



The Senate, 13 December 2023

President & Vice-Chancellor's Report – Main 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. In response to the recent Council Effectiveness Action Plan, the report now comprises two parts, the main report and a supplementary report with additional information and updates, available in the Reading Room.

1. EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT

1.1 Government sets out legislative agenda, but not all announcements will become law; Cabinet reshuffle sees no change at DfE; overall R&D funding level remains at £20bn per year; further restrictions on international students may yet be announced

- There has been a Cabinet reshuffle and Autumn Statement containing tax and spending announcements since the previous report.
- The King's Speech, on 7 November, set out the government's legislative agenda and is likely to be the last one before the next General Election. The key implications from the King's Speech, Cabinet Reshuffle and Autumn Statement for the University are:
 - Political priorities, along with the limited amount of parliamentary time available to debate each of the below Bills before the next General Election, will determine whether they become law and so their inclusion in the King's Speech does not necessarily mean that they will reach the statute book.
 - Education

The Education Secretary and Universities Ministers remain unchanged, with the continuing focus on cracking down on so called 'poor quality' degree courses and increasing apprenticeship numbers. Interventions to address 'poor quality' degrees will be made using the existing regulatory framework.

The government is progressing its Bill to stop public bodies, including universities, taking investment or procurement decisions based on foreign policy considerations. The University is working with Universities UK for universities to be exempt from this Bill, particularly given the broader implications for government control over the sector if it were to be grouped with local authorities and considered as 'public bodies' in this way.

The King's Speech repeated the previous commitment to introduce the Advanced British Standard (ABS). The ABS would be a new "Baccalaureate-style qualification" for 16 to 19 year-olds that would combine and replace A Levels and T Levels. Given that the ABS will not be implementable in the remaining life of this parliament, its rollout is dependent on the Conservatives including this policy commitment in their manifesto and winning the next General Election. Labour has called the reforms "undeliverable", suggesting the introduction of the ABS is not a policy it would look to maintain if it were to form the next government.

A Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill was announced to honour a Conservative Manifesto Commitment to require public venues to take steps to mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack and reduce harm. The Russell Group is working with the Department for Education to understand the implications for university venues.

The government has committed funding to tackling antisemitism in schools and universities.

- Research and Innovation

There has been a change at the junior ministerial level in the Science, Innovation and Technology Department, with Science Minister George Freeman leaving and being replaced by Andrew Griffith, but there is no sign this means a significant shift in policy.

The government's overall commitment to spend £20bn a year on Research & Development by 2024-25 was not changed by the Chancellor in the Autumn Statement. A number of the R&D announcements come from existing budgets, namely the pot of money not spent on EU research collaboration, as the UK is not due to re-join the EU's research and innovation programme until January (part-way through the fiscal year).

The Data Protection and Digital Information Bill will also be progressed, including provisions to clarify and improve rules around using personal data for scientific research, following the UK's exit from the EU.

- International students

Home Secretary Suella Braverman was replaced by James Cleverly in the reshuffle, who responded to record high net migration levels to the UK with praise for "our world leading university sector", signalling a change of rhetoric.

However, the 2019 Conservative Manifesto pledge to get net migration numbers down and pressure from Conservative MPs may yet see further restrictions on international students announced.

1.2 Consultation on minimum service levels in universities could lead to their introduction before the next General Election

- The Secretary of State for Education, Gillian Keegan MP, has launched a consultation on delivering minimum service levels during industrial action in schools, colleges, and universities following her announcement at the Conservative Party Conference in October. The consultation will run until the end of January 2024 and comes after the House of Commons Education Committee announced a new inquiry to investigate the impact of this

year's industrial action by university staff on students. Education Committee Chair Robin Walker MP has stressed that the inquiry aims to examine ways university leaders could work with the government and trade unions to effectively plan and mitigate the effects of the strike action rather than "litigating reasons for the industrial action". Introducing minimum service levels is likely to be prioritised by the government given it doesn't require a new Act of Parliament to be implemented (time for this is limited, as we approach the January 2025 deadline for the next General Election to be called) and reflects a dividing line in policy terms with the Official Opposition, the Labour party.

