sciences, Palo Alto.



Staff from the School of Education and Lifelong Learning have been working to develop teachers' skills in Outer Mongolia.



School of Psychology

- Ian McLaren PhD *Camb.* Appointed to a Chair in Cognitive Psychology from 1 April 2007. At present, Senior Lecturer and Fellow, University of Cambridge.

Ten University of Exeter staff were promoted to personal chairs in 2006. They are:

- Matthew Bate, School of Physics
- Sian Ellard, Peninsula Medical School
- Matthew Evans, School of Biosciences
- Robert Hicken, School of Physics
- Graham Ley, School of Arts, Languages & Literatures
- Peter Mumby, School of Biosciences
- Daniel Ogden, School of Humanities & Social Sciences
- Nicholas Smimoff, School of Biosciences
- Robert Van de Noort, School of Geography, Archaeology & Earth Resources
- Tim Whitmarsh, School of Humanities & Social Sciences

Great Western Research

Having secured leadership of the Great Western Research project in 2005, Exeter has done extremely well in securing 16 studentships and five fellowships. This is the second highest number of awards of any of the scheme's partners. GWR is a £14 million research partnership involving all of the South West's HE institutions and funds research projects which are linked to the future development of the region. GWR is also enabling the funding of new international standard networking and teleconferencing facilities at the University. Dr David Billington, was appointed Executive Director of Great Western Research.



A researcher at the Henry Wellcome Centre for Biocatalysis.

A strategy for science

The future of science at Exeter received a great deal of attention in 2006 with the emergence of a science strategy. Science research at Exeter is of excellent quality and the science strategy proposes growing the size of research teams in a number of key areas. They are: climate change and sustainable futures; translational medicine, personalised healthcare and public health; functional materials – fundamentals to manufacture; and integrative and systems biology. Outside of the main themes, the strategy will also include a number of 'beacon' areas that are world leading (eg Astrophysics), or that have the potential to become so.



Film maker in residence John Seely edits his latest film.



Research findings

Bright white beetle dazzles Exeter scientists

An obscure species of beetle could teach us how to produce brilliant white ultra-thin materials, according to a research team led by the University of Exeter.

The *Cyphochilus* beetle has a highly unusual brilliant white shell. New research by the University and Imerys Minerals Ltd, and published in leading journal *Science*, reveals the secret to this beetle's bizarre appearance.



The *Cyphochilus* beetle has evolved its brilliant whiteness using a unique surface structure. At 1/200th of a millimetre thick, its scales are ten times thinner than a human hair. Industrial mineral coatings, such as those used on high quality paper, plastics and in some paints, would need to be twice as thick to be as white. According to ISO accredited measurements for whiteness and brightness, the beetle is much whiter and brighter than milk and the average human tooth, which are both considerably thicker.

"This kind of brilliant whiteness from such a thin sample is rare in nature. As soon as I saw it, every instinct told me that the beetle was something very special," said Dr Pete Vukusic of the School of Physics. "In future, the paper we write on, the colour of our teeth and even the efficiency of the rapidly emerging new generation of white light sources will be significantly improved if technology can take and apply the design ideas we learn from this beetle."

Colour in both nature and technology can be produced by pigmentation or by very regularly arranged layers or structures. Whiteness, however, is created through a random structure, which produces 'scattering' of all colours simultaneously. Using electron microscope imaging, Dr Vukusic studied the beetle's body, head and legs and found them to be covered in long flat scales, which have highly random internal 3D structures. These irregular internal forms are the key to its uniquely effective light scattering. By balancing the size of the structures with the spacing

between them, they scatter white light far more efficiently than the fibres in white paper or the enamel on teeth. Native to south-east Asia, it is believed that the beetle's whiteness has evolved to mimic local white fungi as a form of camouflage.

Engineers develop hi-tech screening machine

Engineers at the University of Exeter are leading a project to develop a new hi-tech screening machine to help pharmaceutical companies develop potentially life-saving drugs quicker. One drug can exist in many forms with the exact properties of each form determining how much of the biologically active ingredient gets taken up by the body.

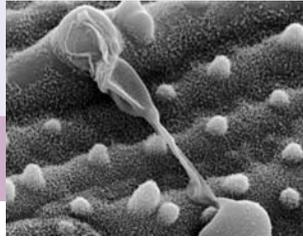
The Department of Trade and Industry awarded £426,000 to a consortium of industry and academia to create an instrument that can simultaneously test both the chemical and physical properties of new drugs, enabling scientists to identify all the potential forms of a particular compound. This will help pharmaceutical companies choose which form would be the safest and most effective.

Dr Oana Ghita, of the School of Engineering, Computer Science and Mathematics, said: "We hope to develop an instrument that, for the first time, combines two analytical methods to simultaneously monitor the chemical composition of a sample and its physical behaviour when subjected to a series of increases in temperature.

The pharmaceutical industry is tightly regulated which contributes to the high development costs of potential new drugs. For every 10,000 new pharmaceutical compounds synthesised, approximately 100 are rigorously screened and only 10 of those reach clinical evaluation. Only one will emerge as a safe new marketable drug.



Dr Vukusic with the *Cyphochilus* and other beetles.



Better compound characterisation helps the pharmaceutical companies develop drugs quicker and also helps protect research and development costs through patents.”

Industrial partners in the project include industrial world leaders in thermal analysis Mettler-Toledo; Bruker Optics who specialise in optical spectroscopy; and global pharmaceutical company, AstraZeneca.

Fighting the fungus that wipes out rice - scientists a step closer to protecting world's most important crop

Rice is the globe's most important crop but its production is constantly threatened by disease.

Now scientists at the University of Exeter have shown for the first time, in a paper in the prestigious journal *Nature*, how the world's most destructive rice-killer hijacks its plant prey. In order to infect plants the fungus has to inject its proteins into the plant's own cells where they overcome its defences allowing a full scale invasion by the fungus. Until now it's not been known how the fungus delivers that weaponry, but researchers from the School of Biosciences have identified a single gene that appears to be important in the process.

Professor Nick Talbot, who led the research, said: “We have identified a secretion system that we think is responsible for delivering the fungal weaponry that causes rice-blast disease. We were able to generate a strain of the rice blast fungus which lacks this secretion system and it was completely unable to cause disease. The discovery is significant because it will allow us to identify the fungal proteins which bring about this devastating disease and cause rice plants to die.”

He added: “It's estimated that half of the World's population relies on rice to survive and in one year alone this disease kills enough rice to feed 60 million people, so we hope this discovery will help develop chemicals to inhibit the disease. It's possible that more specific, environmentally friendly, compounds to combat rice diseases could result from this research.”

In 2005 scientists from the University helped to complete the sequence of the rice blast fungus genome, which has aided the current research.

Rice is the world's most important food security crop and it is thought that by 2020 rice consumers in Asia alone will have increased by 1.2 billion, making the fight to secure the global rice harvest essential.

Why good relationships are par for the course

If you want to impress your colleagues and business clients with your golf swing, you'd better make sure you're spending quality time with your partner, family and friends. Sports psychologists from the Universities of Exeter and Bangor have proved that the emotional support a golfer receives off the course is directly linked to the quality of his or her performance on it.

Research published in leading academic publication *Journal of Sports Sciences* outlines the findings of a study involving 117 amateur male golfers. The level of support that the golfers received in their personal lives was measured against the quality of their game. The research showed that the performances of those with higher levels of emotional support were better by up to 24%.

Dr Tim Rees of the School of Sport and Health Sciences said: “We often speak of the ‘moral support’ that sportsmen and women get from their friends and families, which helps their performances. Perhaps, then, it's not surprising that golfers benefit from good social networks off the course. What was surprising to us was the extent to which this affected their performance. The day-to-day quality of their relationships has far more of a bearing on golfers' games than I had anticipated.”

The research team assessed the level of emotional support each player received. They also examined the level of esteem they got from personal relationships as well as measuring the help players got with advice or guidance. They then examined how these benefits affected the technical quality of the players' games.



1 A pressure cell created by the rice blast fungus to gain penetration to its unfortunate victim.

2 This golfer's swing will be much improved if he has good emotional support.



While the effects of anxiety and stress on sports people are well researched, the benefit of social support on performance is a relatively unstudied area. The research team believes that the findings could be applied to other sports, and aims to explore this through further research.

Exeter engineers set to create bomb-proof 'curtains'

Engineers from the University of Exeter are working on an innovative new project to create curtains made from a 'smart' material that could minimize injuries inflicted by a terrorist attack.

