
ANNUAL REVIEW 2016



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



This has been an exceptional year. Universities like Exeter have responded to major policy announcements from the UK Government. The publication of a far-reaching White Paper will see fundamental changes to the regulation of higher education.

The introduction of a Teaching

Excellence Framework will recognise and reward excellent learning and teaching. We have also, of course, felt the reverberations of the UK's vote to leave the European Union, which will fundamentally reshape many aspects of university life. But throughout this period of flux, Exeter has once again thrived, having been ranked a UK top 10 university in the most prestigious national league table – *The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide*. Our commitment to sport was also rewarded when we were named the *The Times and Sunday Times Sports University of the Year* for 2015-16.

Globally, we have been ranked in the top 1% of universities in the *Times Higher Education World University Rankings* and *QS World University Rankings*. In the latest *CWTS Leiden Ranking*, based on the world's most highly-cited research, we are 35th in the world, 8th in Europe and 6th in UK.

Most gratifying of all this year was the news that Exeter is highest ranked in the Russell Group and best in the South West in the National Student Survey for overall satisfaction of our students. To complement our achievements in teaching, our new £52 million Living Systems Institute has opened its doors, led by our inaugural Director, Professor Philip Ingham FRS. It is our largest single investment in science to date and will eventually accommodate around 200 leading scientists pioneering new research into tackling plant, animal and human diseases.

Of course 2015/16 has been particularly special as we celebrated our Diamond Jubilee – 60 years since the University received its Royal Charter from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. It was a pleasure to celebrate both our history and our future through a series of memorable events for our students, staff and alumni.

Steve Smith

Professor Sir Steve Smith

Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive, University of Exeter



NEW CHANCELLOR INSTALLED

The new Chancellor, Lord Myners of Truro, CBE was installed on Monday July 11 2016, in the first of six days of graduation ceremonies in Exeter and at the Penryn Campus. Paul took over from the previous Chancellor Baroness Floella Benjamin OBE DL.

Raised by his adoptive parents, Paul attended Truro School on a scholarship. After gaining a First in Education and a PGCE from the University of London, he taught for a year, worked in journalism with the Daily Telegraph before going on to a distinguished international career in business. In 2008 he joined the House of Lords and is now a crossbench member of the House. He has chaired companies including Marks & Spencer and Guardian Media Group and served as Chair of the Tate Foundation and a Trustee of Glyndebourne and the National Maritime Museum. Paul said:

"I'm thrilled to take up this post and I look forward to being involved in the next exciting phase of the University's growth."

OLYMPIC CHAMPION OPENS £4 MILLION SPORTS CENTRE IN PENRYN

Olympic gold medal winner Sally Gunnell OBE officially opened a £4 million new sports facility at the Penryn Campus. The centre will improve sporting facilities for staff, students and the community. As well as modern exercise spaces and equipment, it includes the campus's first children's day nursery.

Professor Mark Goodwin, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, said:

"This sports facility is a real asset, both to the Penryn Campus and the surrounding area. I'm really pleased that we're now able to provide high-quality sports facilities and childcare in the heart of the campus, and I'm sure it will bring huge benefits to our local and student communities."

LIVING SYSTEMS INSTITUTE HANDED OVER

The Living Systems Institute (LSI) has been handed over to the University by Bam Construct UK Ltd. The LSI will pioneer novel approaches to understanding diseases and how they can be better diagnosed. This will inform more effective treatment strategies for some of the most severe diseases facing humanity. The new, seven-storey, 7,500m² LSI building has been designed to embed inter-disciplinary research practice and will house 29 research groups, of more than 200 researchers, with complementary expertise in biosciences, medicine, physics, engineering, mathematics and computer science. High-quality research laboratories, bio-imaging facilities, physics and engineering spaces, and high-performance computing will enable the Institute to be a hub for the analysis of the precise operation of living systems.

DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

2015/16 has been most memorable for our Diamond Jubilee – celebrating 60 years since the University received its Royal Charter from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. With over 30 events and activities linked by one theme: 'Glance Back and Look Forward', highlights included the publication of a new University history, *The City on the Hill*, written by distinguished Exeter historian Professor Jeremy Black; a Diamond Jubilee Gala Dinner for 160 alumni; our first Community Day which brought thousands of families to our Streatham Campus and our first social media celebration A Day in the Life.

We have launched seven legacy projects, including the Diamond Jubilee Scholarship Fund, which will support talented aspiring researchers to undertake a research PhD at Exeter. And to mark the end of our celebrations, in partnership with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, we held a Finale Concert with powerful and evocative pieces that symbolised the pride we have for our outstanding students, colleagues, academics and alumni.



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. Our research portfolio is now worth £250 million a year. The University achieved £62 million of research income and made funding applications to the value of £364 million, the highest in Exeter's history. We more than doubled the research funding received from Research Councils UK (RCUK) to £29 million in 2015/16.

This will be enhanced through the new Research and Impact Strategy, which seeks to improve the quality, quantity and impact of our research by providing investment in a new cohort of PhD studentships, supporting access to 21st Century library resources and a new Institute of Advanced Studies. We will also be launching our Global Vision 2050 where we aim to explore the major questions facing society over the next 40 years. Our offering will be strengthened 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.

More than half of our research is conducted in partnership with industry, Government agencies and cultural and social organisations which ensures that the research we undertake is relevant to society. This ranges from managing flood risk; to developing new lightweight materials for aerospace; to changing the way courts manage family disputes.

To strengthen our engagement with external partners, we launched a new directorate of Innovation, Impact and Business, focussed around five key themes: Manufacturing, Materials, Infrastructure, Energy; Environment, Sustainability and Food Security; Healthcare and Biotech; Government and Society; and Culture.

The new IIB directorate has recruited new sector facing specialists to operate across the University in an interdisciplinary way. During the year, the University also secured its first million pound exit from a spin out company – Simpleware which was established more than 10 years ago by Professor Philippe Young and was acquired by Synopsys one of the world's leading software companies.



PhD student Adam Porter's winning entry for A Day in the Life, the University's first social media celebration



Anthony Inglis conducts the BSO Finale Concert



A child gets dressed up for graduation at the University's first Community Day



21,000 students
from 130 countries



25% international
students



4,000 staff
from 80 countries

OUR ALUMNI

The support of Exeter's alumni community helped the University to achieve its best fundraising performance in four years.

Donations in excess of £5 million from our supporters helped us to provide scholarships, fund pioneering research, invest in facilities and deliver a world-class student experience. Donors have supported research into motor neurone disease, dementia and climate change, among many other areas. We also strengthened our relationship with Santander Universities, who in recent years have given £1 million to support students through our internship programme.

We witnessed a significant increase in regular giving, achieving more than double the previous year's mass fundraising total. The launch of our own crowdfunding platform enabled us to extend the supporter base of the University and has funded 10 projects in the fields of scientific research, sports and community activities.

Our alumni also continue to be generous with their time, with nearly 1,000 graduates volunteering more than 10,000 hours during the past year. More than half of these supported employability activities and more than 80 per cent of career mentors are alumni.

By integrating our development team with staff who take forward our international partnership activity, we formed a new directorate – Global Engagement and Development – and reached out to more of our international supporters than ever before. Hundreds of Exeter alumni attended 83 international events throughout the past year.

Our Global Conversation events showcased how Exeter's research, in partnership with international collaborators, is having a direct impact on shared challenges across the world. Events in New York, San Francisco, Hong Kong, Singapore and London enabled us to expand our contacts with governments, universities, non-profits, think tanks and corporate partners.