1.3 By-election results suggest Labour could form the next government

- The Labour Party has won recent by-elections in Selby, Tamworth, Mid Bedfordshire and Rotherham and Hamilton West with significant swings from the Conservatives/SNP, respectively, to Labour. Significant gains were also made by Labour in the Uxbridge and South Ruislip by-election. The Conservatives ultimately retained that seat, but commentators pointed to the role the local issue of London's Ultra Low Emission Zone (Ulez) expansion played in that result. Whilst there isn't a direct read across from by-election results to General Election outcomes, the scale of the swings in the by-elections suggest public polling results are being reflected at the ballot box and that Labour could win a majority at the next General Election, which must be held before January 2025.
- An incoming Labour government would likely see more positive government rhetoric towards universities, noting Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer's criticism of the Conservative government for "levelling down the working class aspiration to go to university" in his Party Conference speech. Labour has recognised the university funding system is broken, though commitments have only been made in respect of making student loan repayments more progressive, rather than increasing overall funding. Labour has committed to setting ten-year research and development budgets to provide stability for researchers and investors but detail about the level of funding is again to be confirmed.

1.4 University joins forces with MPs, councillors and business leaders across Sheffield to pledge support for international students

- The University joined forces with Sheffield Hallam University, both Students' Unions, Sheffield College, the South Yorkshire Mayor Oliver Coppard, council leaders, local MPs and business leaders across the city and region to publish a statement outlining the city's commitment to welcoming students from all over the world. The statement was launched to coincide with the relaunch of the #WeAreInternational campaign which was set up by the University of Sheffield and its Students' Union in 2013 and is now led by Universities UK International and the UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA).
- Sheffield is one of the UK cities that benefits most from international students with the 2021/22 cohort bringing a net economic benefit of £516.8 million across all constituencies in Sheffield. The University continues to work with local and national partners to press the case for the value of international students and their importance to the government's growth agenda.
- As outlined in paragraph 1.1 above, it is possible the government will further restrict international student recruitment as part of efforts to honour the 2019 Conservative Party Manifesto commitment to reduce net migration levels, something the University is working with sector bodies to oppose.

2. EDUCATION

2.1 DELIVERY OF THE PORTFOLIO

2.1.1 Undergraduate Admissions (UG)

- From September, we began receiving new undergraduate applications via UCAS for the 2024 intake. Application processing began from October aligning with our Russell Group competitors in relation to the start of undergraduate decision making.
- The early cycle position shows UG home applications are down noting that this is driven by a sector wide decline in Medicine submissions. Excluding Medicine, the overall home position remains up compared with the same point last year. UG Overseas applications are lower when compared with last year following a drop from mainland China. It is important to add that recent behavioural changes with later application submission mean that early December will represent a more accurate early marker of the overall UG admissions position.

2.1.2 Recruitment and Marketing updates

- City Campaign

We are building on the momentum gained through the ‘your university city’ campaign using the collaborative Sheffield immersive city stand at UCAS events at more events in 2023. Results for phase 4 of the advertising campaign are extremely strong, with the campaign page now being the most popular on the Welcome to Sheffield website after the homepage.

2.1.3 Registration of New Students (as of 8 November 2023)

- As of 8 November, the University had registered 12,998 new students against a target of 13,389, coming under target by 391 across all cohorts in the institution.
- When counting all student registrations (new and continuing students) this totals a student population size of 28,940 in the 2023/24 academic year, compared to 29,870 in 2022/23.
- The total population normally shows little variation between this snapshot and the 1 December census point, although a small number of further registrations and withdrawals are expected.
- The table below shows that the University has exceeded its student intake targets for three major cohorts: undergraduate home (UGH), postgraduate taught overseas (PGTO) and postgraduate research overseas (PGRO). The strategic objective is to maintain the number of PGTO and reduce this group as % of the overall intake.
- The University has under-recruited against its undergraduate overseas (UGO) target by 213 students, which will have a financial implication and is in tension with the strategic objective to increase intake for this cohort. Falling out of the QS Top 100 is one factor accounting for this shortfall in addition to difficult economic conditions in key overseas markets. The University has yet to fully experience the impact of falling out of the QS Top 100 and is taking steps to mitigate against further major under-recruitment and to ensure that the University regains its place in the Top 100, however, targets for 2024/25 onward are expected to be revised downward.