The team, which is led by Professor Ken Evans in conjunction with spin-out company Auxetix Ltd, hopes to use special auxetic materials to create 'blast curtains' that could catch glass fragments and debris blown through windows by an explosion.

Bomb blasts cause damage by generating a pressure shockwave, which shatters materials in its path. The majority of those injured in an attack are injured by the flying debris that results.

The fibres in conventional fabrics react to this pressure by stretching and tearing as the pressure pulls them taut, which stops them catching debris. However when auxetic materials stretch they show a unique property – they get fatter rather than thinner. This means that under tension a large number of pores open up across the surface of the material allowing the shock wave through and leaving it intact to catch glass and other debris.

Professor Ken Evans, Head of the School of Engineering, Computer Science and Mathematics, said: "If we can harness the unique properties of auxetic materials, it's possible that we may be able to create a 'smart' fabric that could instantly react to the pressure generated by a bomb blast. This would allow us to create protective curtains that could be used in office buildings, on army bases and even in the home to protect those inside. We believe this would create a far superior method to the Kevlar curtains that are currently used, as they are so dense that most natural light is blocked."

John Heathcoat & Co, based in Tiverton, Devon, will help develop the prototype material, which will then be further tested by the Home Office Scientific Development Branch (HOSDB). There the material will be put into test chambers behind glass panels and subjected to an explosive blast to test its ability to minimize the penetration of glass into the chamber.

Innocence lost: survey reveals primary school children's hopes and fears

An illuminating study from the University of Exeter sheds light on primary school children's hopes and fears for the future. A survey of 11-year-old children reveals optimism about their personal futures but worries about war, crime and the environment. Compared with a similar survey carried out in 1994, today's children appear to be more involved in action to change what they see as society's problems, which researchers link to the teaching of citizenship in schools.

The study asked primary children about their hopes and fears for the future at a personal, local and global level. 425 children in years 4 and 6 from 12 different primary schools in London, Bristol, Oxfordshire and Devon filled in questionnaires. Findings have been published in the journal *Education, Citizenship and Social Justice*.

Overall, the children surveyed are more optimistic about their own future than that of people in other parts of the world. The vast majority think their own life will get better but there is a small group (10%), mainly boys in urban settings, who fear that their lives may be worse as they grow up. These levels of optimism are similar to 1994, though today's children are more likely to cite specific aspirations of good jobs (well over three-quarters) and material possessions. Over half aspire to having 'lots of money' or a nice house or 'cool car'.



A new study from the School of Education and Lifelong Learning reveals what primary school children are really thinking.



The local area is of great importance to the children, and two-thirds of today's children would like more facilities for young people and less litter and noise. Three-quarters of children report worries about crime, violence, alcohol and drug abuse; more than in 1994 when homelessness was of more concern. Children hope for friendly neighbours, kinder people and no racism, with higher numbers of girls (23%) than boys (12%) hoping for improved community relations. One in five expressed fears about community issues, which ranged from terrorism, dangerous dogs, 'the BNP taking power', to knives and gangs.

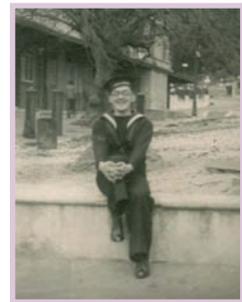
Global hopes have remained the same over the years of the study – children want to see world peace, the alleviation of poverty and an improved environment. 61% are concerned about global conflict and boys in particular fear natural disasters. Many children are optimistic about environmental improvements, and boys think that new technology might solve some problems with some hoping for 'flying cars' and 'robots to do housework'. Girls tend to look to improved relationships as the solution.

Today's children are more likely to link global problems, and their solutions, to the action of politicians. In interviews the children talked about Bush and Blair, Iraq and the USA. Some eleven year olds appeared to be well aware of the current debates around global conflict. Children are more involved now in action for change – one-third of respondents are involved in fundraising or campaigns, compared to just one in 10 in 1994.

Cathie Holden, from the School of Education and Lifelong Learning, said: "These findings dispel any notion of childhood innocence. Children are aware of many of the challenges of our times as they speak about the dangers of drugs, violence, racism and the possibility of personal failure."

From sea sickness to sonnets: Unseen diaries reveal poet's WW2 Navy life

An extraordinary and touching insight into the wartime life as a Royal Navy rating of one of Britain's favourite poets has been discovered by archivists working at the University of Exeter.



Charles Causley, who died just over two years ago, was famous for his poetry of the Second World War, as well as for ballads and his children's verse. Despite miserable sea-sickness, he served as a coder deciphering signals and was stationed with the Navy in the Second World War, docking ship in Gibraltar, Australia, New Guinea, South Pacific, and West Africa.



After his death, his house was cleared and his books and papers taken to the University of Exeter Library. Archivists have found a brown paper parcel of previously unseen diaries written by Causley, and photographs taken by and of him in his postings in the Mediterranean. One diary entry refers to a photo of Causley and friend buying oranges off a barrow in Gibraltar, which he sent home with the caption, 'Gibraltar 26.3.41: "Oranges? Ripe banana?" Everyone says it's very good of the cart. Love C'.

The diaries record Causley travelling from Cornwall to London for his medical and, on 6 June 1940, receiving his call-up: "At about 10.15 Mother is in the road. I go down & she says, "They've come your papers" I say "What Navy?" She says yes – I say "Where?" She says "Skegness". . . At work, we look it up on a map, population etc & Stan says it is a nice place, ponies etc, then remembers it was Shearness. . .".

By 13 June, he's off: "Leave home 8.22. Mother weeping a little. . . At Skegness there awaits a Black Maria (or Shooting

Brake), chips, sausages, & cocoa. . . There is a terrible smashing sinking of the heart when we are not Writers but Coders. This wears off when we are dished out with uniforms. Carrying kit to the Chalet is 300 yrds of murder!"

These new and charming revelations about the life of a man often dubbed the Poet Laureate of Cornwall will be available through the University of Exeter Library.

Dr Jessica Gardner, Head of Special Collections at the University Library, said: "Causley wrote extensively about life in the Navy in World War 2, and the diaries are evidence of the 'raw experience' that formed those poems. From his terror at sea to his delight on solid ground, I was delighted to discover these diaries and have spent many enjoyable hours reading them."

Alasdair Paterson, former University Librarian, said: "Charles Causley was a poet who breathed life into traditional verse forms, making them relevant to post-war society. By this means he reached a very wide readership, ranging even to Edinburgh schoolboys like myself, who have returned to his work throughout their lives. The Causley archive is a very important cornerstone of our collections of writers of the South West, and we anticipate that the collection will attract a good deal of interest from scholars and admirers of his work."

Vets stress in drama spotlight

The suicide rate among vets is almost four times the national average. An innovative project underway in the South West is tackling stress in the veterinary profession by using interactive theatre. The University of Exeter's Drama department has been working with the Royal Veterinary College and other vets' organisations to stage a play that raises issues facing vets, sparks discussion and generates support among the profession.

The play – *Practice Imperfect* – sets out the pressures facing a 28-year-old Devon vet struggling with the foot and mouth crisis, debts, a dispute with a farmer, and personal problems. Prior to the performance the audience explores her life through examining text messages, a diary and photographs. Audience interaction is encouraged through interviewing characters and making recommendations for her future.



The author John Somers performing in *Practice Imperfect*.

Author John Somers, from the University's Drama department said: "*Practice Imperfect* tackles stress in the veterinary profession, exploring unremitting pressure from long hours and professional isolation as well as economic and business concerns. Combined with vet's access to the means of dispatch, these add up to worrying suicide rates among the profession. We hope this project works alongside a new mentoring and support scheme to encourage vets who need help to ask for it."

Practice Imperfect was developed with the help of undergraduate students. Extensive research was carried out with organisations including Devon Vet, Vet Help Line, the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, Devon Farmer, and the Veterinary Benevolent Fund to ensure that the production helps in the increasing efforts within the profession to deal with stress as a debilitating factor.

This interactive theatre programme is one of a number developed in recent years by John Somers in partnership with other professions. Previous topics include bioethics, eating disorders, and depression and stress in farming. *On the Edge* – a production addressing first episode psychosis among young men – won two major national awards and toured nationally for six months.

Teaching and learning

National Student Survey

The National Student Survey results have been very useful in refining the way we help students to learn. The high levels of satisfaction achieved in the first survey in 2005 were repeated in 2006 when Exeter once again came tenth in the UK, according to the ranking devised by the *Times Higher Education Supplement*. Although the result was similar, 2006 represented a much more even performance by the University's academic schools who had learned from student comments recorded the previous year. The School of Business and Economics did particularly well, being ranked highest in the UK for its average scores in Business, Finance & Accounting and Management.

