



The
University
Of
Sheffield.

Office
Of The
President &
Vice-Chancellor.

The Senate, 13 October 2021

President & Vice-Chancellor's Report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Report provides summary information on current and forthcoming developments, both internal and external, for the information of Senate members. The President & Vice-Chancellor will introduce the Report at the meeting and members will have the opportunity to raise questions. This report is structured around the University Vision's four Pillars and their respective Priorities, after a section about the external environment. Where information relates to more than one Pillar or Priority it is included under the most relevant theme. Where appropriate, reference is made to other papers that appear separately on the Senate agenda.

1. EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT

1.1 Covid-19: arrangements for the new academic year

- The Government has announced that in line with the removal of all national Covid restrictions on 19 July, that normal face-to-face teaching would resume at universities in the Autumn term of this year. Rather than the Government requiring proof of vaccination, students have been greatly encouraged to be fully vaccinated before they begin their studies. Statistics have shown that the vaccine take-up is lowest among the 18-24 age demographic and Universities have been encouraged to promote the offer of the vaccine and continue to conduct risk assessments for their particular circumstances (see TUOS interest, below).

The [Higher Education Covid-19 operational guidance](#) states that, as autonomous institutions, universities should put in place health and safety plans that will minimise risks to students and staff, as well as providing the full educational experience to students who have returned to campus. There are specific arrangements for international students, who in most cases will be able to begin their courses by remote learning, but are encouraged to make the journey to the UK as soon as is practicable and in line with travel and quarantine requirements. It remains encouraged that students and staff should continue to be tested twice a week to minimise the risk of asymptomatic transmission among the campus population.

- **TUoS interest:** As the University prepares for the start of term, we will be restoring as much of the 'normal' on-campus experience as possible for the benefit of our staff and students. Our expectation and current plan is to deliver face-to-face teaching in 2021/22 and students are expected to attend in person, on campus, from the start date of their studies. We are also encouraging staff to return to the office, following the hybrid approach where roles allow. We are allowing individual Departments to determine the best model for office and remote working at this stage and will adjust guidelines for hybrid working after a trial period and collecting feedback from staff and managers.

In line with government guidance, many of the controls that were required last year have now been removed. However, the University remains committed to the safety of our staff and students, and recognises that the pandemic has not ended. A number of mitigations have been put in place to achieve a safe campus environment. Although requirements to socially distance have been removed, we are strongly encouraging staff and students to wear face coverings indoors, when sitting, in crowded spaces, or when in close proximity to others, as well as when moving around buildings. Although we cannot mandate this, we will continue to model good practice and encourage compliance with these guidelines.

We are strongly encouraging all students and staff who are able to, to take up the offer of both doses of the vaccine. A recent student poll, with 4,000 responses, indicates that 98% of students have already had at least one vaccine dose and 93% expect to have had both before the start of term. We also expect that the vast majority of our staff will be fully vaccinated. In order to support the local effort, we are working to host a pop-up vaccination centre at a central campus location, in partnership with the local NHS. Our Covid-19 Test Centre is based at a new location in the Octagon and staff and students coming on to campus are strongly encouraged to take regular Lateral Flow Tests, which can be collected from sites across campus as well as through the Government website and pharmacies. The University's contract tracing team will continue to contact trace for all confirmed cases of Covid-19 on campus.

1.2 Government Reshuffle

- Gavin Williamson MP was removed as Secretary of State for Education and replaced by Nadhim Zahawi MP. Zahawi was born in Baghdad to Kurdish parents and came to the UK when he was nine years old. He studied Chemical Engineering at University College London and went on to co-found the research firm YouGov, where he was Chief Executive from 2005 to 2010. He was elected the MP for Stratford-on-Avon at the 2010 general election. He has previously served as the Children and Families Minister in the DfE and the Minister for Industry in the Department of Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), as well as serving as the Vaccines Minister from November 2020. It is expected that he will continue to prioritise the Government's focus on apprenticeships and the higher education reform agenda championed by his predecessors.

It has been confirmed that Michelle Donelan MP remains as Universities Minister, but will now also attend Cabinet. It had been reported that she would take over the further education and skills brief, but this not the case.

Amanda Solloway MP has been replaced as Science Minister by George Freeman MP in BEIS. Before being elected to Parliament, Freeman had a 15-year career in the Cambridge biotechnology sector, founding and financing four biomedical start-ups. He has previously served as the Minister for Science Life Sciences and as a Minister in the Department of Health. His direct experience with science-related matters has been broadly welcomed by the sector.