- The postgraduate home (PGTH) position continues to reflect an ongoing downturn across the sector, missing the target by 456. This downturn is expected to be medium-term. The University has amended PGTH targets from 2024/25 onward, reflecting the sector-wide market position.

Table 1: New Student Registrations Against Targets

Category	2023 Intake Target (at 1 December census)	2023 Actual Intake (at 8 November)	Variance between registrations and target
Undergraduate Home (UGH)	4,643	4,707	+64
Undergraduate Overseas (UGO)	1,448	1,235	-213
Postgraduate Taught Home (PGTH)	1,976	1,520	-456
Postgraduate Taught Overseas (PGTO)	4634	4852	+218
Postgraduate Research Home (PGRH)	401	383	-18
Postgraduate Research Overseas (PGRO)	287	301	+14

Data source:

Reporting Service B4-1-10. The target population excludes contract nursing and non-countable programmes. Registration population excludes contract nursing, student mode U Staff, and U Staff FT and only includes new entrants, registered students and registrations within the standard cohorts.

2.1.4 Apprenticeships

- The University has been accepted to take part in the Department for Education (DfE) expert apprenticeship training provider pilot. DfE invited expressions of interest from main training providers who are already registered on the Apprenticeship Provider and Assessment Register (APAR). The University of Sheffield is one of two universities taking part.
- The University now wishes to use the “Expert Apprentice Provider” status in the following ways:
 - to enhance the marketing of apprenticeships to SMEs by developing a targeted marketing campaign, potentially with local partners - Sheffield Hallam and Sheffield College to highlight the benefits of apprenticeships to SME employers.
 - promoting the strong values of the ‘University of Sheffield Apprentice’ and demonstrating how this has an impact on workplace productivity and culture of SMEs.
 - supporting the establishment of a community of employers, including SMEs, to providing SMEs with a forum to discuss their skills needs and emerging priorities with other employers, including large multinational employers and those from different sectors.
 - facilitating opportunities for SMEs to network with larger organisations who may have larger and more established infrastructure and share issues and best practice.

- establishing an annual apprenticeship conference and celebration event to bring together employers, and their apprentices, from all sizes and sectors.
- Further information can be found: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-to-become-an-expert-apprenticeship-training-provider>

3. RESEARCH

3.1 RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

3.1.1 Research Awards

- See section 6, Finance, below.

3.1.2 Research Capital Infrastructure Fund

- As part of our strategy delivery plan to deliver research excellence, we committed to investing in our research strengths. Our researchers secure significant sums from research funders to buy new equipment, but we also need to be able to invest in upgrades to existing or 'workhorse' equipment which underpin excellent research. £5M of our research capital allocation from Research England has been committed to support our research equipment pipeline, prioritised by senior faculty representatives against the potential for research discovery, partnership working and excellent outputs.

4. INNOVATION

4.1 INNOVATION IMPACT

4.1.1 Success and Achievement

- Welcome information was shared with staff and students returning to campus throughout welcome week via email and social media content. Updates for students have been provided throughout the term, including the Crime and Safety Reduction Campaign 2023.
- Black History Month was marked with a press release, social media content and in communications to staff and students.
- The University delivered a successful event in partnership with South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority at the Labour party conference in Liverpool: Beyond investment zones: innovation-led growth for regional economies. Panellists included shadow science and innovation minister Chi Onwurah, Maria Laine (President of Boeing UK, Ireland and Nordic Regions), Paul Swinney (Centre for Cities), the VC and South Yorkshire Mayor Oliver Coppard. Attendees included representatives from the region (Paul Blomfield MP, Labour prospective parliamentary candidate for Sheffield Central Abtisam Mohamed, Sheffield City Council leader Tom Hunt, Barnsley MP Dan Jarvis) and from politics and industry. The event was followed by a South Yorkshire reception and was promoted on social media.
- Signing of a statement in support of international students by MPs, councillors and business leaders across Sheffield, led by the University of Sheffield and Sheffield Hallam University. This was supported by a joint editorial opinion piece from Professor Koen Lamberts and Chris Husbands, Sheffield Hallam University Vice-Chancellor in The Yorkshire Post. The piece, which we helped to facilitate and promote, discussed how international students are a vital part of our university community and the region.

