
ANNUAL REVIEW 2015



We make the exceptional happen by challenging traditional thinking and defying conventional boundaries

ANNUAL REVIEW 2015



2015 was always going to be very special, as we celebrate our Diamond Jubilee year and reflect on the achievements of the University since the Charter was signed on 21 December 1955. It has been made all the more significant by some outstanding recent achievements.

We became one of the top 100 universities in the world for the first time, with our new position of 93rd in *The Times Higher Education World University Rankings*. This was a huge leap from the previous year when we were in 154th position and places us among the top one per cent of universities globally.

When *The Guardian University Guide 2016* ranked us in ninth place in the UK back in May, it marked another milestone; we appeared in the top 10 of all four of the most influential UK league tables for the first time ever.

Our commitment to sport, in terms of staff and student dedication coupled with a £20 million investment over recent years, was rewarded when we were named the Sports University of the Year 2015-16 in *The Times* and *The Sunday Times Good University Guide*. This is particularly significant because it also looked at our excellent research in this area and our sports provision for students of all abilities, as well as our elite athlete programme.

In the last review we reported on our successes in the Research Excellence Framework (REF). During the past year we have been able to assess the financial implications of that success, and Exeter was not only ranked 16th in the UK for research power but also 3rd in the UK for the percentage increase in associated funding. Indeed, Exeter was the only institution in the top three that increased its share of funding through hiring and managing the performance of staff and not through mergers with other institutions.

Our Diamond Jubilee is a time to reflect on the hard work, dedication and passion of all our staff, students, alumni and supporters over the past six decades. Together we have made the University the world-leader that it is today and I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to this success.

Steve Smith

Professor Sir Steve Smith
Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive, University of Exeter



CHANCELLOR STEPS DOWN



After 10 fantastic years as Chancellor, Baroness Benjamin OBE DL, Hon DLitt (Exeter) announced her intention to step down from the role. She said: "It has been a pleasure and a privilege to meet so many wonderful young people and do my best to inspire them."

Sarah Turvill, Chair of the University's Council said:

"The University wishes to extend its heartfelt thanks and gratitude for the incredible support Floella has provided to students, their families and the University. She is a remarkable person and will be extremely difficult to replace."

SETSQUARED WINS ACCOLADE FOR THIRD TIME

For the third year in a row, SETSquared was ranked as the top university business incubator in Europe. Over the past 13 years SETSquared – which is a partnership between the universities of Exeter, Bath, Bristol, Southampton, and Surrey – has helped over 1,000 hi-tech start-ups to develop and raise more than £1bn of investment, as well as contributing over £3.8bn in Gross Value Added to the UK economy. The rankings announcement was made at the Incubatore di Imprese Innovative del Politecnico di Torino in Turin.



SOUTH CLOISTERS



The South Cloisters development on the St Luke's Campus will be officially opened in March 2016. The disused upper floors have been refurbished and a new storey created to allow the Medical School research teams to join the campus. The space also provides for additional learning and teaching facilities. A student study centre providing 120 spaces was opened in January 2015.



ATHENA SWAN

The Athena Swan programme continues to go from strength to strength with a Bronze award achieved for the Biosciences department at Exeter. The University also renewed its bronze institutional level award and the College of Life and Environmental Sciences on the Cornwall Campus progressed from Bronze to Silver. The Athena SWAN Charter aims to support and encourage gender equality within the STEM subjects of Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine.



TOP INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

Exeter secured the celebrated International Student Choice Category at the Whatuni Student Choice award, for the best international student experience of any university in the UK. More than 20,000 students across the UK cast their votes for the awards, which covered 10 individual categories.

Global Conversation

A new lecture series which explores how the University and its partners are impacting upon many of the global challenges faced by humanity, was launched in Hong Kong. The Global Conversation international event series aims to open dialogue and debate between leading experts, guests and the public, on a wide range of issues from mental health to water security, dementia to climate change.



THE TIMES
THE SUNDAY TIMES
GOOD UNIVERSITY GUIDE 2016

**SPORTS
UNIVERSITY
OF THE YEAR**



SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FACILITY AT PENRYN



SPORTS UNIVERSITY OF THE YEAR 2016

Exeter was recognised as the best in the UK for both sports academia and athletic achievement, with the awarding of The Times and The Sunday Times Sports University of the Year 2015/16. This prestigious award recognises excellence in sports performance, education and research. The University attracts elite student athletes and is the top ranked institution nationally for Rugby, Golf and Men's Hockey. It has 50 sports clubs, supporting students at all levels. In the Research Excellence Framework 2014, Sport and Health Sciences were ranked 3rd out of 51 Universities for research quality and intensity, with 89 per cent of research rated as world-leading (4*) or internationally excellent (3). More than £20 million has been put into sports provision over the past decade, with a further £4.6 million currently being invested, including a new all-sports facility for the Penryn Campus.