Fees and scholarships

September 2006 saw the introduction of variable tuition fees for home undergraduate students. In practice most universities in the UK charged the full amount of £3,000 a year. The introduction of variable fees brought a great deal of turbulence into the marketplace with a national fall in applications, which was reflected at Exeter. Despite this, recruitment for 2006 entry was strong and applications for 2007 have bounced back. At the time of writing, they are up by 23.8% compared with a national average rise of 6.4%. Applications to the Cornwall Campus are up a massive 122%.

The introduction of fees was accompanied by the launch of scholarships designed to support students from poorer backgrounds. Exeter was one of the first universities to announce its scholarship programme and these were widely taken up in 2006. Some £750,000 was disbursed to students taking up Access to Exeter bursaries. Under the Access to Exeter scheme students are eligible for awards of up to £4,000 a year. Alongside widening participation scholarships, the University has now introduced a series of merit scholarships for both undergraduates and postgraduates for 2007 entry. These are designed to help the University attract students of the highest quality.

Three new postgraduate scholarships schemes worth £290,000 a year have been approved. They are:

- A full-fee institution-wide merit scheme for postgraduate taught programmes.
- An institution-wide merit scheme for international students on postgraduate taught programmes
- A school-funded progression scheme to encourage Exeter first degree graduates to progress directly onto a postgraduate programme.

Similarly, three undergraduate merit scholarship schemes have been approved.

- Jubilee Science Scholarships will be based on the top 25 students across all eligible subject areas.
- The Vice-Chancellor's Excellence Scholarships will be available for all subject areas and based on exceptional academic and personal achievement.
- Travel bursaries will be offered for four-year Modern Languages degrees incorporating a non-Erasmus year.

Bursaries will be available for 2007 and cost around £350,000 a year once running at steady state.





SECaM scholarships

Three 'Formula One engineers of the future' have been awarded prestigious engineering scholarships. Worth up to £3,000 a year, the scholarships were awarded by the School of Engineering, Computer Science and Mathematics (SECaM) to cover the full costs of their University fees if they are accepted onto an Engineering degree at Exeter. The three students were winners of the South West regional championships of the 'F1 in Schools Formula One Technology Challenge' in the 16–18 year old category, held at the University in November. Teams of 11 to 18 year olds from schools across the South West designed and raced Formula One style compressed CO₂-powered cars. A team from Devonport High School for Boys, who won the 14–16 year old category, achieved a UK record when they cleared the 20-metre track in 1.069 seconds. In recognition of this, SECaM awarded the School a further prize of £500 to help them compete in the UK National Championships.

Admissions

The University ran fully centralised undergraduate admissions for the first time in 2006. Under the new system academics make decisions on borderline or exceptional cases, but the Admissions Office handles all routine work. This ensures consistency of approach across the University and enables academics to spend more time on teaching and research. The University also piloted centralised postgraduate admissions with two schools. This tested the principles of the system, which will be rolled out further during 2007/08.

Postgraduate recruitment

Postgraduate recruitment received particular attention in 2006. In addition to a review of postgraduate taught programmes, a number of other developments took place. New proposals for split site PhDs were developed to enable international research candidates to obtain an Exeter award whilst being based overseas. Exeter joined a consortium of UK universities (also including Nottingham, Manchester and Newcastle) to receive PhD applications financed by the Egyptian government. A very successful pilot workshop was held in Dubai for prospective PhD students. The University also hosted its first ever UKGRAD conference in 2006. This

attracted 65 PhD students for an intensive five-day training programme designed to help them in their studies and future careers. UKGRAD will be coming to Exeter again in 2007.

Employability

The University has worked hard with students to improve their employability. A total of 7,100 students undertook employability training in 2006, often with employers. A Jubilee Employers Day was held, which targeted over 700 graduate recruiters. The results of this work are beginning to feed through into nationally produced employability statistics. During the year the University increased its graduate level employment indicator again – a rise of six points in two years. We also exceeded our HEFCE Employment Indicator benchmark for the first time.

Improvements in graduate employment were welcome, but the University is determined to sustain that improvement. A number of new initiatives were therefore launched designed to deliver further progress. Outside the laboratory and lecture room, the University increased its support for work-based learning. The Shell STEP programme places students with small and medium-sized companies to undertake 'real world' business projects.



Exeter is the Shell STEP provider for Devon, Cornwall and Somerset and put 39 students through the programme in 2006 – the second highest number in the country. It complements the University's own Graduate Business Projects scheme.



Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Janice Kay congratulates Devon STEP winner Jamie Vague.



F1 in Schools Formula One Technology Challenge.



In partnership with Plymouth University, Exeter has secured £500,000 worth of European Social Fund money to run *Devon Graduate Futures*, which aims to find jobs for unemployed or under-employed graduates. Practising what we preach, a new internship scheme was also launched in which students gain experience by working for fixed periods in various University academic schools or Professional Services.

The City traders of the future can now get their hands on the very latest technology at the University thanks to the generosity of financial information specialists Reuters. The Tiverton-based Reuters Data Operations, which supplies up-to-the-minute data to businesses around the world, has donated its latest on-line business information packages to the University's Centre for Finance and Investment (Xfi). The packages will be used by students and staff for training and research. It is a valuable addition to the University's trading room, which enables access to international financial markets.

A trip to New York was the first prize in a competition to improve students' CV writing skills. Floella Benjamin Awards of up to £1,000 each were awarded to five students to undertake activities to enhance their job prospects. These include internships, training programmes and work experience abroad. The Careers and Employment Service ran its most successful ever Careers Fair in October.



The Chancellor Floella Benjamin and the Vice-Chancellor Professor Steve Smith with winners of the Floella Benjamin Awards.

INTO University of Exeter

An agreement to create a new £35 million study centre for 500 international students was signed in 2006 with INTO University Partnerships. The ground-breaking joint venture marries the reputation and teaching skills of the University with INTO's worldwide marketing network. It will provide world class teaching facilities and accommodation on the University's Streatham Campus. International students will come to Exeter for English language, foundation, pre-masters and other courses that will prepare them to progress to undergraduate and postgraduate degrees at the University. Quality assurance of the joint venture will reside wholly with the University and students will be taught to the same high standard as Exeter's other 14,000 students. The first newly-recruited students will join the University this summer.



INTO Chairman Andrew Colin at the launch of INTO University of Exeter.

Exeter is the third university in the UK to enter into a joint venture with INTO, ahead of Newcastle and following the University of East Anglia (UEA). Since opening in February 2006 UEA already has over 300 students preparing to enter its programmes. INTO now plans to create a further eight to ten centres over the next two years. This will provide a network of major universities working together to raise the profile of their institutions and the UK as a high quality study destination.



1 The Vice-Chancellor Professor Steve Smith pictured with Reuters management at the launch of the new business information system in Xfi.

2 The launch of the INTO partnership.

Students

Getting involved

During 2006 Exeter built on its reputation as a University where students 'get involved.' The previous year had seen a big upsurge in the number of students taking part in social, sporting, educational and other activities and the trend continued in 2006.



The Guild put a great deal of effort into persuading greater numbers of students to vote in the summer elections. A total of 3,109 students voted (25% of the student body), giving Exeter the top Student Union turnout in the UK.

The GSA (Guild Societies Association) also flourished. The Guild now boasts a record 105 affiliated societies compared with 70 in 2005. It was also a very successful year for X-Media with more entries than ever into the X-Media Awards. XTV (the student TV station) received four second place awards at the NASTAs (National Association of Student Television Awards).

The RAG appeal by the Students' Guild raised £65,000 and the money was donated to ten local charities.

The trend for greater involvement was also extended to sport with membership of the Athletic Union reaching 3,314, a significant rise on 2005. University teams once again performed strongly in BUSA (British Universities Sports Association) competitions. Some 25 teams went through to the knock-out stages of the competition. Exeter teams made further progress to six quarter-finals, two semi-finals and six finals. Five of those six finals resulted in victory for Exeter with BUSA champions in Women's Volleyball, Women's Fencing, Men's Hockey 1st team, Women's Rugby and the Golf 2nd team. Exeter came 12th overall in the BUSA (British Universities Sports Association) championships.