- University awarded University of the Year for student experience by the Daily Mail - promoted through the media, social media and to key regional stakeholders.
- Promotion of the launch of the South Yorkshire Digital Health Hub with Research, Partnerships and Innovation in collaboration with Sheffield Hallam University. The news was shared with regional media, on social media and with key stakeholders via the latest edition of the Sheffield Briefing from the Public Affairs Team.

4.2 SOUTH YORKSHIRE

4.2.1 Regional innovation

- The Medical Technology (MedTech) business community in Yorkshire is receiving £5 million funding from the EPSRC Place Based Impact Acceleration Account (PBIAA) which will be overseen by the University of Sheffield and University of Leeds, working with civic partners including South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority, West Yorkshire Combined Authority and regional NHS Trusts. It will help to grow the Yorkshire MedTech Industry, currently worth £2 billion, and benefit an estimated two million patients by 2040.
- University spinout Crucible Therapeutics, a biotechnology company developing novel therapies to treat the most common genetic form of MND and frontotemporal dementia (FTD), has secured £5 million from Northern Gritstone and Argobio Studio. The investment will fund essential development and manufacturing work, which will take the company up to its first trial.

4.2.2 Regional Innovation Funding

- The University has received £630K as part of the Regional Innovation Fund, announced at the Conservative Party conference last month. Whichever party is in government is likely to retain this regional innovation focus as a vehicle to improve productivity. We are refreshing our regional innovation pipeline, to ensure we have projects across faculties and AMG which are ready for investment when funds land (often at short notice). We are exploring the possibility of developing lab space for spinout companies with this first tranche.

4.2.3 Partnerships and Knowledge Exchange

- The latest Knowledge Exchange Framework (KEF) - the third iteration to date - again places Sheffield in the top 20 percent of English universities for working with businesses, developing IP, commercialising research and public and community engagement for the benefit of South Yorkshire and the rest of the UK. Results from the latest KEF also show that the University is highly engaged in research partnerships and working with the public and third sector. The Knowledge Exchange Framework (KEF), published by Research England, is an analysis of data that shows the different ways English universities engage with society and the economy, locally, nationally and internationally.

4.3 GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

4.3.1 VC Visit India

- From 29 October 2023, President and Vice-Chancellor Koen Lamberts, alongside Professor Joan Cordiner, Dr Malcolm Butler, Vaughan McKee and Kirsty Murray formed

the delegation visiting India to engage with various institutions and stakeholders across Mumbai and Delhi.

- The main aims of this visit were to raise the profile of the University and its planned engagement with India, engage with key stakeholders and universities to consolidate the University as a key partner. The University held several discussions with universities and were able to strengthen existing links and discuss potential new collaborative activity with the senior leadership at IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi, Tata Institute of Social Sciences and ATLAS SkillTech. Different types of engagement were discussed with each partner, and Global Engagement is going to work closely with colleagues in India to plan roadmaps for each partner. We are able to follow-up quickly with IIT Bombay as they are visiting Sheffield on 30 November - 1 December this year for an Energy Science Workshop.

5. ONE UNIVERSITY

5.1 COLLABORATIVE AND SUPPORTIVE CULTURE

5.1.1 UEB Recruitment

- There continue to be a number of UEB roles that are at various stages of the recruitment process. As previously mentioned, this is due to a variety of reasons including end of tenure and interim assignments.

- Vice-President and Head of Faculty, Faculty of Engineering

Professor Ó Brádaigh commenced in his role as anticipated on 1st September 2023. Professor Ó Brádaigh joined us from the University of Edinburgh where he was the Head of the School of Engineering and Chair of Materials Engineering. Professor Ó Brádaigh is a leading international expert in composite materials, he is a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering, the Institution of Mechanical Engineers and of the Institution of Materials, Minerals and Mining.