- **TUoS interest:** Representatives from the University have previously met with Nadhim Zahawi MP in his previous roles and will look to set up a meeting with him as the new Secretary of State as soon as possible. We welcome the addition of Michelle Donelan's role as one that attends Cabinet, where she can make the case for higher education and universities at the highest levels of Government. We will also be looking to arrange meetings with the new Science Minister George Freeman to discuss the important role of our research work and the AMRC.

1.3 A Level results and admissions

- School leavers have received their second year of Covid disrupted A Level results. Exams were again cancelled and final results were determined by teacher assessment, using a combination of mock exams, coursework, and essays. As expected, this led to a significant increase in the number of top grades awarded, with 44.8% of students receiving an A or A* grade. The proportion of As and A*s prior to the pandemic had been hovering around 25% for several years. These results have led to a record number of students achieving the grades to study at their first choice of university (91%). Internationally, the highest number of non-EU students ever has been recruited this year, but admissions from the EU have fallen by 56%, an expected outcome of the change in fee status for EU students from home to international. UCAS also noted that although a record 20.7% of all UK 18 year olds from the most disadvantaged backgrounds (POLAR4 quintile 1) had secured an undergraduate place, no progress had been made in reducing the gap with the most affluent students.
Given that an increase in top grades was expected, the official political response to fears of grade inflation has been muted. The Education Policy Institute [analysed](#) the results, arguing that at this stage it is not possible to pinpoint the [cause](#) of the increase, but cites teachers giving students at the grade boundaries the benefit of the doubt, teachers having a more holistic understanding of students' abilities, and parental pressure, as potential explanations. There is speculation that any attempt to tackle grade inflation will take a number of years and will not involve a sudden return to the pattern of results seen pre-pandemic. It is likely that there will be a renewed focus on grade inflation in the months and years ahead, including speculation that the grading system for A Levels could be scrapped and replaced with something similar to the numbering system for GCSEs.
- **TUoS interest:** Our recruitment position has remained strong for this academic year, although with some changes in the student population on previous years. Home undergraduate numbers will likely settle, by the 1 December census date, higher than our target and those Departments with capacity challenges are being supported to ensure that they are able to deliver the excellent quality of learning and teaching that students deserve and expect. We also expect to have significantly improved the proportion of students with higher A Level tariff and have made good progress in relation to our Access and Participation targets, although this should be caveated by noting the unusual circumstances of A Level awards this year. International numbers remain more uncertain and our current expectation is for final overseas UG numbers to settle at just short of our overall target.
On PGT Home, we continue to receive applications from the Home market, although acceptances remain lower than target. This may improve if the vaccination programme continues at a pace, but based on the current position the forecasting suggests that we will fall short of our target. There has also been a reduction in PGT applications from overseas this year, particularly from the China market.

1.4 Sector finances

- [Analysis](#) from the Office for Students (OfS) finds that the finances of universities and other higher education providers “remain in broadly good order” despite the continuing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. The analysis finds that providers are projecting a significant increase (12.3%) in total student numbers between 2020/21 and 2024/25, increasing sector income as a result. It also notes

that providers have found efficiencies, reduced cash outflows, and in some cases arranged short-term loans, to help deal with the financial impact of the pandemic. This analysis comes alongside [data](#) for the 2019/20 year released by HESA that shows of the 183 institutions with a standard financial end date of 31 July 2020, around two-thirds reported a surplus.

- **TUoS interest:** The University continues to have robust financial health, thanks to the sensible planning and prudence of our Finance team during the pandemic. The University is projecting a surplus for this financial year. The full details of the draft financial results for 2020/21 and the financial forecasts update is included elsewhere in the Council papers.

1.5 Freedom of Speech Bill

- The Bill is making its way through Parliament and, despite significant opposition, is likely to be passed. The Bill will impose new legal duties to protect free speech and give the OfS legal judgments about what constitutes unlawful or hate speech, which would previously have been made by the courts.
Conditions for registration with the OfS will include that a provider's governing documents and management arrangements enable it to comply with the duties in the Bill relating to free speech. Compliance will also be an ongoing registration requirement. In addition, the OfS will be tasked with monitoring whether students' unions are complying, and registered higher education providers are required to keep the OfS informed about its students' unions.
- **TUoS interest:** Council received a briefing on academic freedom and free speech from Smita Jamdar in July and further updates will be provided in the context of any new legislative requirements. We remain willing to work constructively with Government to make this legislation as effective as possible, mindful of the need for an accurate and proportionate response to issues that arise in the higher education setting.