The £5.5 million Science and Engineering Research Support Facility (SERFS) was officially launched at the Penryn Campus. The facility offers a specially designed area for business engagement, called The Collaboratory and a home for the University's Business School as it expands into Cornwall for the first time during 2015/16. New laboratories will enable an expansion of the research led by the Marine Renewables team and the Centre for Ecology and Conservation.

LIVING SYSTEMS INSTITUTE DIRECTOR APPOINTED



One of the world's most pioneering and developmental geneticists, Professor Philip Ingham FRS, has been appointed inaugural Director of the Living Systems Institute, which opens in 2016. A pioneer in the genetic analysis of development using fruit flies and zebrafish as model systems, Professor Ingham is globally renowned for his contributions to several of the most influential discoveries in the field of developmental biology over the last century. His research has revealed important links between embryonic development and cancer.



ANNUAL REVIEW 2015

This, our Diamond Jubilee year, has been one of unprecedented success in our global rankings, research assessments and sport. The University continues to grow, thrive and aspire to achieve even more. The pages of this report offer just a few of the highlights of the year; more information about these and other achievements can be found on our website www.exeter.ac.uk

GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

Exeter's reputation for world-class education was confirmed during the year with two prestigious awards. Exeter came first place in the Study Portals International Students Satisfaction Awards 2014 and won the International Student Choice category at the Whatuni awards.

Exeter student applications for study abroad increased 62% on last year, while our own International Summer School broke all previous records in terms of enrolments (up 55% from last year). 209 students from such universities as Princeton, Toronto, Chicago and the University of Hong Kong attended 12 pathways – four pathways more than in 2014.

During the year, the University extended its global reach by deepening its partnerships with institutions across the world, and particularly in China. Exeter's Centre for Water Systems, working in collaboration with Tsinghua University, secured funding from the Global Innovation Initiative (funded by the governments of the UK and the US respectively). The China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology (CALT) is investing £1 million of funding for Exeter research in Additive Layer Manufacturing over the next five years. Academic staff have been engaged in collaborative research with two of China's leading universities, Fudan and Peking. Work is underway with the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and the Chinese University of Hong Kong to develop joint programmes covering Law, Engineering and Business.

With Indian universities, Exeter was awarded three UK-India Education and Research Initiative (UKIERI) grants, more than any other UK university except Cambridge. Our partnership with the University of South Florida (USF) deepened during July with a visit from USF's governing Board of Trustees, who met their counterparts from the University's Council.



RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

Supporting world-class research

Exeter is the UK's fastest growing and fastest rising Russell Group university with the Research Excellence Framework in 2014 confirming our status as a leading research intensive university. We were one of the three largest recipients of additional Quality-related Research (QR) funding as a result of our REF 2014 performance.

It has been another outstanding year for Exeter. The University achieved £70 million of research income and made funding applications to the value of £359 million, the highest by far in Exeter's history. Our total research portfolio is now worth £200 million per annum. University of Exeter researchers continue to make major contributions in a wide range of disciplines including food security, graphene, diabetes, climate impact, the digital economy, global uncertainty, social change, extrasolar planets and renewable energy.

Over half of our research is conducted in partnership with governments, industry, charities and other social organisations which ensures that research is undertaken in response to societal need and that the results are used for the benefit of us all. Our offering will be strengthened next year with the opening of the Living Systems Institute (LSI), the University's largest single investment in science, which will pioneer novel approaches to understanding diseases and how they can be better diagnosed.

We have strengthened links with our 12 corporate partners, generating more than £5 million in awards. Since their inception these relationships have also helped us to leverage in excess of £34 million of awards.

THE UNIVERSITY IN FIGURES

7TH
IN THE UK

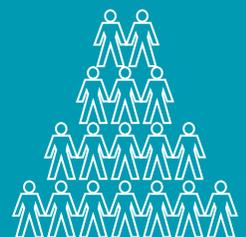
IN THE TIMES AND SUNDAY
TIMES GOOD UNIVERSITY
GUIDE 2016

98%

OF OUR RESEARCH
WAS RATED AS BEING
INTERNATIONAL QUALITY
IN REF 2014
RESEARCH EXCELLENCE FRAMEWORK



OUR SPORTS TEAM FINISHED
IN THE 2014/15 BRITISH
UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGE
(BUCS) CHAMPIONSHIP



WE HAVE AN ALUMNI NETWORK
OF MORE THAN 130,000 PEOPLE

Science Park Centre open for business

The Exeter Science Park opened for business in 2014 and the new hub for the Park, the Science Park Centre incubator opened its doors in June 2015. The Centre is designed to attract and grow businesses engaged in science and technology.