- Provost & Deputy Vice-Chancellor

An external recruitment campaign is now underway for this appointment.

- Interim Lead Faculty Vice-President

To provide further support for the period when the Deputy Vice-Chancellor post is vacant, Professor John Derrick will be taking on the role of Lead Faculty Vice-President from January 2024 until the end of July 2024, alongside his substantive post of Vice-President & Head of Faculty of Science. John will take on responsibility for line managing the Faculty Vice-Presidents, acting as a key conduit for dialogue between faculties and cross-cutting thematic areas and supporting delivery across all faculties, as well as leading on the One University pillar.

- Vice-President and Head of the Faculty of Social Sciences

The current incumbent in post Professor Watkins' tenure is due to come to an end on 31st May 2024 and as he has decided to step down from the role at that point the external recruitment campaign for his successor has commenced.

5.1.2 Other Senior Appointments

- Interim Deputy Vice-President for Innovation - Professor Ashutosh Tiwari was appointed for the period 1 October 2023 to 31 July 2024.

- Deputy Vice-President and Head of Faculty of Science - Professor Liz Milne has been appointed and will commence in post from 1 January 2024. This post is to provide support in the Faculty of Science whilst Professor John Derrick takes on the role of Lead Faculty Vice-President.

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 October 2023 now stand at £185.2m. This is an increase of £30.8m (20.0%) on the £154.4m in October 2022.
- There has been a decrease in the total number of awards opened. For the last 12 months to the end of October 2023, the number of new awards opened stood at 856 compared to 914 as at October 2022. The reason for this fall concerns the timing of the opening of the 2023-24 AMRC Catapult awards. There are 113 fewer Catapult projects within the October 2023 figures compared to October 2022. Further Catapult awards are due to be opened in the next few months. RCUK has seen the biggest increase in the numbers of awards which has risen by 35 to 246, whilst the number of Charity awards has increased by 18 to 208 which is the highest number opened in a 12 month period since May 2021. UK Government awards have fallen by 81 to 196 because of the reduction in Catapult awards.
- The value of new awards for the 12 months to October 2023 is showing the biggest rise in Charities awards which has increased by £14.3m to £36.2m, whilst the value of RCUK awards has increased by £11.3m. The increase in numbers and values of RCUK awards is partly because of Horizon Europe awards which would have been funded by the European Commission now being funded by UKRI. There are 18 UKRI awards with a combined value of £7.7m relating to Horizon Europe awards included in the October 2023 numbers.
- Excluding Capital Projects, there was £55m of awards, not included in the above figures as of October 2023 where we had received notification of being successful compared to £78m in October 2022.
- In the 2 months since the last report, there has been 9 new awards for over £1m, the largest of these were for £4.2m and £3.3m both awarded by The Wellcome Trust to the Faculty of Science
- The value of the Research Net Contribution is £43.7m for the 12 months to October 2023 compared to £39.7m for the 12 months to October 2022 an increase of £4.0m (10.1%)
- As of October 2023, research grants work in progress (research order book) which excludes capital projects, stands at £344.9m which is an increase of £14.3m on the work in progress figure of £330.6m recorded in October 2022.

7. LEGAL AND REGULATORY MATTERS

7.1 REPORTABLE EVENTS

Since the previous report to Senate was circulated the OfS has not been notified of any reportable events.



The Senate, 13 December 2023

President & Vice-Chancellor's Report – Supplementary 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. In response to the recent Council Effectiveness Action Plan, the report now comprises two parts, the main report and a supplementary report with additional information and updates, available in the Reading Room.

1. EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT

- No supplementary content

2. EDUCATION

2.1 DELIVERY OF THE PORTFOLIO

2.1.1 Postgraduate Taught Admissions (PGT)

- We began accepting applications for 2024 entry on 15 September and have seen similar numbers of home applications coming through with a lower number of international applications than at this stage last year. It is early in the cycle for home applications and the overseas position is still developing therefore we expect to have a clearer picture after Christmas.