Recent alumni join former Chancellor Baroness Benjamin, OBE for an evening at the Ritz

OUR STUDENTS

In 2015/16 there were 21,000 students at the University, including 4,000 postgraduates. 63 per cent of our home/EU undergraduate students came from state schools and we are delighted to have attracted students from more than 139 countries around the world. We achieve very high levels of student satisfaction because the student experience is at the heart of everything we do at Exeter. The University is highest ranked amongst the 24 members of the prestigious Russell Group of research-intensive institutions in the National Student Survey based on overall satisfaction. The overall score at Exeter was 85.9 per cent, reflecting the outstanding student experience offered at one of the world's top universities.



SEMI-TONED CHAMPIONS OF TV SING-OFF

Exeter's all-male student a cappella group, Semi-Toned, won the BBC's national TV singing competition *The Choir*, Gareth's Best in Britain. Semi-Toned singer Michal Luya, who has Asperger's Syndrome and moved the audience with his heartfelt solo within *Candle in the Wind* in the semi-final, said: "When we found out we won we couldn't contain our joy! We had put in so much time and effort throughout the competition and it was a huge relief to see that our hard work paid off."

Gareth Malone said: "It has been an amazing experience getting to know the groups. Although the other two finalists came on leaps and bounds during the contest, they were pipped at the post with a fantastically spirited performance."

Professor Sir Steve Smith, Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive of the University of Exeter, said: "We could not be prouder of Semi-Toned. Alongside demanding degrees, they have all shown outstanding dedication and teamwork to make the group so successful."



Member of the Athena SWAN charter advancing equality and diversity in the STEMM fields



Ranked in the top 1% of universities worldwide by *The Times*



Highest in Russell Group for Student Satisfaction

OUR CAMPUSES

The new Living Systems Institute building has followed best practice for sustainable laboratory design and construction, in order to meet our sustainability and carbon reduction policies, with a BREEAM 'Excellent' target for the building. We were bestowed with a celebrated national award to mark our commitment to sustainable dining for campus users in Exeter. The Two Star Food Made Good rating, granted by the Sustainable Restaurant Association (SRA), was in recognition of our sustainable dining experience, from food sourcing through to the management of food waste. Students donated 23 tonnes of unwanted items in 2015 as part of a dynamic reuse and recycle campaign. Delivered by the British Heart Foundation (BHF), the *Moving On* project redirects unwanted items donated by students leaving their halls of residence to charity.



Holland Hall,
Streatham Campus in Exeter



North Cloisters,
St Luke's Campus in Exeter



The new sports centre at the
Penryn Campus in Cornwall



The Knowledge Spa in Truro

OUR COLLEGES

The Business School

Research is one of the School's key strategic priorities and the launch of five new research clusters in 2016 enables us to further address many of the grand challenges facing business and society globally. The clusters are:

- Behaviour, Identity and Decisions
- Firms, Markets and Value
- Organisations in Transition
- Business, Institutions and Policy
- Sustainability, and Circular Economy

Our commitment to delivering outstanding student experience and employability continues with the DLHE (Destination of Leavers in Higher Education) survey ranking the School 5th in the Russell Group and our Business and Management degree 1st in the UK for employability.

The MSc International Management was recognised in the Financial Times (FT) Global Rankings for the second time this year, placing at 80th in the world. The School also once again exceeded student recruitment expectations for the second year of BSc Business at the Penryn Campus, welcoming 61 students in September 2016, including 13 international students. The Business School also retained its status as one of the world's elite institutions by gaining five-year EQUIS accreditation in December 2016.



College of Social Sciences and International Studies

The College's new Land, Environment, Economics and Policy Institute (LEEP) was formally launched at the House of Commons at a reception hosted by Neil Parish MP, Chair of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Select Committee. Also in attendance were representatives from both national and local organisations including Natural England, the National Farmers' Union and the Forestry Commission. LEEP works with other research institutes, academics and public and private sector organisations, including advising on Government policy.

