

*University of*  
**HUDDERSFIELD**  
Inspiring global professionals

# Annual Review 2019



# Welcome

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During 2019 we have finalised our new strategy map – which has now been signed off by Senate and the University’s Governing Council.

It sets us challenging targets for growth in undergraduate, postgraduate and research areas, as well as clear boundaries for efficiency. It also sets out our commitment to play a role on the international stage, through our research, our partnerships and through students choosing to join us at Huddersfield, not to mention UK students having opportunities to travel and study overseas. At the heart of everything, our students remain the focus of all our efforts to make this University a place where they can thrive and achieve their ambitions.

During the process of developing the strategy map we made a small but significant change – our strapline is now *Inspiring Global Professionals*, to signal our global ambition.

This review provides a small snapshot of some of our activity which demonstrates our strategy in action, and you can find further information on each of the stories on our website. In addition, the news pages on our website contain many more stories which serve to demonstrate the breadth of our work.

**Professor Bob Cryan**

CBE DL CMgr CCMi FEng

Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive

## Values

We will work as a **team** to provide an **excellent** service to all of the **communities** we support.

# International

## Signing of Confucius Institute Agreement

In July an agreement was signed that will establish a Confucius Institute at the University of Huddersfield, in partnership with the East China University of Science and Technology (ECUST) in Shanghai.

Confucius Institutes – named after the famous Chinese philosopher who lived 2,500 years ago – began in 2004. Established at 515 universities around the world, they are supervised by the Office of Chinese Language Council International, known as *Hanban*.

Huddersfield is the 30th UK university to acquire an Institute, but the first that will concentrate on innovation in science and technology, stated the Chinese Ambassador, His Excellency Liu Xiaoming, when he spoke at the signing ceremony.

He said that the Huddersfield Confucius Institute marks the beginning of a new stage in China-UK co-operation.



“Globalisation has led to a highly inter-dependent and deeply integrated economic trade system,” said the Ambassador, describing this as an “an irreversible trend” and criticising “headwinds of protectionism and unilateralism” that made it all the more crucial to uphold the spirit of openness and “choose wisely between collaboration and isolation.”



▶ Professor Bob Cryan and Professor Qu Jingping

## Performing Arts ranked 25th in the World by QS

This year's QS World University Subject Rankings saw the University ranked 25th in the world for 'Performing Arts.'

Performing Arts is one of the University's best-connected and most international disciplines and has active research links with Harvard University, Stanford University and Northwestern University, which are also ranked in the top 25 institutions. Huddersfield can also boast links with the Universities of San Diego, Chicago, Montreal, Sydney and Melbourne.

Associate Deans for Research and International, Professor Monty Adkins and Professor Rupert Till, confirmed that Huddersfield has links with more than half of the Top 300 world-ranked institutions and is active in more than 30 countries.





## Huddersfield Business School climbs up 2020 World University Rankings

At the end of 2019 the Times Higher Education released its World University Rankings 2020. The rankings provide an insight into the best institutions in the world against a range of indicators at institutional level and by subject area, including Social Sciences, Business and Economics, Education and Law.

Huddersfield Business School is pleased to have seen a rise in the rankings for a second consecutive year in Business and Economics, rising from the 301-400 range last year to 251-300 this year.

This move up means Huddersfield Business School is ranked higher in this subject area than major competitors. The School continues to develop an innovative and enterprising learning experience with high quality teaching and pioneering research opportunities and is pleased to receive recognition for its hard work. The report highlighted strong industrial links, the emphasis on professional experience alongside academic study and the opportunities to gain a professional accreditation alongside a degree.

## China Office 10th anniversary celebrations

The University celebrated its continued relationship with China at a celebratory event to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the launch of the University's China Office in Beijing.

Under the leadership of alumnus Peter Jia Chen, the Office has developed and increased support for its Chinese partners and explored many strategies to spread the word about Huddersfield throughout the country. This has led to the launch of two fully staffed regional offices in Shanghai and Guangzhou.

The University's Chinese student population has steadily increased to over 1,000 students with over 60% achieving a First Class or Upper Second degree over the last 10 years. Many regularly take part in the international campus events to celebrate their culture with the University's student and staff.

The event was attended by Professor Bob Cryan, International Partnerships Manager Tong Wong and Senior Research Fellow Dr Zhen Tong who is also the Vice-President of the Chinese Students and Scholars Association (CSSA-UK), which is the largest community for Chinese students and scholars in the UK.