1.6 International students' contribution

- A [report](#) from Universities UK International (UUKi) and the Higher Education Policy Institute (HEPI), [The costs and benefits of international higher education to the UK economy](#), finds the benefits of hosting international students significantly outweighs the costs. The analysis finds that one year's intake of international students is worth £28.8bn to the UK economy, pitted against a cost to public services of £2.9bn, generating a net economic benefit of £25.9bn. The report also found that this benefit is spread across the UK and affects every one of the 650 parliamentary constituencies, with Sheffield Central seeing the greatest economic uplift at £290m or about £2,500 per resident.

This comes alongside a [report](#) from UUKi suggesting that the UK's position as the second most popular destination for international students after the United States is under threat from institutions elsewhere doing more to encourage applications. It makes specific recommendations to counter this threat through improving the reputation of the UK as a welcoming, diverse, and accessible study location, ensuring the success of the graduate route visa, reducing financial barriers for international students, and supporting the improvement of English language ability.

2. EDUCATION

2.1. DELIVERY OF THE PORTFOLIO

2.1.1 Undergraduate Admissions - September 2021 entry

- The application rate for UG Home has remained stable throughout the year with the University finishing the cycle on par with last year's figures, taking into account change in EU fee status to Overseas. The UG Overseas position shows growth in applications, due to both EU applications being included but also growth from various other markets.
- We have continued to offer a blend of in person and online opportunities for prospective students, allowing them to select the approach which they are most comfortable with. Alongside our main cycle activities we ran a successful Clearing campaign that generated significant traffic to our web page and call centre, and led a number of additional applications.
- As of September, the Confirmation, Adjustment & Clearing outcomes show we expect Home UG recruitment to exceed our target and for Overseas UG to be broadly in line with target, due in part to the high attainment of applicants in their A level or equivalent examinations.

2.1.2 Postgraduate Taught Admissions- September 2021 entry

- Despite an encouraging start earlier in the cycle, Home applications to full-time Postgraduate Taught courses for 2021 entry are now lower than last year and continue the downward trend we saw pre-COVID. International applications have also reduced in the last year but have continued the general pre-COVID upward trend; applications remain higher than in 2019. Offers and accepts have been affected by the lower application numbers this year with reduced numbers for both Home and Overseas students. As the position in relation to teaching, flights and travel restrictions has become clearer we have seen an increase in expected registrations from PGT offer-holders, particularly international students, but forecasts still suggest Home and Overseas registrations will be a little below targets.

2.1.3 Postgraduate Research Admissions

- Postgraduate research applications for full-time study have recovered during the cycle to end higher than in 2020, although with significant variation across Faculties. However the increase has not led to a higher number of offers or acceptances, largely due to limited places on funded programmes, and we expect to see reduced registration numbers against our targets during this year.

2.1.4 Admissions and recruitment cycle for entry in September 2022

- UCAS applications opened on 7 September and Postgraduate applications have been accepted since 15 September. The Admissions Service continues to support applicants preparing to arrive at the end of September this year and will begin to process new applications for 2022 entry in earnest by the first couple of weeks in October.
- On 11 September we hosted our first major open day since 2019, which more than 2,500 prospective students signed up to attend. Various Covid mitigation measures were adopted and feedback was that our prospective students were delighted to be meeting with us in person, and felt safe and welcome. We continue to offer virtual visits for those who would prefer not to visit us face to face yet, or who are limited by travel/time constraints. Our Undergraduate campaign now includes the second phase of development in this area - 'Be Sheffield Made' - which places the city at the heart of our offer, and we have a range of activities planned for both Undergraduate and Postgraduate recruitment during the Autumn.