Sporting expansion

The Sports Office saw its income from users grow to £854,000 – an increase of £185,000 on the year before. Some 4,026 students (36.5% of the total) were sports centre members. Work is nearing completion on a further £200,000 investment in tennis and netball facilities, which will give the University regional centre of excellence status for netball in addition to tennis, golf and hockey.

Academic support

The Guild also improved its academic services to students. A new academic section of the Students' Guild Website was launched to provide a central location to house all the information and procedures relating to the main academic issues that affect students. The topics covered include academic appeals, complaints procedures, plagiarism, study skills and interruption and withdrawal.

Plagiarism Awareness Week was the Guild's first ever awareness campaign on a purely academic issue. Publicity was achieved via the usage of posters, a thread on X-Net and information is displayed on the website.



Volunteering

Student volunteers at the University of Exeter gave 86,000 hours of service to disadvantaged people in the city – the equivalent of 50 full-time voluntary sector workers. A team of more than 600 volunteers worked with 350 children and older people. In addition to their own 'home grown' projects, students were placed with over 70 local voluntary organisations.

Called Community Action, the volunteering service has been adopted as a model of best practice by the Higher Education Active Community Fund (HEACF). It was shortlisted in the *Times Higher Awards*. Volunteering has become one of the most distinctive elements of the 'Exeter experience.'

In-house projects offered by Community Action (CA) are aimed at disadvantaged children and lonely and isolated elderly people. Activities for children include regular outings, swimming, cooking, sports, a Christmas Party and a summer camping trip. For the elderly, CA volunteers undertake visiting, helping people with hearing difficulties, and arranging parties, dances and get-togethers.

The students also work with over 70 local agencies, including Exeter Drugs Project, Exeter Prison, Exeter Kindergarten Project, Disabled Young Adults Club, Riding for the Disabled, RSPCA, Samaritans, Sexual Abuse Line, and West of England School for the Blind,

Feedback from local volunteer organisations involved with Community Action has been hugely positive.

The Works

The Students Guild has teamed up with the University's Careers and Employment Service to open a "one stop shop" designed to help students find part-time work and provide them with information about careers, training opportunities and enhancing their CV. *The Works* was opened in September 2006 and exceeded its targets in its first operating quarter. More than 1,700 students had registered with *The Works* by the end of its first year. One of its workers, Ellie Rymer, a student in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, won a National Award with NASES for the title of Student Employee of the Year (Job Shop category).



The Works in action.



Student employee of the year winner Ellie Rymer, pictured centre.



Community Action event for local school children.

External affairs

Development and Alumni relations

The University's fundraising and alumni relations activities were brought together into a new Development and Alumni Relations Office to generate and coordinate philanthropic support for the University and to help Schools to do likewise. The team was strengthened during the year and research was undertaken to determine how much might be raised from non-governmental sources. The University will be testing a target of £30 million over the next few years; seeking funds for a range of initiatives that will support the future development of the University. This will build on the £1.7 million raised in 2006 from alumni and other donors (against a target of £1 million). Funds will be received and managed by the Exeter University Foundation.

A total of £377,000 raised from alumni and other donors has been allocated to 25 University projects by the Foundation. The money was donated to the Annual Fund campaign. Projects funded include two minibuses for the Students' Guild (pictured below), laptops for the Library, two beach volleyball courts and student field trips in Biosciences and Archaeology.

Several alumni have agreed to help the University generate substantial additional funds by giving lay leadership to the fundraising programme. The University is working with Schools to identify projects that will make a difference to the University's national and international standing.



The University has also embarked upon a new Alumni Relations Strategy designed to engage with former students around the world. The new programme of events and communications is designed to create opportunities for former students to network socially and professionally and to support the University not only by making donations but also by helping with student recruitment, offering careers guidance and opportunities to students and acting as advocates and ambassadors for the University. Alumni will also have access to Continuing Professional Development for themselves and their colleagues.

Stakeholders

Databases aren't perhaps the most exciting of topics, but they are crucial to identifying and working with key stakeholders. The University has to present itself consistently and effectively in many key markets, so a precise knowledge of who we need to talk to (and why) is the foundation of an effective external affairs strategy. The alumni relations and donors database has been a vital tool for many years and this has now been supplemented with information about other stakeholders, such as research funders, graduate recruiters and political contacts. The University is now regularly in touch with 65,000 stakeholders and the responsibility for maintaining those relationships is clearly assigned to different University staff.

Market research

University strategy is increasingly being informed through market research with nine different surveys undertaken each year. This work has included bespoke benchmarking, competitor and fees research projects and qualitative research with students to better understand their decision-making and inform the development of University publications and website presence.

New approaches to marketing have been taken including factfiles for all undergraduate subjects, an approach now being taken to postgraduate subjects as well. Both the



undergraduate and postgraduate recruitment websites have been completely rebuilt and relaunched based on direct feedback from student focus groups and user-testing sessions. We now offer a range of student profiles, virtual tours, galleries and student-run online discussion forums to enable them to find out more.



The Vice-Chancellor Professor Steve Smith speaks to alumni at an event held in London.

Branding and communication

Central to the University's success is the creation of an effective brand. The work of Marketing, Public Relations, Design & Publications and Events is key to that. During 2006, the University achieved 4,800 press articles with an advertising equivalency value of over £10 million. There were 21 million views of the University's website from 1.9 million external visitors in 150 different countries. The University's designers undertook 400 different projects. More than 70 different speeches were written for the Vice-Chancellor and senior management.

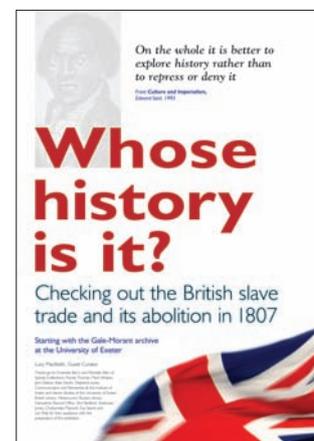
New forms of communication were developed during the year, most notably the webcasting of graduation ceremonies and the Vice-Chancellor's annual start of session briefings for staff.

Events

The events team organised 68 different events during 2006, including the second half of the University's Golden Jubilee celebrations. Overall, the Jubilee celebrations attracted more than 7,000 stakeholders and involved over 100 University staff. The high point of the 2006 events was a special concert by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra in the Great Hall. A celebratory fanfare was composed for the occasion by Stephen McNeff, a postgraduate researcher at the University in the 1980s. Overall the Jubilee cost £100,000 which was almost entirely funded by external fund raising. It even made a surplus of £20,000 which has been donated to the University's Student Life Fund.

Her Majesty the Queen visited the Cornwall Campus as part of her 80th birthday celebrations in June. She met key academics to find out about their research and toured the facilities with HRH Prince Philip.

The University took part in Black History Month for the first time and a varied programme was created to include visiting speakers, music and dance, films and an exhibition. The aim was to celebrate the histories of Black and Minority Ethnic communities and to recognise and celebrate the huge contribution they have made to British cultural life.



- 1
- 2
- 3

A trio of Jubilee events:

- 1 HM the Queen's visit to Cornwall.
- 2 Jubilee concert by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra.
- 3 Bridget Riley exhibition.



The University and business

The University's earnings from businesses and other non-traditional sources rose to £19.6 million. The total includes research income from commercial and non-commercial organisations, funding for students on external placements, sponsorship, income from vocational programmes, Higher Education Innovation Fund, and consultancy. Exeter Enterprises, the University's consultancy company, has seen turnover exceed £1 million for the third year in a row. More than half of this was passed back to the University. A Cornwall subsidiary of Exeter Enterprises is supporting Cornish businesses in the environmental sector.

A close and mutually profitable relationship has been built with the Met Office since the organisation relocated to Exeter. The Met Office now provides £500,000 towards the cost of three professors and over £650,000 for the provision of research and technical services from the University. The Met Office also sponsors the *Shaping the Future* lecture series and *Café Scientifique*, a series of science engagement events held in the city centre.

Helping researchers to apply their research to commercial projects is a developing part of the University's work. SEAMS for example is a company created from a collaboration between the University's Centre for Water Systems and Sheffield University. Auxetix is a bespoke R&D company that invents and refines technology based on a new type of material that 'gets fatter when you stretch it.' The company is a joint venture between the University, Dow Corning and the inventor Dr Patrick Hook.

The University's efforts to work with industry to turn academic research into marketable products and services have been recognised with a prestigious award. Exeter has enjoyed increasing success with a DTI-funded scheme called Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs). Since establishing a KTP Office at the University, the number of KTPs has increased to 16 and the aim is to have 18-20 a year. One of those projects, involving the Department of Engineering and Exeter-based CH Medical, was given an award by the DTI for 'exemplary performance resulting in significant benefits to all partners'.