► Tony Wong, Nishat Ali, Head of Outward Mobility at the British Council China, Professor Bob Cryan, Athena Liu, Head of Client Liaison and Research (China) British Council, and Peter Chen

# Inspiring

## Award-winning student

Hannah Wilkes' tutors were so impressed by her performance at the culmination of her Bachelor of Engineering (BEng) course that they nominated her for an annual *Design Project of the Year Award* bestowed by the North West region of the Institution of Chemical Engineers (IChemE).

She was selected as winner and this fresh success is on top of the First Class Honours she scored in her degree, which she obtained while helping to care for her two young children.

"The degree was hard work, but it comes a lot easier when you are enjoying it!" she said.

Hannah was nominated for the IChemE award by Professor Grant Campbell and by her tutor,



► Hannah Wilkes

Senior Lecturer in Chemical Engineering Dr Lande Liu, who is now supervisor of the Master's by Research degree she has embarked on following the BEng success. When she has completed the second degree, Hannah will take up a post with Huddersfield-based chemical manufacturers Syngenta, which has close links with its local university.

## Supporting young people brought up in care through university

Young people brought up in the care system are much less likely to move into Higher Education. The University of Huddersfield has vowed to help redress the balance. It works closely with local authorities, social workers and foster carers to encourage care leavers to apply for degree courses and provides special support that includes bursaries and mentoring.

The success of the policy has been celebrated at a dinner for newly-graduated care leavers. Among those present was Professor Bob Cryan. Deeply committed to the policy, he personally acts as mentor to three students who have left care.

The Universities Minister and the Office for Students have expressed concern about the under-representation of care leavers in Higher Education. Just six per cent of 19-21 year olds with experience of the care system will attend university compared to almost 50 per cent of the general population. And those that do enter Higher Education are nearly twice as likely to drop out.

Problems facing care leavers include a lack of advice when choosing universities and courses; problems with accommodation;

anxieties about finances; additional academic difficulties due to disrupted schooling experiences; difficult childhood experiences and a lack of support.

The University of Huddersfield's strategy to remove barriers faced by care leavers include special academic mentoring, careers

coaching from business and industry professionals, and financial support that includes a care leaver bursary, help with study costs such as laptops, software and books and with the costs of graduation such as gown hire.

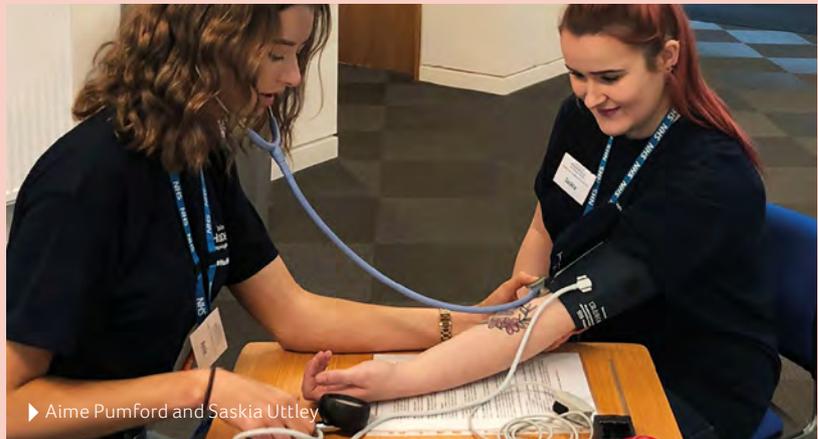


► Rebecca Hayes, Support Coordinator for Care Leavers, Dr Nic Stavris, Sanna Mahmood, Professor Bob Cryan, Khalid Mannan and Mark Cohen

## Free health check-ups for students, staff and Huddersfield residents

Hundreds of local people have benefitted from free check-ups carried out by healthcare students at the University of Huddersfield. This innovative scheme – closely supervised by expert tutors – gives early warning of issues such as high blood pressure and sight loss.

The project, which has earned £80,000 in funding from healthcare agencies, is also a boon for the students themselves, in subjects that include nursing, optometry and podiatry. It enables them to develop valuable people skills



▶ Aime Pumford and Saskia Uttley

alongside the specialist expertise gained during their degree studies.

The checks have also included podiatry screening and advice. And plentiful leaflets on topics such as healthy eating, weight loss

and quitting smoking. Students studying to become operating department practitioners have demonstrated the vital technique of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

## First annual race lecture

Professor David Olusoga delivered the first annual Race Lecture to a packed lecture theatre.