Construction is already underway for the next major build on the park which will house the Met Office's new supercomputer. The supercomputer will enable the Met Office to run more sophisticated weather and climate models which assist the UK's resilience to extreme weather events. These improved observations, science modelling and physics will also unlock better forecasts and advice to support economic growth, prosperity and competitiveness.

SETsquared named world's best university business incubator

SETsquared, the enterprise partnership of the universities of Bath, Bristol, Exeter, Southampton and Surrey, was named the best university business incubator in the world by the University Business Incubation (UBI) Index and the best in Europe for the third year running.

In its 12-year history, SETsquared has provided incubation support to over 1,000 companies and helped them raise more than £1 billion investment.

OUR ALUMNI

Made up of more than 130,000 graduates across 183 countries, Exeter's alumni community grows stronger and more connected every year. Over the last year, £5 million was given by alumni and supporters to support a wide range of projects across all campuses. Supporter donations are providing new equipment for our 50 sports clubs; providing bursaries for talented students from low income backgrounds; funding ground-breaking research on dementia, climate change, and diabetes; and helping us develop the Living Systems Institute – our biggest ever investment in science.

We have been getting to know our alumni overseas much more this year through a series of public lectures called 'Global Conversations', showcasing Exeter's pioneering research and international impact. To facilitate tax-efficient giving in the United States we set up and launched the University of Exeter US Foundation. Our alumni community is

becoming more international year-on-year, and we are delighted at the enthusiasm to support Exeter from around the world; during the year we received a legacy from one of our alumni in Canada, whose generous gift in his will is going to fund three PhD research studentships.

Of course it isn't just about financial support. Many alumni give their time to help us achieve our ambitions. 935 alumni volunteered their time to support the University in 2014/15 (an increase of 16% on the previous year) giving 11,150 hours in total. 574 alumni supported student employability with talks, advice and signposting, mock interviews and one-on-one mentoring, to name just a few. The enthusiasm, hard work and generosity of our alumni really does change lives.

OUR STUDENTS

In 2014/15 there were 21,273 students at the University, of which 3,850 were postgraduates. 70.7% of our home/EU undergraduates came from state schools, 29.2% from independent schools*. We are delighted to have attracted students from more than 130 countries around the world.

We achieve very high levels of student satisfaction because the student experience is at the heart of what we do at Exeter. We are currently third in the Russell Group of universities for student satisfaction in the National Student Survey and first for both Assessment & Feedback and Organisation & Management.

We are currently 7th in *The Times* and *The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2016*.

OUR CAMPUSES

The University continues to be committed to environmental sustainability across the organisation. Our refurbishment of Cornwall House, home to many of the Students' Guild activities, earned us a Green Gown Award 2014 in the Construction and Refurbishment category. In the same awards Jon Cresswell, Assistant College Manager – Infrastructure & Technical Services, was a finalist in the Sustainability Champion category.

* Data Source: Student actuals report | December 2015



VOTED TOP
WHATUNI STUDENT
CHOICE AWARDS 2015



WE ACHIEVED
£70 MILLION
RESEARCH INCOME IN 2014-15



47%
UNDERGRADUATE
APPLICATIONS HAVE GROWN
IN THE LAST 3 YEARS



£350 MILLION
INVESTED IN
SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING SINCE 2008

The UPP Birks Grange Green Impact team, which manages a part of the University's accommodation provision on the Streatham campus, was awarded the National Excellence award by the National Union of Students for their food waste collections project. We were also highly commended in the Sustainability Education Award category of the 2015 Footprints Awards for our management of food waste at campus outlets.

OUR COLLEGES

Humanities

The College of Humanities cemented its global standing with History joining English in the Top 50 QS World Subject Rankings and by maintaining its Top 75 overall position in the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Subject Rankings.

Its status as a truly international teaching and research hub for Humanities was underlined by its excellent performance in the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014, with over 75% of its research rated as world-leading or internationally excellent.

College of Life and Environmental Sciences

2014/15 saw major investment for the College including the opening of the £5.5M SERSF building at the Penryn Campus and continued work towards the completion of the £52.5 million Living Systems Institute, due to open in autumn 2016.



There have been excellent achievements in the league tables, both globally and nationally. Life Sciences has been ranked 82nd in the THE World University Rankings 2016 firmly maintaining our Top 100 position, and nationally Sport and Health Sciences has been ranked 1st in both *The Times* and *Sunday Times Good University Guide 2016* and *The Complete University Guide 2016*.

The College has also achieved Athena SWAN awards across all its disciplines including two Silver awards, recognising our strong commitment to supporting gender equality in science.

Medical School

The Medical School is continuing a trajectory of growth. We celebrated our UK top ten ranking in the REF 2014, and opened the newly refurbished South Cloisters building on our St Luke's Campus. The £10.5 million transformation created a bright, modern home for our Institute of Health Research and for the newly migrated Medical Imaging programme. Along with other refurbishments, it boosts St Luke's as a vibrant campus with a strong emphasis on health and wellbeing.