2.1.5 Student Support Services

- A new welcome and transitions group, involving representatives from various teams and departments has helped facilitate effective sharing of information and operational oversight of the multiple strands of welcome and transition activity and to put in place a business operational manual. The section has also brought together Consent Conversations and Race Equality Conversations, which will be provided within faculties and academic departments as an improved method to implement effective programmes that respond to incidents of harassment and sexual misconduct aligning with OFS expectations.
- A new appointment booking system has been introduced for students to undergo ID checks and UCard collections. For International students arriving after 18 October all registration will be able to be completed remotely with immigration documents checked on arrival.
- Student Support Services continue to offer online services and appointments as this has worked well during the pandemic. Student Administration, Welfare and Enquiries in person are now at a single location and the Student Support Information Desk offers bookable time slots. A decision tree to direct students to the best contact method has also been developed.
- The University Health Centre has also worked with local partners to plan Covid-19 vaccination clinics to ensure new students have easy access to vaccines.

2.1.6 University Library

- Library physical buildings are due to reopen fully from late September, including 24/7 access to the Information Commons from 27 September and to the Diamond from 1 November.
- All study spaces will be available with the removal of social distancing restrictions and the booking system has been suspended but may be reintroduced during busy periods for some spaces, in consultation with students.
- All print stock is now fully browsable again with loans working as pre-covid.
- Special Collections and Archives and the National Fairground and Circus Archive have now reopened one joint reading room for bookable sessions Monday-Thursday.
- Co-curricular Digital and information literacy workshops are being offered by Library staff virtually and on campus. IT Services have also established a new student-facing service desk in the IC.

2.1.7 Teaching overseas-based students

- Revised [guidance](#) has been produced by APSE to support departments with teaching students who are unable to travel to the UK for the start of Semester 1. This provides a set of ideas and options for teaching overseas-based students in different scenarios.

2.1.8 Global Engagement

- The University is working to launch a residential 'Bridging Programme' for an initial cohort of circa 10 highly qualified Indonesian PGR candidates. Beginning October 2021, the 8 week pilot short-course has the potential to be sustained by the funder for up to 10 years.
- The University was given the highest rating (Very Good) for the implementation and management of our Erasmus+ project during the 2019-20 academic year. This is the sixth year in a row that we have received this rating since this style of

reporting began in 2014/15. There are some remaining Erasmus funds for distribution next year.

- The University of Sheffield and Nanjing University (China) co-produced and delivered a two week virtual summer school (5 July to 16 July 2021) on the theme of 'Post-Pandemic Everyday Life: British and Chinese Perspectives'. Participants included 45 undergraduate students (30 Sheffield students and 15 Nanjing students) and 12 academic lecturers from both institutions.

2.1.9 Annual Reflection

- This year's Annual Reflection process will start in November, with a particular focus on degree outcomes and Good Honours rates, and the areas related to NSS organisation and management questions.

2.1.10 Level Up Your Skills

- Due to the disruption to education caused by the Covid-19 pandemic we recognise that new and continuing students may be facing additional challenges. Our Level Up Your Skills web-based series gives students a valuable insight into the skills they are likely to need as they progress through their studies. This includes what they can expect from their course and guidance on how to get to grips with independent study, to help students better structure and pace their learning. Each course is aimed at a specific level of study

2.2 EMPLOYABILITY

2.2.1 Careers Service

- This year saw an extended offer of careers and employability support for new graduates. The Class of 2021 campaign featured a series of half-day employability Academies, careers webinars, and dedicated advice appointments and online resources. Activity concluded with a Graduate Careers conference in September attended by 130 people. Participant feedback has been very positive and an impact evaluation will now inform planning to support the graduating class of 2022.
- Following last year's pilots which integrated the use of the mySkills personal development portfolio within UG programmes, an ever-increasing number of departments have been working to incorporate mySkills into 1st year curricula for 2021/22. Designed to develop student self-awareness, skills and attributes, mySkills is already having a positive impact on students' skills, self-confidence and graduate attributes.
- A new Hub in the Students' Union has been launched for students to access careers and employability support and the highly valued JobShop for part-time work. The Students' Union team has been extremely supportive and the high profile location will improve students' awareness of the Careers support available to them, with direct access to in-person support and guidance.

2.3 DIGITAL EXPERIENCE

- Multifactor Authentication (MFA) rolled out to all students ahead of the start of term,
- Re-imaging (software updates) of all student computing rooms and teaching spaces has begun ready for start of teaching
- Developing the guidance on live streaming for the new academic year, as well as preparing the rooms and related processes.
- Student self-service laptop cabinets and new laptops are available

- Improvements to the iSheffield student app have started and new features will be rolled out over the year.
- Between January and April 2021, the University of Sheffield English Language Teaching Centre improved the skills of teachers in Afghanistan and Indonesia. Tutors helped improve the confidence and English language skills of the teachers in both countries through a programme delivered remotely via web-based platforms and mobile software.