As part of Black History Month, Professor Olusoga's talk looked at the Windrush scandal in relation to post-war British politics and the longer histories of racism and empire.

In 2018, scandal erupted when large numbers of long-settled immigrants from the Caribbean – the "Windrush generation" – were wrongly threatened with deportation. In his lecture, Professor Olusoga argued that the episode was intricately connected to the history of post-war British politics and the longer histories of racism and empire.



▶ Dr Berenice Golding, Professor David Olusoga and Professor Paul Bissell

Professor Olusoga is well-known as an author, broadcaster and filmmaker, whose TV series include *Black and British: A Forgotten History*, *The World's War*, *A House*

*Through Time* and the BAFTA-winning *Britain's Forgotten Slave Owners*. He was also one of the three presenters on the BBC's prestigious series *Civilizations*.

## Harold Wilson Lecture

The 'Will of the People' was a phrase coined by eighteenth-century philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau during the French Revolution. It is also the title chosen by Bishop Nick Baines, Bishop of Leeds, when he delivered the 2019 *Harold Wilson Lecture*.

Nick Baines is a regular commentator for the media and also leads for the Church of England on Europe, including Brexit. He has regularly commented on the country's EU Referendum, which saw the 'Will of the People' being claimed for the Brexit vote, albeit by a small majority.

The 'Will of the People' as Rousseau wrote was "a public and solemn declaration of the general will on an object of common interest." Although it may have had value in the French Revolution, it has since had its critics, one arguing that the concept achieves little more than the State subjecting its citizens to the supposedly 'infallible will' of the majority.

As the UK falls divided on the issue of Brexit, many may well agree with this conclusion.

Nick Baines is a member of the House of Lords and is a respected commentator. He has 15,000 followers on Twitter and his

blog, *Musings of a Restless Bishop*, regularly attracts hundreds of views. He is frequently a guest on BBC Radio 2's *Zoe Ball Show* (and before that the *Chris Evans Show*) and presents the *Thought for the Day* on BBC Radio 4.



► Professor Bob Cryan, Rt Revd Nick Baines, Professor Robin Wilson and Joy Crispin Wilson

## Paul Grimwood lecture

One of the world's leading executives – newly appointed as a visiting professor at the University, where he is a former student – delivered a lecture in which he described the scale and the speed of the changes and the challenges that now face business.

Transformations that might once have taken place over the course of 40 years now happen every ten years, said Paul Grimwood, the Yorkshire-born businessman who became head of food and drink multinational Nestlé's vast US operation.

"Some of that change is driven by technology, some by consumer requirements and some by poor management," said Mr Grimwood, who studied business at the University of Huddersfield, graduating in 1985, before embarking on a career in the food and drink industry that led to a succession of major executive posts and the award of a CBE in the 2019 New Year's Honours List.



► Paul Grimwood with Professor Bob Cryan

# Innovative

## IRR winning Queen's Anniversary Prize

A team of researchers and engineers at the University of Huddersfield whose mission is to future-proof the rail network by making innovations in track, rolling stock and safety has won one of the most coveted honours in Higher Education, awarded after scrutiny by the Prime Minister and approval from Her Majesty The Queen.

The Institute of Railway Research led by Professor Iwnicki relocated to the University of Huddersfield, which could provide space and resources for the significant investment and expansion that was envisioned. Since then the Institute has trebled in size as it built up a worldwide reputation for its research into the interaction between railway vehicles and the track. It has used this improved knowledge to support the railway industry in the UK and around the world.

The Institute has participated in many projects with industry and academic partners which have led to significant developments, innovations and practical applications. This work has attracted major investment in world-class equipment.



For example, at the start of 2019 the Centre of Excellence in Rolling Stock was officially launched at the Institute, sharing in £90 million of funding, distributed among three Centres of Excellence, from the Government and from private industry by the UK Rail Research and Innovation Network (UKRRIN).

One of the outcomes is the construction of a world-class, £3.5 million pantograph testing rig, soon to come into use.

## Fighting wildlife crime in Malaysia

Judges in the Malaysian states of Sabah and Sarawak have new guidelines that will help them deal with criminals who are endangering the region's extraordinarily diverse wildlife, including bears, leopards, pangolins and rhinos. The expertise of a University of Huddersfield lecturer – a specialist in the burgeoning field of green criminology – has played a significant part in the breakthrough.