Exeter has maintained its position as one of the leading universities in the world for Social Sciences – ranked 85th in the prestigious Times Higher Education (THE) Social Sciences Rankings 2016-17. The league tables analyse 13 performance indicators, including teaching, research quality and the international influence of research, international outlook and industry income. This is the second consecutive year we have appeared within the top 100 global rankings.



Rated a top 10 UK University
in the Times and Sunday Times
Good University Guide



£62 million in research
funding in 2015/16



5th in the 2016 British
Universities and Colleges
(BUCS) Sports Championship

The Medical School

This year we welcomed globally-renowned dementia and ageing expert, Professor Clive Ballard, as our new Pro-Vice Chancellor. Our Medical Imaging programme broke into the top 5 in both *The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide* and *The Guardian University Guide*. We also welcomed our first Sport and Exercise Medical Sciences students.

The Medical School is continuing a trajectory of growth, launching a number of new postgraduate and professional development programmes, including Extreme Medicine and Genomics. Extreme Medicine saw us work in partnership with World Extreme Medicine to deliver the first programme of its kind in the world. Our Genomics programme, developed in collaboration with Health Education England as part of the 100,000 Genomes Project, welcomed the largest intake of students of any UK institution.

The NIHR Exeter Clinical Research Facility had nearly £5.7 million of funding from the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) confirmed for the next five years. The NIHR praised the centre's patient-centred approach.



College of Life and Environmental Sciences

The excellence of our research and teaching activities were reflected in the THE World University Rankings, in which Life Sciences was ranked 90th. All of our individual disciplines have also been ranked within the top 10 of at least one UK league table.

Our academics have received individual honours as well, receiving a variety of prestigious teaching and research awards from organisations such as Elsevier, The Higher Education Academy, the Royal Society, and the British Psychological Society. Several researchers presented their research, on topics ranging from drones to dementia; plastic pollution to policy-makers at the United Nations and UK Parliament.

We have launched many new research partnerships this year, including one with the Center for Whale Research (based in Washington, USA). We have also worked with industrial partners to develop a new internship scheme that enhances employability while producing impactful scientific research.

Staff and students are enjoying the new and newly refurbished laboratory, computing, and study spaces made possible by a generous HEFCE fund created to support STEM subjects. We are excited to be moving academics into our brand new £52.5 million Living Systems Institute, which provides a dynamic hub for disease-related research.

College of Humanities

We have underlined our global standing and quality of student experience by maintaining our top 100 overall position in the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Subject Ranking.

In 2016 we began building a new £1.2 million Digital Humanities Lab that will place the College at the forefront of digital examination and preservation of historical, literary and visual artefacts.

Researchers from our Centre for Medical History helped secure £4 million for a new Wellcome Trust Centre for Cultures and Environments of Health and we have also been designated a World Health Organization Collaborating Centre on Culture and Health.

We made several new professorial appointments for Translation Studies and Creative Writing and are developing an Institute for Advanced Studies.

Over the past year Humanities has strengthened its partnerships with leading institutions across the globe (including Fudan University, Peking University, The University of Texas at Austin, the University of British Columbia, and the National Institute of Advanced Study).



College of Engineering, Mathematics and Physical Sciences

Academic expansion in recent years has allowed the College to develop many new and diverse taught programmes across our disciplines. These include specialist courses in Tunnelling, Renewable Energy and Water Policy, as well as the University's first degree apprenticeship programme, launched in partnership with employers including IBM and Renishaw.

Our international reputation continues to grow in strength, both in terms of research and teaching. 2016 saw our research the focus of two major international lectures; Professor Peter Cox and Professor Kip Jeffrey joined the Vice-Chancellor in New York and Vancouver respectively, where they spoke to audiences about climate change and challenges facing the global mining sector.

League tables reflect our positive position, with many subjects ranked UK top 10 including Engineering, Geology, Materials Technology and Physics.



Streatham and St Luke's in Exeter,
Penryn and Truro in Cornwall

95.3%

95.3% of graduates in
employment or further study
six months after graduation



£350 million invested in
science and engineering
since 2008



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