3. RESEARCH

3.1 RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

3.1.1 Research Awards

- See section 6, Finance, below.

3.1.2 Research Development

- The total value of new research awards won during 2020/21 was almost £200M. The highest on record.
- UKRI has announced its (long-awaited) policy on open access for publication of journal articles (from April 2022) and books and chapters (from January 2024). The policy intends to make the output of research freely accessible, but also signals the start of a move towards institutions and academics retaining more rights in their work.
- The sector is currently working collectively through JISC to renegotiate its deal with Elsevier. We currently pay c. £800K p.a. to access Elsevier journal content, plus additional charges to make individual articles immediately openly accessible. This is replicated across research-intensive universities and there is a strong desire to start to drive down the costs.

3.1.3 Postgraduate research

- UKRI has announced phase 3 of its funding extensions for postgraduate research students impacted by Covid-19 and unable to adjust their programme of research. We continue to encourage students to adjust and mitigate in order to submit according to their original timeline.
- University PGR Committee has agreed a policy on shared parental leave for PGRs funded by the University. We are committed to work with funders such as UKRI to encourage them to adopt a similar policy.

3.1.4 Knowledge Exchange

- The University's HEIF (Higher Education Innovation Fund) accountability Statement for 2021/22 to 2024/25 has been approved by Research England. Within this statement, the University has outlined its plans to drive innovation through knowledge exchange and deliver against the stated priorities under the Innovation pillar of the University's 5-year vision. HEIF funding will be central to achieving these priorities.
- The University is participating in the development year of the KE (Knowledge Exchange) Concordat and has recently submitted its action plan. Along with more than 100 institutions, the University is committing to developing their KE activity to further economic, social, cultural recovery and growth. In this development year, institutions commit to meeting the principles of the KE concordat in the context of their own published institutional strategies relevant to KE as well as share best practice.
- The University was one of 11 universities short-listed for the 2021 Royal Academy of Engineering (RAE) Bhattacharyya award. The new award celebrates

collaboration between academia and industry and the University's partnership with Siemens made it to the final shortlist

4. INNOVATION

4.1 INNOVATION IMPACT

4.1.1 Northern Gritstone

- Northern Gritstone, the new investment company established jointly with the universities of Manchester and Leeds, was formally incorporated on 1 September 2021. Northern Gritstone will invest in spin-out and start-up companies emerging from the three universities. The Board includes Lord Jim O'Neill as Non-Executive Chairman and Duncan Johnson as Chief Executive Officer. Lord O'Neill has been immersed in many matters related to the economic development of the north of England in recent years, having Chaired the Cities Growth Commission in 2013-14, and helped the government implement its Northern Powerhouse strategy as Commercial Secretary to the Treasury in 2015-16. He is currently Vice Chair of the Northern Powerhouse Partnership. Duncan Johnson joins from Caledonia Investments, the FTSE 250-listed investment trust, where he was Head of Caledonia Private Capital for the past decade. Prior to this, Duncan was a Founding Partner at RJD Partners, a lower and mid-market UK private equity fund manager.

4.1.2 AMRC

- The AMRC celebrated its 20th anniversary in the summer of 2021. The event was marked by the decision by the UK Government to launch its Innovation Strategy at the AMRC in July. A collection of short videos by key partners highlighting the successes of the AMRC can be viewed on the [AMRC YouTube Channel](#).

4.2 SHEFFIELD CITY REGION

4.2.1 City Vibrancy

- The University has recently hosted a number of events alongside city partners as part of Sheffield's 'Summer in the Outdoor City' programme with thousands of members of the public interacting with performers and activities, including: alongside Sheffield Theatres a weekend of nationally-acclaimed street performers for 'Together in the Square'; a weekend of free, outdoor live music performances for 'Leadmill in the Square', a blended festival of in person and online events highlighting the research of early career academics and PhD students at the Pop-Up University.
- Ideas Bazaar 2021 was held in September with the aim of sparking ideas for public engagement events for Festival of the Mind 2022.
- The Off the Shelf festival of words was successfully awarded £79,000 from Arts Council England to curate and produce the 30th anniversary festival and expand its remit into wider South Yorkshire partnerships

5. ONE UNIVERSITY

5.1 PHILANTHOPHY

5.1.1 Alumni Volunteering

- The figures below are as of 1 September 2021.