In 2017, Dr Melanie Flynn was invited by the Malaysian branch of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) to provide advice to the judiciary of Sabah and Sarawak on the introduction of sentencing guidelines for wildlife crime. This was after she had carried out research on the subject for WWF-UK.

On her Malaysian visit, Dr Flynn gave presentations and ran workshops with people involved in the fight against wildlife crime. The region's judiciary then agreed to set up a committee that would draft guidelines.

Now they have been launched by Sabah and Sarawak Chief Judge Datuk Seri David Wong Dak Wah at a ceremony that was given widespread coverage in the regional media, reflecting concern over a "rampant illegal trade in wildlife in Sabah."

► Dr Melanie Flynn



# Growth and efficiency

## Barbara Hepworth Building

The University was delighted to welcome its Emeritus Chancellor, Sir Patrick Stewart, for an unexpected visit to the campus, which afforded the world-famous actor the opportunity to view the University's new £30 million flagship building.

"We're always delighted to welcome Sir Patrick to the University and he was very keen to view the latest addition to our campus, the Barbara Hepworth Building," said Professor Bob Cryan.

Sir Patrick was overwhelmed by the dynamic, state-of-the-art facility, which is designed to act as a "catalyst for creativity, collaboration and learning" and will ensure that Huddersfield's creative students will have access to some of the most advanced facilities in the country.

The concept behind the building was inspired by the Bauhaus cultural movement where all creative disciplines benefit from being under one roof and the students can be inspired by the work of others.

The building takes its name – with the consent of the family – from the famous Yorkshire-born artist and sculptor, Dame Barbara Hepworth, and the University is already enjoying close links with the famous art gallery, also bearing the sculptor's name, The Hepworth Wakefield.



## Joseph Priestley Building

The new science block – first used by students from September – has four storeys and facilities that include "super labs" capable of accommodating up to 120 undergraduates simultaneously carrying out practical work for their degree courses. The new 'super labs' have achieved an EPC A rating, aspiring to BREEAM excellence. The LED lighting is PIR controlled, ventilation reflects room occupancy levels and the nature of the fume cupboard system integration also allows reductions in ventilation when laboratories are not in use. 50% of the contractors involved in the project were based within 15 miles of the site with materials sourced locally where possible. Additionally, in September, the recently refurbished part of the Joseph Priestley Building (JP South) received the Refit and Refurbishment Project of the Year award



(Sponsored by HotSpot Titanium) at the Insider Property Industry Awards. The judges said the project demonstrated how an existing 1960's building can be refurbished sustainably to provide modern, highly serviced teaching and learning environments. There is also a special laboratory for use by A-level and BTEC students at colleges and sixth forms around the region. It is home to the Department of Optometry – which runs a course which is already attracting a great deal of interest from potential students.

# People first



▶ Ruth Sivori, Carson McCombe, Katie Wright, Professor Bob Cryan, Olivia Briddon and Adetayo Opakunle

## Crossing the rainbow

Students, staff and visitors at the University of Huddersfield now cross the rainbow when they walk to and from its campus.

A traditional black and white zebra crossing close to the University’s main entrance has been repainted in the vibrant colours of the LGBTQ+ movement so that it sends out a permanent message of inclusiveness and tolerance.

“It says ‘everybody is welcome’ and that’s an important thing to say about the University of Huddersfield – that we welcome and embrace everybody,” said Professor Bob Cryan, after he

took part in a special inauguration event, timed to coincide with National Inclusion Week.

It was during a trip to Brussels that Professor Cryan first encountered a pedestrian crossing painted in the LGBTQ+ or Gay Pride colours. He decided that it would be an uplifting feature of his University’s campus, and on his return he set the work in motion.

## Award-winning Staff Development Team

The University’s Staff Development Team was named as the 2019 winner of the *Outstanding Innovation and Delivery Award* bestowed by the Chartered Management Institute (CMI). It was selected by an independent panel of international judges.

Danny Benton is the University’s Head of Staff Development and is playing a key role in designing and administering a sequence of study programmes for managers at the University so that they can achieve the CMI’s Level 7 Award in strategic management and leadership and thereby gain chartered status. In less than a year, 83 senior managers have successfully completed the process.

“The programme is based on a blended-learning approach, with workshops, online learning, tutorials and assessments,” said Mr Benton. Candidates then make a presentation to him and Professor Bob Cryan. Professor Cryan was recently announced as the new Chair of the Board of Companions of the CMI and as a member of its Board of Trustees.



▶ Professor Michael Ginger, Danny Benton, Patricia Rogers and Professor Bob Cryan



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