2.1.2 Postgraduate Research Admissions

- At this point in the cycle it is too early to draw conclusions from Postgraduate Research applicant data, however early trends suggest international applications are slightly lower compared with last year and a marginal increase in home interest at this stage.

2.1.3 Recruitment and Marketing updates

- Schools and Colleges

15% of interactions are now to schools and colleges in the South East in line with our strategy to target this high growth/quality demographic. New for this year are specific online sessions for teachers focusing on our Access offer, student support, careers and the ELTC.

- Open days online and in person

2205 prospective students came to the October open day. Storm Babet reduced the turn-up rate to 45%, in contrast to the 60-65% seen across our first three events. However, bookings for 18 November were up 22% and a good number of October absentees rebooked for this final event.

Our UG Subject Special online event took place on Wednesday October 18 aimed at OS prospective students. Initial visitor feedback from the event is very positive with 96 attendees.

Our PGT Online Open Day took place on Wednesday November 29. For Home students our bi-weekly PGT (and UG) on-campus visit opportunities are also increasing in popularity.

- Online prospectus

We are currently overhauling the online prospectus, based on new research into what prospective students expect to see. This will launch in February 2025 with a new design, creative content and clear calls to action. A new 'Why study this course' section, comprising 3-4 unique selling points will feature rewritten in line with new brand tone of voice guidelines.

- Video content

We have been working on lots of student recruitment video content in recent months and have a full pipeline of new student recruitment video content planned. The below table shows a selection of recently published films which you may like to view, with the numbers of views they have achieved so far.

Video	Total views	Views in first month
Music and Nightlife	4k	1.4k
Campus tour	27.5k	6.8K
Futures	3.1k	1.8k
Students' union tour 2023	11.2k	9.1k
What makes a good uni	2.8k	2.1k

2.1.4 Careers and Employability

- A new CV Booster scheme has been launched and is proving popular with students. These are bookable weekly slots across a variety of buildings on campus (spanning all faculties and departments). Students bring their laptop and work on their CV or cover letter, supported by resources and input from an Employability Adviser and an ELTC Language Teacher.
- The 3 day Autumn Careers Fairs took place 24-26 October at the Octagon. Nearly 200 employers were involved and 3,771 students attended.
- 1513 students attended the Part-time Jobs and Volunteering Fair October in collaboration with Sheffield Volunteering.

2.1.5 Outbound Student Support

- The Global Engagement and IT Student Product team have delivered the first phase of the work to support students who choose to Study Abroad from application right through to their time studying abroad. The first phase "Outbound Student" supports students at the University of Sheffield who wish to spend time studying abroad.
- The software was ready for the opening date of the 1 November when the student fair was to be held, signalling the start of the application processes. Following the event applications have been received, via the new software confirming a full end to end working process.
- The team will now move to the next stage which will make the pre-departure process more efficient and improve the user experience for students.

3. RESEARCH

3.1 RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

3.1.1 City, Culture and Public Engagement

- A successful Off the Shelf Festival of Words was delivered by the University of Sheffield in October with 80+ events (readings, interviews, workshops, platform events) and more than 10,000 visitors across the 17 days. It showcased a diverse programme of international, regional and local literary talent with headliners Chris Packham, Rachel Reeves MP, Mary Beard and artist Jeremy Deller interviewed by Jarvis Cocker. External funding was raised for community/diverse events and destination marketing as the festival contributes to the city's rich cultural depth and diversity.
- BioFest, a new Festival exploring bioscience research and how the University is tackling the five biggest challenges facing humanity, took place in November 2023. The free festival included a series of installations including the giant inflatable E-Coli by international renowned installation artist Luke Jerram in the Winter Gardens, talks from distinguished bioscientists Professor Geraint Tarling (British Antarctic Survey), Professor Martha Clokie (University of Leicester) and Professor Peter Coffey (University College London) as well as exhibits aimed at school-age children to inspire the next generation of bioscientists. The pieces of art commissioned for the Festival were the result of collaborations with researchers and PhD students offering fresh perspectives on the intersections of art and science.
- A new report has been commissioned by the Director of City, Culture and Public Engagement exploring whether Sheffield remains the real ale capital of the world. First published in 2016, the Sheffield Beer Report will be updated to explore the role that Sheffield's brewers are playing in the regeneration of the city and the visitor economy as well as the impact on brewing following the pandemic and cost-of-living crisis.