The University's regional impact

A new study carried out during 2006 reveals the economic benefit brought to the South West by the University. It shows that:

- the University, its staff and students are worth £246 million a year to the regional economy. Overall the University generates £334 million a year for UK plc
- in addition to the 2,700 staff employed by the University, a further 1,418 jobs are maintained in the region and 2,218 in the UK as a whole
- the University generates £32 million a year in export earnings
- its non-UK students spend £10.7 million a year in the region.

International strategy

A new international strategy was developed during the year to further develop the University's overseas links. A memorandum of exchange and cooperation was signed with Jilin University in China. This is part of the University's strategy to create new international partnerships. It is designed to lead to cooperation on scientific research and PhD programmes, and exchanges of students and staff. The University also opened an office in Dubai in September to aid recruitment and other development activities in the Middle East.

Raising aspirations

Closer to home, the University has been working with local schools to raise the aspirations of their pupils. The first Excellence in Exeter awards ceremony was held in the Great Hall in November to recognise the academic, arts, sporting and community efforts of 170 young people from across the city. Pupils were nominated from all five Exeter secondary schools, two special schools and Exeter College and received awards in a graduation style ceremony.



Excellence in Exeter Award winners.

Governance

New Chancellor

Floella Benjamin, OBE was elected by Council as the University of Exeter's new Chancellor. Dr Benjamin is a broadcaster, actress, writer, producer, and an active worker for the welfare, care and education of children throughout the world. Although best known for her work as a children's



TV presenter on iconic programmes like *Playschool* and *Play Away*, she began her career in the theatre appearing in many hit West End shows, and in television dramas including *Within These Walls*, *Bergerac* and *Gentle Touch* as well as British 1977 Cannes Film entry *Black Joy* where she was critically acclaimed. Today she runs a successful TV production company and is an active Vice-President of Barnardo's. She led a 20-year campaign to create the role of Children's Minister, which achieved its goal in 2003. She was Chairman of the Women of the Year Lunch for five years and Chairman of BAFTA-Television, a member of the OFCOM Content Board, a Millennium Commissioner and is President of the Elizabeth R Commonwealth Broadcasting Fund. Her broadcasting work has been recognised with a Special Lifetime Achievement BAFTA and an OBE. She has recently created the *Touching Success* initiative which aims to mentor and help young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. She is an honorary graduate of the University.

Council and the Corporate Plan

Council approved the University's new Corporate Plan, which covers the period 2006-2010. A list of 'metrics' by which Exeter will measure its progress towards becoming a top 20 university was also agreed. The 15 metrics have been created to measure the University's drive towards top 20

status. These include measures such as research income, postgraduate research students per member of staff, student retention and completion and facilities spend. A group of comparator universities has been created against which Exeter's performance will be measured. The list has been devised from universities that are competitors for students, regional peers and similar types of institution.

Council has also been operating a set of 25 'risk indicators' designed to address the dangers of the University failing to deliver on major strands of activity. Indicators cover 'business critical' areas such as postgraduate student recruitment, financial strategy and management, reputational attack, physical disaster, and Cornwall Campus development. Meeting student expectations has recently been placed towards the top of the list because of the likely intensification of competition for high quality students.

Council was reduced in size to 25 members in line with national best practice. It now consists of 12 members appointed on the recommendation of Nominations Committee, three lay officers (Chair of Council, Pro-Chancellor, Treasurer) and ten University staff and students. Three new members were appointed: John Allwood, an Exeter graduate and former managing director of the Telegraph Group; Wilfred Emmanuel-Jones, a Devon farmer





and founder of the Black Farmer Rural Scholarship; and Lady Studholme, an Exeter graduate and former PR manager for Barclays de Zoete Wedd.

A review of Senate was undertaken to give it more of a role in University decision-making. An extra meeting is to be held in September so that Senate can contribute to University policy at an earlier stage in the decision-making process. Each of the four Deputy Vice-Chancellors is to be asked to assume responsibility for the major items to be discussed by one Senate meeting per year and a written answers paper and item is to be introduced for each meeting.

Structural changes

Changes were made to Professional Services' management structure to better support the University's top 20 agenda. New directorates of Planning and Performance Review and Student Services were created and led, respectively, by Patrick Kennedy and Keith Zimmerman. Student Recruitment and Admissions moved into Communication and Partnership as part of a move to put all of the University's externally facing functions together. Hospitality Services has been strengthened with the creation of a new post of Operations Director. Jilly Court fills this post having joined the University from the University of Arts, London. A new converged Information Services (comprised of the Library and IT Services) was also created and headed by a new appointment, Michele Shoebridge, who held the equivalent position at Birmingham. Future changes to the management structure are planned in August 2007 with Information Services, Student Services and the Projects Office coming together under the leadership of Michele Shoebridge as Director of Academic Services. Under Jeremy Lindley's leadership (as Director of Finance and Corporate Services) Finance, Hospitality Services, Sport and Buildings and Estate will come together, also from 1 August, as Corporate Services. The aim is to reduce the number of separate services, take advantage of synergies between them and build management capacity.

The process of creating larger academic units resulted in the creation of the School of Arts, Languages and Literatures, headed by Professor Rick Rylance. It incorporates Modern Languages, English, and Performance Arts.

The University estate

A long-term strategic document on the future of the University's estate has been produced for the first time. Major themes are the optimisation of existing space, academic vs non-academic space, provision of learning resource centres, what's required to assure top 20 status, and environmental sustainability. The document will help the University plan for future growth. Supporting the strategy has been a 'use of space' survey which revealed the extent to which present facilities are being used. It reveals that the University should have no difficulty incorporating a planned 8% growth in student numbers by 2008. Further work is needed to assess whether the growth target of 30% more students by 2015 is achievable without the need for new buildings.

St Luke's

A feasibility study was begun to investigate the future of the St Luke's campus. The three schools on the site, Education and Lifelong Learning, Sport and Health Sciences and the Peninsula Medical School, are very successful; so successful that they are expected to outgrow the space available on the campus within the next few years. Numbers of medical students, for example, have increased by 65% in just four years. Planning and building extra facilities takes time, so it is important to consider the space issue before it becomes a bar to the future development of the schools concerned. The feasibility study is designed to give the University some data on what possible future options might be. They will then be used to inform a discussion about the future of St Luke's in the spring of 2007. Council will be asked to make a final decision about the way forward at their meeting in July. Possible future options include moving one or all of the schools to the Streatham campus, where there is room to create new facilities, and selling all or part of the St Luke's site to fund the creation of new facilities for schools which need to move.



Streatham, St Luke's and Tremough Campuses.



Cutting carbon

Efficient use of energy is becoming ever more important given the dangers of global warming and very large increases in utility bills. Current energy and transport use at the University means that three tonnes of Carbon Dioxide is emitted each year for each student or member of staff. Exeter is one of 15 universities presently taking part in the Carbon Trust's Higher Education Carbon Management Programme, focusing on our use of energy, transport and recycling. The aim is to reduce the carbon footprint of our business and cut energy consumption and expenditure. We will set targets and publish our performance in future reports.

We also wish to set an example of good practice. We believe that the formal and informal education we provide to our students may be the greatest contribution that the University can make to reducing and mitigating the threat of global warming. We will consider how the academic course content and the management of our estate and activities reflect these concerns.

Cornwall Campus

The University is preparing for the third phase of Cornwall Objective One funding. We are proposing a single interdisciplinary research institute centred on the Environment and Sustainable Society. Cornwall is eligible to receive another £450 million of European funding between 2007 and 2013.

Meanwhile work got underway on new facilities for Phase 2 of the campus. This will facilitate the teaching of new degrees in Cornish and Celtic Studies, Geography, History, Law and Politics, which will take their first students in September 2007. Planning for the Tremough Innovation Centre also got underway in earnest. The campus is increasing in popularity with 2006 admissions to courses in Renewable Energy up by 157%, Mining Engineering by 114% and Biosciences by 35%. Overall admissions were up 22% in 2006.

Investors in People

Professional Services' staff have won the coveted Investor in People award. The 1,400 staff run services ranging from personnel, estates management, catering, residences and finance to marketing, careers and student recruitment.



The Registrar and Secretary David Allen with some of the Investors in People winners.