	2021/22	2021/22 target	2020/21	2019/20
Volunteers	8	1000	1,115	863
Volunteer hours	15	12,000	12,597	8,985
Philanthropic prospects engaged in volunteering	3 (37%)	15%	146 (13%)	127 (15%)
Donors engaged in volunteering	1 (12%)	20%	223 (20%)	133 (16%)
Student beneficiaries	30	7000	6,500*	4,500+

*** Recorded student attendance on events and programmes. Activity across the University is captured where known but this is likely to be an underestimate. The number of students who have accessed online content (e.g. recorded webinars) is not included in figures of student beneficiaries either*

- Throughout June, 90 international alumni supported the new [Ask A Graduate](#) programme, sharing their experiences of university with over 260 offer-holders and inspiring them to choose Sheffield. The initiative also secured 90 alumni profiles for Global Engagement as an ongoing resource.
- The 2021 [Boardroom](#) series was launched with a new panel event format featuring 23 alumni speakers from across the globe. The programme gives graduating students the opportunity to hear from top entrepreneurs, finance specialists, marketing gurus, media experts, non-profit leaders and sustainability champions, from leading firms including Sony TV, BBC, The British Red Cross, Sport England, Goldman Sachs, The Big Four, Tate & Lyle and others.
- The schedule for the [Sheffield Insights](#) autumn programme, targeting WP students from across the University, has been confirmed. This is a diverse series of talks and Q&A with successful alumni from a range of sectors.

5.1.2 Student volunteering

- Students from the University were celebrated in the local community after it was revealed that they have clocked up a total of 20,510 hours of volunteering in Sheffield in a year, which was double the amount of hours typically expected.

5.2 ACADEMIC AND STRATEGIC PLANNING

5.2.1 Annual Planning Cycle

- Following Council's agreement to extend the strategic period to 2026/27 the Planning Cycle documentation has been amended and training is being delivered to Heads of Departments and Department Managers across October. The 2021/22 cycle will deliver 5-year plans and associated targets for all departments capturing their aims, strategies and key activities that will be delivered over the next 5 years. Use of the Strategic Framework will ensure that the combination of department activities will realise the ambitions outlined in the Vision.
- The four Strategy Delivery Plans, which outline how we will deliver on the commitments in each pillar of the Vision, have been approved by UEB and will inform departmental 5-year plans. In order to engage and inform all staff in the university's strategy and its delivery, a series of communications at the start of the semester will highlight those activities already undertaken and those that will be prioritised in 2021/22.

5.2.2 Student Population 2026

- Modelling work has been undertaken to inform our strategic aim for the student population, drawing on expertise from several departments and Faculty and Professional Services representatives. Modelling of multiple options across each study level and student fee status has led to the consideration of several scenarios made up of a combination of these options. These scenarios are being

costed through a financial model looking at income and expenditure levels linked to different types of provision, with the outcomes being considered by UEB.

5.2.3 Strategic Projects

Current strategic project developments include:

- Knowledge Support Service Design Project: The project is now in the 'future position stage', with the project team working closely with stakeholders across the University to define how we want the service to operate in the future.
- Student Recruitment and Marketing Service Design Project: This project is now in the 'understand the current position' stage, during which interviews and workshops are conducted with stakeholders across the University to understand more about the way we currently deliver these activities. The project team is also undertaking work to develop and validate user journeys, explore the delivery of student recruitment and marketing in other global institutions, and identify and collect relevant internal data.