Our first Medicine students have entered their third year, taking up health trust placements in Exeter, North Devon, Truro and Torbay. Our Medical Sciences intake has expanded to 160 this year, offering five new pathways, and we are launching new postgraduate and professional development programmes.

Engineering, Mathematics and Physical Sciences

The past academic year has been one of the most successful in the history of the college, with strong performance across several areas. The REF 2014 performance in Engineering was a major highlight with 92% of research being classified as world-leading or internationally excellent, the highest in the University.

In addition, our vision for gender equality in science took a step forward with Athena SWAN bronze awards in Physics and Engineering; every one of Exeter's STEM/M departments now has an award.

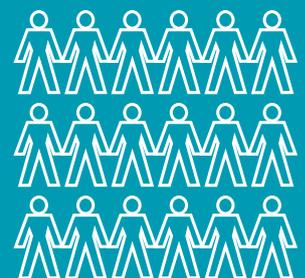
We continue to be immensely proud of our students achievements, a magnificent team effort resulted in a team of students from Camborne School of Mines (CSM) winning gold medals in the International Mining

WE CONTRIBUTE
£600
MILLION POUNDS
TO OUR REGIONAL ECONOMY



N03 IN THE RUSSELL
GROUP FOR STUDENT
SATISFACTION (NSS)

21,273
STUDENTS
FROM 130 COUNTRIES



Games and a team of Computer Science undergraduates also claimed first place in the international Thales Project Arduino competition.

College of Social Sciences and International Studies

Exeter has strengthened its position as one of the leading universities in the world for Social Sciences in the 2015 league tables. The subject is now 81st in the prestigious Times Higher Education (THE) Social Sciences Rankings 2015-16. The league tables analyse 13 performance indicators, including teaching, research quality and the international influence of research, international outlook and industry income. This was the first time it has appeared within the top 100 global rankings. In the UK Exeter is ranked 14th.



Students planning a career in law are now able to complete both the academic stage of their training and the Legal Practice Course (LPC) at the University thanks to an innovative collaboration with The University of Law (ULaw). From September 2015, non-law graduates are now able to convert to law after completing a Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL) course taught by ULaw at University of Exeter's Streatham Campus. The Legal Practice Course (LPC), which is the next stage of the training for LLB and GDL graduates wishing to become solicitors, will be offered from September 2016.



The Business School

The Business School continues to build its reputation as a leading UK and international institution, ranking 151th for all business-related subjects in the QS World University Rankings 2015/16.

MSc International Management and the MSc Financial Analysis and Fund Management were recognised in the Financial Times (FT) Global Rankings for the first time this year, placing at 80th and 43rd in the world and 14th and 13th in the UK, respectively.

Our MSc Accounting and Finance was accredited by the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) and the school's newly launched BSc Business in Penryn exceeded student recruitment expectations and welcomed 37 students in September 2015, including 11 international students.

41M WEB PAGE VIEWS
EXTERNAL VISITORS
2015

12.6% INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC



**MOST POPULAR
SOCIAL MEDIA POST**
THE Global 100
REACHED 143,000 PEOPLE



FROM 80 COUNTRIES
* 2014-15 HESA SUBMISSION

1955-2015



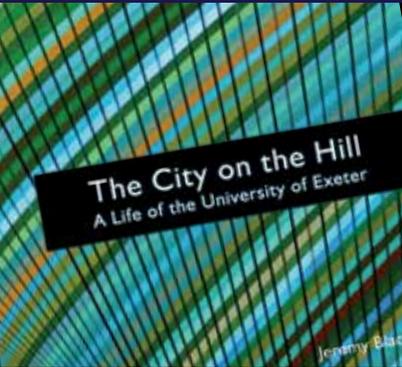
DIAMOND JUBILEE

A series of special events will be held over the next few months to celebrate the University's Diamond Jubilee and there will be opportunities for students, staff and alumni to share their memories and celebrate the milestone.



UNIVERSITY STAFF AND STUDENTS CELEBRATE CHARTER DAY

After 100 years of effort and spectacular lobbying and fundraising, on 21 December 1955, the University of Exeter received its Royal Charter and Mary Dowager, Duchess of Devonshire became the first Chancellor of the new university. At this time, there were four faculties: Arts, Science, Social Studies and Law. The University proved to be very successful and applications grew faster than places with around 1,000 students studying here in 1955. Today we have over 21,000 students who come here from across the globe to study with us at our four campuses – and today we continue to attract vast numbers of applications from people in the region. Professor Sir Steve Smith pictured left.



A new book about the University, called *The City on the Hill* written by Professor Jeremy Black has been published.

THE TIMES
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GOOD UNIVERSITY GUIDE 2016

**SPORTS
UNIVERSITY
OF THE YEAR**



**GLOBAL
100
UNIVERSITY**



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