Investors in People is a tried and tested way of making organisations more effective by focusing on the development and involvement of staff. It creates systems to make sure staff get the right support to do their jobs well and to understand how their work contributes to the organisation's objectives. A large number of different organisations have gone through the IIP process since it was established in 1990. The evidence suggests they have become a lot more effective as a result. They have also become nicer places to work.

New Director of Music

The University appointed a new Director of Music to head up the development of musical opportunities for students. Marion Wood studied at the University of Keele and the Royal College of Music. She has previously worked as the National Youth Orchestra of Ireland's rehearsal conductor and is also Artistic Director of The Romantic Symphony Orchestra in London.



Admissions to Mining Engineering, Biosciences and Renewable Energy courses at the Cornwall Campus were buoyant.

Investment

New dental school approved

A bid for a £28 million dental school for the South West – the first new dental school in the UK for 40 years – received funding approval. It will take its first 62 students in 2007 and will be a part of the Peninsula College of Medicine and Dentistry, a joint initiative of Exeter and Plymouth universities

The three dental centres will be:

- Devonport in Plymouth. A major community facility will offer routine and specialist care and will feature 48 student chairs and supporting generic facilities, integrated with local NHS care provision.
- An extension of the dental access clinic at Heavitree Hospital in Exeter, with 16 student chairs and supporting IT and seminar facilities.
- An outreach facility created through expansion of the Knowledge Spa on the Royal Cornwall Hospitals site in Truro. Truro will feature 32 student chairs and supporting generic facilities.

The Peninsula Medical School was also awarded an extra 33 undergraduate medical student places bringing its intake up to 214 a year. The dental school bid was approved by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) on the advice of a Joint HEFCE/Department of Health Implementation Group.

Alexander building opens

The doors opened on impressive new drama and theatre facilities at the University. The Alexander building (named after the late Lord Alexander, Exeter's former Chancellor) boasts two brand new performance studios, rehearsal rooms, seminar rooms, computer suites and workshops. The new facility, which adjoins Thornlea House on New North Road, is part of a £4 million investment in Drama at the University.



Rehearsal rooms have maple wood sprung floors and have been installed with the latest technology to control light, sound and temperature. They enjoy views across the Hooper Valley. The costume store is re-housed in a larger space and improved changing areas and a props workshop are available. A computer suite boosts the ability to create and use digital imaging, an increasingly important tool for drama performance and research.



Two views of the new Alexander Building.



Property

The sale of Bonhay House (the art deco building opposite St David's Station) was completed. Signpost Homes is redeveloping the property to provide higher quality student bedrooms for the University. The sale of Crossmead for housing development was also completed with the receipts being used for investment in academic posts prior to the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise and refurbishment of Reed Hall and Lafrowda flats. Land at Rowancroft, off the Heavitree Road, is to be sold to Signpost, subject to planning permission for new student residences. A planning application for new student accommodation at Brunel Close, near St David's station, has been approved on appeal. This project is also being developed in partnership with Signpost Homes.

Northcott Theatre

An appeal to raise funds for a refurbishment of the Northcott Theatre raised just under £2.1 million. The total raised was less than had been hoped for but will still enable the theatre to modernize its facilities. Donors included the University, theatre-goers, property company Eagle One, the Garfield Weston Foundation, HSBC, Exeter City Council, Devon County Council and Arts Council South West. The University's donation totaled £300,000 plus a further interest free loan of £200,000. It also provides ongoing support worth around £175,000 a year.

The redevelopment will include:

- 25-30 more seats in the auditorium. This will be achieved by establishing a new row and reconfiguring the current layout.
- Replacement of all seats in the auditorium and refurbishment of the auditorium.
- Full accessibility for disabled customers. A new lift will be installed to provide wheelchair access throughout the public areas of the building with a new ramped pathway leading to the main entrance. The number of spaces for wheelchair users within the auditorium will be increased from two to six.
- An increase in standing and sitting space in the front of house bar area. This will be achieved by extending the current mezzanine level.
- Refurbishment of the front of house area.
- Full compliance with fire and health and safety legislation. Two new emergency exits will be fitted on either side of the auditorium and a new, state of the art fire alarm/PA system will be installed.
- Changes will be made within the auditorium ceiling to allow technicians safe access to all lighting equipment.

The theatre has closed for the refurbishment to take place and will re-open in December 2007.

Innovation Centre

Work has begun on Phase 2 of the Innovation Centre. The project will treble the size of the existing Innovation Centre (which provides workshop space for small high technology firms) and represents a total investment of £9.8 million by the South West Regional Development Agency. The project is due for completion in November 2007. The 38,000 square ft building will offer business units for new and growing companies within the research and development sector, as well as meeting rooms and a cafeteria. It will be equipped with the latest green technology to make it energy efficient and minimize its impact on the environment.

Meanwhile, the University is working with the city council on a proposal to create a science park near Junction 29 of the M5. Work is progressing well and a preferred site is likely to be chosen in March 2007. It will link with the Innovation Centre by providing larger premises for expanding high technology firms.



1 £2.1 million was raised to refurbish the Northcott Theatre.

2 The Vice-Chancellor Professor Steve Smith views progress at the Innovation Centre with Jane Henderson, Chief Executive of the South West Regional Development Agency.



Student facilities

Devonshire House, one of the two main Students' Guild buildings, was refurbished as part of an £8 million campus refurbishment programme carried out at great speed over the summer.

The Long Lounge has been turned into a new wine and coffee bar supplying a range of healthy organic and ethical foods sourced locally. As well as a refit, the terrace area has been refurbished. The Junior Common Room has been similarly smartened up with new furniture, new flooring and new lighting.

Downstairs on the ground floor, the coffee bar has received the same treatment, but will continue to serve the famous all-day breakfast so beloved of students through the years. The terrace has also been revamped with new seating and awnings for use on sunny days. The refurbishment includes a new seating area at the far end, where students can consume their own food. The music and drama room has been given a new floor and repainted and now has improved disabled access.

Moving upstairs, the main dining area – Re:refresh – has been fully modernised and the previously very gloomy entrance to the Great Hall has been given a much lighter and airier feel.

The improvements to Devonshire House are the second phase of a major investment in student facilities. They follow the revamping of the Lemon Grove and associated facilities in Cornwall House in summer 2005.

Parts of the Amory and Harrison buildings were also refurbished over the summer. Meanwhile, Clydesdale House was refurbished as a combined Postgraduate/International Student Centre and Postgraduate Training Centre.



Devonshire House and Cornwall House were refurbished over the summer to provide better student social and catering facilities.

People

Awards and appointments

Professor John Tooke, Dean of the Peninsula College of Medicine and Dentistry, has received a Knighthood in the Queen's New Year Honours.

Professor Tooke came to Devon as a consultant physician and senior lecturer in medicine at the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital nearly 20 years ago to establish a diabetes service.

Since then he has been a leading light in diabetes care and research, having chaired the Professional Sections of Diabetes UK from 1999 to 2002 and served as President of both the British Microcirculation Society and the European Society for Microcirculation. His research team won a Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education for the University of Exeter in 1996. In 1998 he led the successful bid for the Peninsula Medical School on behalf of the Universities of Exeter and Plymouth, the first new UK medical school for over 30 years.

He was appointed the School's Inaugural Dean in 2000 and has overseen its expansion. The Medical School has won wide acclaim as well as two increases in student numbers – from an initial intake of 130 in 2002 to 214 in 2006. Such is its popularity that 10 people have applied for each place this year. Importantly the School has established a strong research reputation and is committed to a strategy to propel it into the top 15 of all UK medical schools by 2015.

Professor Tooke also oversaw the school's successful bid for the Peninsula Dental School in 2006, the first new dental school in the UK for 40 years. The School will welcome its first students in September of this year.

Professor Tooke said: "I was surprised and delighted when I found out. It is a tremendous reflection on the partnership working of the Medical School and the commitment of a superb set of colleagues within the School, University and wider NHS." Professor Tooke was awarded his Knighthood for Services to Medicine.

As well as his position as Dean of the Peninsula College of Medicine and Dentistry, he is currently Honorary Consultant Physician at the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital with interests in diabetes and vascular medicine and Professor of Vascular Medicine at the University of Exeter. At a national level he is Chairman of the Council of Heads of Medical Schools and the UK Health



Education Advisory Committee, and is currently leading a High Level Group for the Department of Health on barriers to clinical effectiveness.

Research by a Political Scientist at the University of Exeter has been given an architectural award. **Dr Mick Dumper's** work on Jerusalem won one of the inaugural Royal Institute of British Architects President's Research Awards. The project "Conflict in Cities: Architecture and Urban order in Divided Jerusalem" was voted Outstanding University-led Research by RIBA.