4. INNOVATION

4.1 INNOVATION IMPACT

4.1.1 Success and Achievement

- Communications on the Vytal sustainable coffee cup scheme across social media were well received, with over 350 more reusable cups used across campus in a single week.

- Following the results of the Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2024, in which the University of Sheffield was ranked 18th in the UK, shared the news via social media and a press release to local and industry media.
- A study by researchers from the University of Sheffield's Department of Computer Science, which is the first to demonstrate AI that enables people to search databases by asking questions in plain language can be exploited to attack computer systems in the real world, gained significant national coverage. The findings were reported by The Independent, Daily Mail, Sky News, Metro and The i.
- A 50 year study from Professor Tim Birkhead, from the School of Biosciences, that revealed how climate change has led to mass mortality events and altered breeding times of seabirds, was featured in the Guardian. A video of Professor Birkhead explaining his research led to high engagement on social media.
- Research from the University of Sheffield, that found faeces from a range of endangered animals contains bacteria that could be used in the treatment of diabetic foot ulcers and save the NHS an estimated £1 billion, was announced via a press release and social media, gaining significant national coverage from ITV News, the Independent, Mail Online, Metro, The i, The Sun and The Times.
- Dr Samuel Rigby, from the University of Sheffield's Department of Civil and Structural Engineering, was awarded a Royal Academy of Engineering Industrial Fellowship for his research into machine learning applications for blast protection engineering. In addition, we celebrated the fact that five academics from the Faculty of Engineering were elected to the Royal Academy of Engineering's Fellowship, in recognition of their outstanding contributions to engineering and technology.

4.2 GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

4.2.1 Visit from WUN Executive Director

- On 23 October 2023, the University received an institutional visit from Prof Peter Lennie, Executive Director of the Worldwide Universities Network. The main aims of the visit were to learn how best WUN can serve the university; to discuss university priorities and the WUN Strategic Plan 2023-2026 and to update on plans for the WUN AGM 2024 hosted by the University of Pretoria (South Africa).

4.2.2 Visit from Manchester Chinese Consul General Tang Rui

- The newly appointed Chinese Consulate General visited the University of Sheffield on Monday 16 October to meet with Vice-Chancellor Koen Lambert and Director of Global Engagement, Malcolm Butler. A tour of selected university sites was provided by a student ambassador in addition to an afternoon talk arranged with the support of the Chinese Student Scholars Association (CSSA). There was also a special evening dinner at a local Chinese restaurant with members of the local business and council community. The visit was important to build upon existing relations with the consul in light of the new appointment.

5. ONE UNIVERSITY

5.1 COLLABORATIVE AND SUPPORTIVE CULTURE

5.1.1 Wellbeing support for Heads/Staff

- There are a range of services available to support the wellbeing of staff and specific services have been highlighted to support Heads of Department, Departmental Managers and Staff during periods of organisational change. These range from our Staff Mental Health Adviser Service and Staff Mental Health Peer Supporters to self-guided modules on managing change.
- Additional support has also been sourced through our counselling provider, Alliance to establish a 'One Plus' service. This service is available for all staff via a self-referral. It offers a one hour session with a therapist to discuss a particular issue to identify actions that could be taken to increase control and to work towards an effective solution. The sessions are particularly helpful for managing periods of change, to reflect on a specific issue that may be causing anxiety. The Staff Wellbeing Manager is meeting Alliance on a weekly basis to ensure that the service remains fit for purpose and adequately resourced.