5.2.4 National/International Performance Metrics/League Tables

- Guardian University League Table 2022: The University is ranked 27th in the UK, up four places from 2021 and continuing the upwards trend of recent years. This now equates to 16th in the Russell Group, an improvement of one place.
The Guardian table emphasises student related metrics including many derived from the NSS and does not consider research activity. Student:Staff Ratio has driven the overall improvement in Sheffield rank this year, with a significant improvement on last year, alongside a small increase in performance for entry tariff. The value added score has declined markedly which, along with Student Feedback, has offset this performance. Spend has also fallen, but accounts for just 5% of the weighting.
- The Times & Sunday Times Good University Guide 2022: The University is ranked 22nd in the UK, up from 23 in the 2021 table. This also equates to 16th in the Russell Group. The increase this year is a continuation of a positive trend in league table position since the 2020 league table which is reflected across all national league tables.
This league table looks at a range of metrics including student experience, research, student outcomes, Student: Staff Ratios and spend.
- Times Higher Education (THE) World Ranking 2022: The University is ranked 110st in the world in this table, up from 121st in 2021 and 117th in 2020. This equates to 13th highest in the UK, up one place compared with last year.
This league table uses a mix of metrics and results from an Academic Reputation survey. Improvements in scores relating to Citations and Industry Income have driven the improved position with performance.
THE produce subject level tables, which are released separately later in the year.
- Shanghai Jiao Tong Academic Ranking of World Universities 2021: The University remains within the top 101-150 universities in the world in this table. This puts us in the top 9-14 institutions in the UK. This league table only ranks institutions in bands past the 100th position. The overall position of the University has been consistent over the last 9 years.
This league table focuses on number of Nobel Prize winners in the staffing cohort and Alumni alongside measures on citations to produce this table.

6. FINANCE

6.1 RESEARCH

6.1.1 Research awards

- The total value of new awards for the last 12 months to the end of August 2021 now stand at £209m. This is an increase of £50m (31%) on the £159m in August 2020.
- There has been a rise in the total number of awards opened. For the last 12 months to the end of August 2021, the number of new awards opened stood at 1139 compared to 761 as at August 2020. The biggest increase in numbers of awards are (154) from the UK Government funding category, whilst the number of RCUK awards has increased by 109. There are an additional 138 Catapult projects included in the August 2021 UK Government awards compared to August 2020.
- The value of new awards for the 12 months to August 2021 has seen increases across all funder categories apart from the EU framework and UK Charities categories both of which have fallen by £3m. The biggest increases were in the value of RCUK and UK Government awards which increased by £27m and £26m respectively.
- There have been 10 new awards for over £1m in the 3 months since the last report, these are across all the faculties. The largest of these were £6.8m issued to Medicine, Dentistry and Health, £5.5m to Science and £3.9m to the AMRC.
- The value of the Research Net Contribution is £53m for the 12 months to August 2021 compared to £38m for the 12 months to August 2020 an increase of £15m (39%)
- As at August 2021, research grants work in progress (research order book) which excludes capital projects, stands at £368m which is an increase of £53m on the work in progress figure of £315m recorded in August 2020. This is the highest recorded W.I.P. to date. All faculties apart from Engineering have a higher W.I.P. as at August 2021 compared with 12 months ago.
- The University of Sheffield was awarded a share of £79 million from the Medical Research Council to train the next generation of researchers to tackle major health problems facing people in the North of England and around the world.
- It was announced that the University of Sheffield is to play a key role in the UK's new Manufacturing Made Smarter research centres. The University was awarded funding to lead a new £5 million Materials Made Smarter Research Centre, and was also announced as a key partner in a new £7 million Research Centre for Connected Factories.

7. LEGAL AND REGULATORY MATTERS

7.1 OFFICE FOR STUDENTS

7.1.1 Compliance with consumer law

The OfS required providers (14 January 2021) to undertake a review during the first half of the spring term of compliance with consumer law and provide assurance to the governing body of ongoing compliance with ongoing condition C1 (guidance on consumer protection law). This condition required the University to demonstrate that, in developing and implementing its policies, procedures and terms and conditions, it has given due regard to relevant guidance about how to comply with consumer protection law. UEB agreed how this would be managed (9 Feb 2021). This report and assurance was reported to the 26 April 2021 meeting of the Council. The University's review of its

compliance with consumer law was submitted to the OfS by 3 September 2021 and the University is waiting to see if further information is requested.

7.1.2 Student Protection Plan

An updated Student Protection Plan was submitted to the OfS on 29 July 2020 to seek their approval. The OfS responded that it has adapted its regulatory requirements to support providers during the coronavirus outbreak and during this period it would not be able to approve any proposed changes to a provider's Student Protection Plan. The OfS informed the University on 2 September 2021 that it had approved the Student Protection Plan. The Student Protection Plan will be published on the University's website.

7.2 REPORTABLE EVENTS

- Since the previous report the following has been reported to the Office for Students (OfS) as a 'reportable event':
 - Following the 12 July 2021 Council meeting, the decision not to retain the Department of Archaeology as a separate administrative and academic unit, but to relocate its key areas of strength in teaching and research to other parts of the University was reported to the OfS on 15 July 2021.