Professor Mark Overton, of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, became Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Resources. He took over from Professor Paul Webley who became Director and Principal of the School of Oriental and African Studies in London.

The Vice-Chancellor **Professor Steve Smith** took over as Chair of the 1994 Group. The Group expanded its membership to include Leicester, Loughborough, SOAS, and Queen Mary, University of London. All of the UK's 38



research-intensive universities are now members of either the 1994 Group or the Russell Group. Professor Smith was also elected to the board of UCAS (the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service). He will serve for three years as the representative of Universities UK.

The culinary skills of teams of **Hospitality Services** staff were tested in the University's first Inter-Chef Challenge. Competing teams had to produce a three-course cold menu from a 'surprise box of ingredients' and present a table lay up and menu card. Catering staff based in Cornwall House won the table challenge, St Luke's won the starter, Reed Hall & Clydesdale House the main course and St Luke's the sweet. The Cornwall House team were overall winners.



The Vice-Chancellor Professor Steve Smith with winners of the Inter-Chef Challenge.

Hospitality Services staff have gained the coveted Hospitality Assured standard. This is a national customer service accreditation programme well known within the hotel and catering industry.



28 members of staff successfully completed the in-house programme leading to the **Chartered Management Institute** Level 3 Certificate in Management. The certificate is designed for people who are already occupying or are considering a first line management role. 20 members of staff gained the Certificate of Academic Practice, which leads to a postgraduate diploma. The programme has been re-shaped in the light of feedback from participants and the hope is that more academics will be encouraged to take part.

The Cliff Witch and the Sea, a play written by **Hannah Ashwell** when studying for her MA in Playwriting and Script Development in the Drama department, has been selected as one of the three winners of the 21st International Playwriting Festival hosted by the Warehouse Theatre, Croydon.

The Glass Man, a radio play by **Professor Martin Sorrell**, of the School of Arts, Languages and Literatures was named Best Radio Drama at the 2006 Mental Health in The Media Awards ceremony.

Suzi Leather, a member of Council, was awarded a DBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours. Dame Suzi is an Exeter graduate and Chair of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority. Dame Suzi also became the new Chair of the Charity Commission. She stepped down from her roles as Chair of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority and Chair of the School Food Trust.

The new President of the Devon History Society **Professor Malcolm Todd** presented the first Devon History Society Dissertation Prize to history graduate **Charlotte Cook** for her dissertation entitled 'The causes of migration, 1841-1891: a case study of Ashburton'.

Professor Hilary Lappin-Scott, the University's Dean of Postgraduate Studies, was elected President of the International Society of Microbial Ecology.



Some of the winning dishes in the Inter-Chef Challenge.

Two University runners completed the 2006 London Marathon. **Dawn Teed**, of the School of English, finished in 3hr 35mins, generating funds for Shelter Box. **Patrick Kennedy**, of Professional Services, made it to the finish line in 4hr 17mins, raising £3,000 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Dr Kate Fisher, of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, has been awarded 'proxime accessit' in the Longman/History Today Book of the Year competition. *Birth Control, Sex, and Marriage in Britain 1918-1960* is a study of attitudes to birth control from a gender, regional, demographic and social perspective. It is the first book she has written and began as a PhD.

Dave Shaerf, a Film Studies PhD student won the University-sponsored Best Script award at the *Two Short Nights* film festival at the Exeter Phoenix.

Academics in the Department of French have performed the impressive feat of obtaining Leverhulme research awards in three consecutive years. They are: **Dr Melissa Percival**, **Dr James Kearns** and **Dr Emma Cayley**.

Emeritus Professor Peter Wiseman, of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, was awarded the Goodwin Award of Merit by the American Philological Association. This is the first time it's ever gone to a British scholar not based in North America.

Deaths

Former **Professor of Theology Roy Porter** died on 31 December. He retired in 1986.

Dr Kenneth Rowe, who died in June, was Pro-Chancellor and Chair of Council from 1972-85. He was made an honorary graduate in 1986.

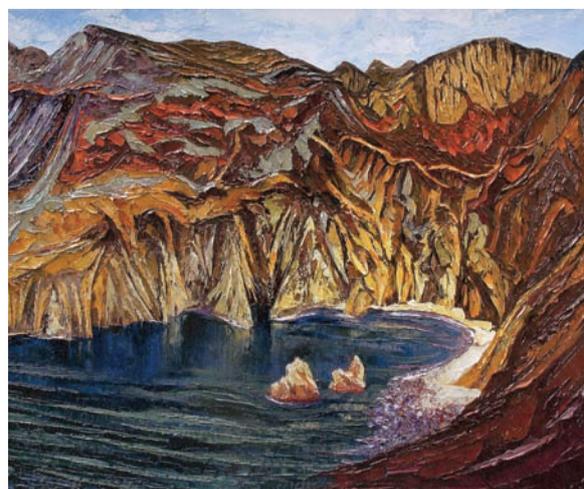
Art donations



Local sculptor **Janice Ridley** made a gift of her sculpture *Stargazer* to the University. It has been on permanent loan since 2002 and is situated behind the Northcott Theatre.



Honorary graduate **Alan Cotton** has generously donated to the University a large painting from his new series in Ireland. The work, entitled *Slieve League in Evening Light*, is oil on canvas and valued at £16,500.





VIP visitors

Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh

Former University Registrar Roderick Ross

Former Met Office chief executive Peter Ewins

Landscape painter Alan Cotton

Molecular geneticist Sir John Beringer

Master of the Rolls Sir Anthony Clarke

Professor Bill Wakeham, an Exeter Physics graduate and VC of Southampton University

Sir Keith O'Nions, Director General of Research Councils UK

Poet Benjamin Zephaniah

Mark Thompson, Director General of the BBC

General Sir Rupert Smith, former Deputy Supreme Commander Allied Powers Europe

Boris Johnson, Shadow Minister for Higher Education

Fertility expert Lord Winston

BBC Security Correspondent Frank Gardner

Business guru Charles Handy

Michael Henson, Chair of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra

Actress Jane Lapotaire

The Ruler of Sharjah, a major benefactor and Exeter graduate

Professor Philip Esler, Chief Executive of the Arts and Humanities Research Council

Baroness Pola Uddin, social justice, human rights and equality campaigner

Chef Michael Caines

Professor David Eastwood, Chief Executive of the Higher Education Funding Council for England

TV presenter and former tennis star Sue Barker

BBC news presenter Nik Gowing

Ben Bradshaw, Exeter MP and Parliamentary Secretary, Department for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs

Major General Paul Newton, Director, Royal College of Defence Studies

Lord Rees, Astronomer Royal

Alan Johnson, Education Secretary

Bill Rammell, Higher Education Minister

Former TV weatherman, Michael Fish



Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh visited the Cornwall Campus in June.