5.1.2 Other Senior Appointments

- Assistant Director in Research and Knowledge Exchange Growth in Research Partnerships and Innovation - Lee Allman was appointed and took up post on 1 July 2023. Lee was previously Head of Research Operations at Nottingham Trent.
- Assistant Director - Researchers in Research Partnerships and Innovation - Dr Meera Warriar has been appointed to this position and took up this post on 1 July 2023. Meera was previously Director of Research Services at De Montfort University.
- Chair in Supply Chain Management in the Management School - Professor Francisco Saldanha da Gama Nunes da Conceição has been appointed and took up post on 1 July 2023. Francisco joins the University from the University of Lisbon where he was an Associate Professor.
- Professor in Nursing in Nursing and Midwifery - Professor Julie McGarry has been appointed and took up post on 1 September 2023. She was previously employed at Nottinghamshire NHS Foundation Trust as The Trust Wide Lead for Domestic Abuse and Sexual Safety.
- Interim Director of Estates and Facilities Management - David Hemming was appointed and took up post on 13 September 2023 on an interim basis until 12 June 2024. David has been providing strategic estates leadership for large complex organisations across the Defence, Government, and Higher Education sectors for 30 years. Please note the external recruitment campaign for this post went live and is due to close for applications on 3 December 2023.
- Director of the Modern Languages Teaching Centre – Oranna Speicher was appointed and took up post on 1 October 2023. She was previously employed as an Associate Professor at Nottingham University.
- Engineering/Social Sciences: Professorial Fellow (Energy Institute) - Professor Ben Hughes was appointed and took up post on 6 November 2023. Professor Hughes joins from the University of Hull where he was Head of Engineering.

- UKAEA Chair in Fusion Materials - Professor Christopher Race has been appointed from the University of Manchester. He will take up the post on 1 December 2023.
- Head of Campus Services - Jacqui Tuffnell has been appointed and will take up post on 4 December 2023. Jacqui was previously Head of Commissioning at South Yorkshire ICB (NHS).
- Deputy Director of Student Recruitment, Marketing and Admissions - Claire Hamilton has been appointed and took up post on 1 July 2023. Claire was previously Head of Marketing and Student Recruitment.
- Head of the Machining Group at the AMG - Tom McCready has been appointed and took up post on 1 August 2023. Tom was previously Engineering and Operation Manager at the AMRC.
- Head of the Office of the IT Director in IT Services - Daniel Courtney has been appointed to this role on a permanent basis with effect from 1 September 2023. He had been undertaking the role on an interim basis since March 2022. He was previously the Head of Service Transition in IT Services.
- Faculty Director for Research and Innovation (Engineering) - Professor Mark Dickman has been appointed on an interim basis to cover Professor Tiwari. The interim role will run up to the end of the academic year.
- Deputy Faculty Director of Operations (Academic Services) in the Faculty of Health - Rachel Harland has been appointed and took up post on 6 November 2023. Rachel was previously the Departmental Manager for Urban Studies and Planning, Geography and the Information School.

5.2 PHILANTHROPY

5.2.1 Alumni Engagement and Volunteering

Financial Year	Volunteer hrs (target)	Total hrs to date	Campaign Target
	2023/2024		
Volunteer hrs**	291 (15,000)	66,215	107,900
Volunteer hrs (students) ***	(20,000)	127,021	170,400
	291 (35,000)	193,236	278,300

** Figures have been updated to include hours contributed by Alumni and friends. 'Friends' are defined as non-alumni who are not TUoS staff. *** Data on student volunteer hours was last released 30.06.23. Further data on student volunteer hours will be included in subsequent reports as it becomes available.

- The Coach Café alumni-student programme will restart this month, with two sector specific events; one for Arts and Humanities and Social Sciences students and a joint event for Science and Engineering students. Coach Café is part of the University's Ambition Programme, funded by the [Law Family Charitable Foundation](#).
- CAR's Boardroom series of leadership workshops concluded in early October, with 30 graduating students benefiting from the insight of 13 world-leading alumni. The recordings are now available to view: www.sheffield.ac.uk/alumni/boardroom-masterclass/boardroom-2023

- The pilot joint Faculty Northern City Connections event took place on 22 November. 60 students from both Arts and Humanities and Social Sciences attended alumni-led workshops and network with over 30 alumni.

6. FINANCE

- No supplementary content

7. LEGAL AND REGULATORY MATTERS

- No supplementary content