Roderick Ross



Peter Ewins



Sir John Beringer



Sir Anthony Clarke



Professor Bill Wakeham



Benjamin Zephaniah



Mark Thompson



Lord Winston



Frank Gardner



Baroness Pola Uddin



Michael Caines



Sue Barker



Nik Gowing



Lord Rees



Alan Johnson



Michael Fish

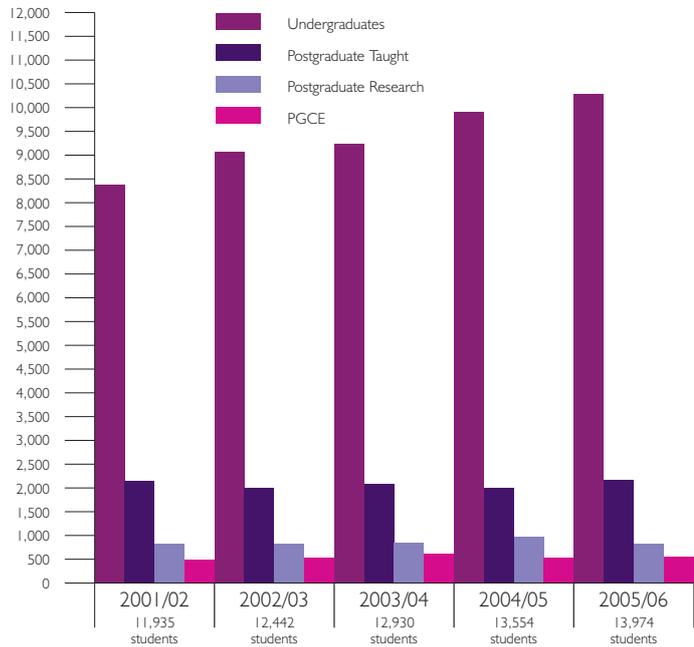
Statistics

Total student numbers as at 1 December 2005

Male/Female Ratio 05/06

Female 54.1%
Male 45.9%

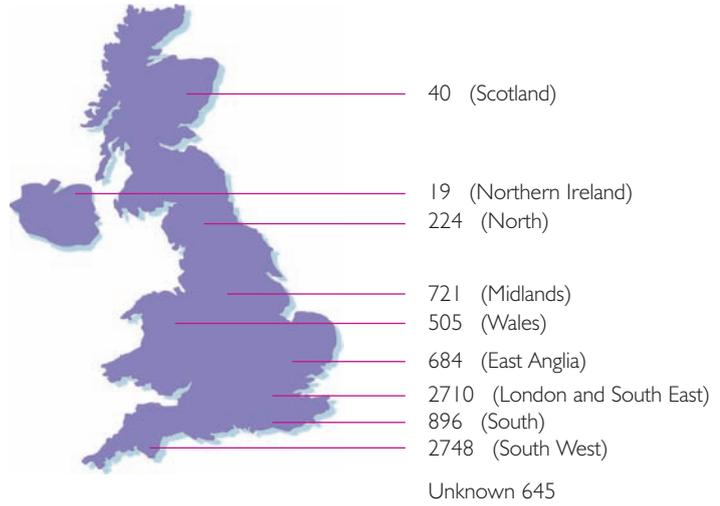
Total number of students



Student population of schools 05/06

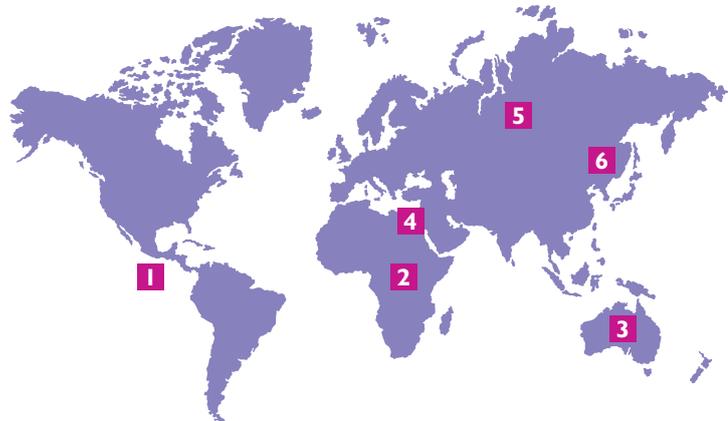
School	Undergraduates	Postgraduate Taught	Postgraduate Research	PGCE
Arts, Languages & Literatures	1,959	176	112	
Biosciences	456	51	82	
Business & Economics	932	412	53	
Education & Lifelong Learning	1,585	608	139	624
Engineering, Computer Science & Mathematics	962	23	75	
Geography, Archaeology & Earth Resources	950	72	61	
Humanities and Social Sciences	1,496	206	205	
Law	509	81	12	
Legal Practice		114		
Physics	356	11	40	
Psychology	360	133	39	
Sport and Health Sciences	391	40	24	
Peninsula Medical School (Exeter)	313		28	
Continuing Professional Development		284		
	10,269	2,211	870	624

Undergraduate UK student domicile 05/06

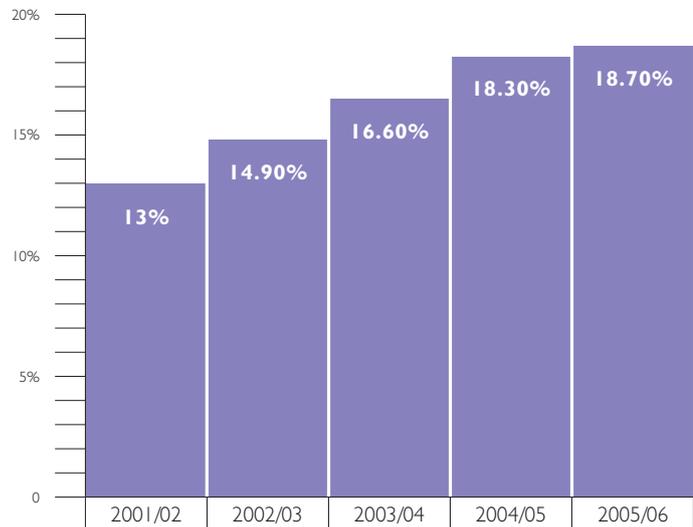


International student numbers by region of domicile 05/06

- 1** North and South America **240**
- 2** Africa **82**
- 3** Australasia/Oceania **12**
- 4** Middle East and Gulf **135**
- 5** Europe and Russian Federation **287**
- 6** Asia **599**

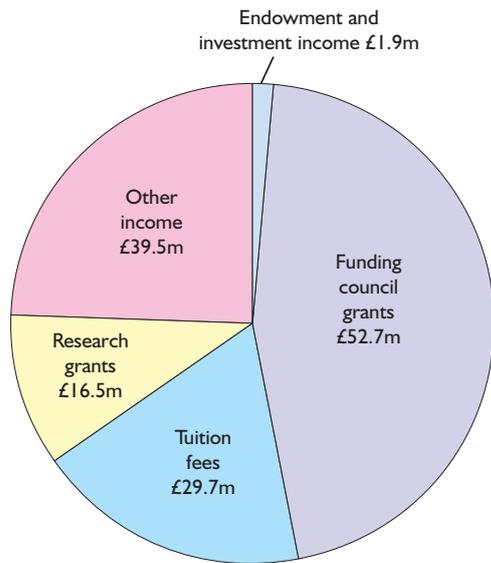


Proportion of students from lower socio-economic class



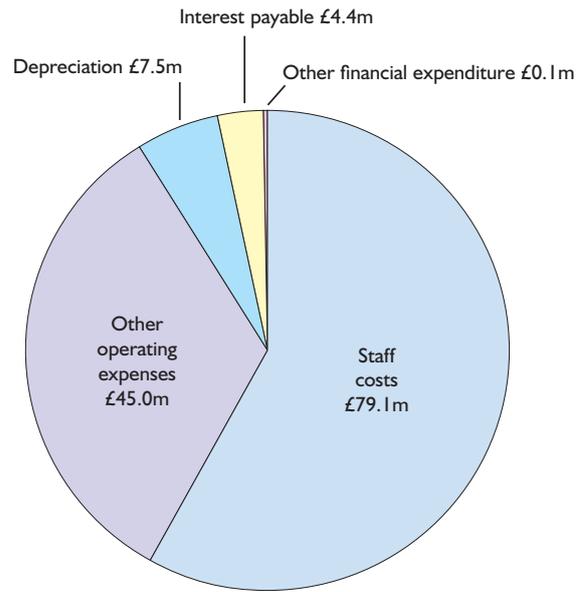
Where the money comes from

Total income: £140.3m

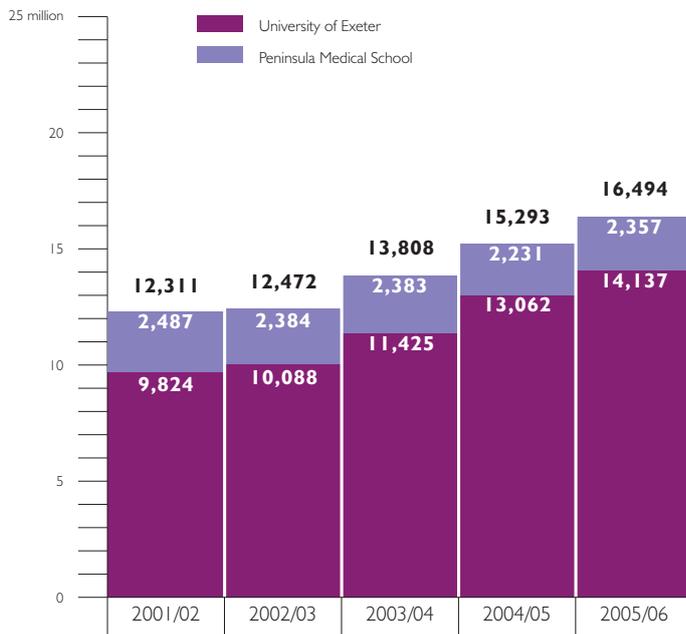


...and how the money is spent

Total expenditure: £136.1m



Research grant income



Staff numbers

Total: 2,780

