



# 2018 Annual Review

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## Interim Vice-Chancellor



Paul Bartholomew

The year in review saw Ulster University continue to make an impact for our young people, communities and our local economy, through learning opportunities and research with real-world outcomes.

Our campuses are at once communities of excellence, hubs of innovation and welcoming civic assets. As our Coleraine Campus brought to a close its 50th anniversary celebrations, our Belfast campus continued to progress, reimagining the staff and student experience of tomorrow and already bonding closely and in meaningful ways with our near neighbours in the city centre, through our Community Benefit Framework. As we move closer to our relocation to the city campus, Jordanstown remains home to a vibrant university community and we have begun to explore the ways in which we will mark our legacy on the lough shore. At Magee, our proposal to establish the Graduate Entry Medical School continued to reflect our ambitions not only for expansion in the city region, but for our unique opportunity to play our part in transforming the healthcare workforce and patient care.

As we nurture our students to seize their career opportunities with skill and confidence, industry collaboration and partnership continue to characterise our teaching and learning across a range of sectors. We are both responsive and forward thinking; informed by emerging market demand and exploring the careers that don't yet exist. You will read about partnerships across professional and financial services, technology and broadcast media; informing and enriching students' learning experiences. Across research and teaching we are forging the skills, networks and infrastructure in growth industries. A fine example of this is our Screen Academy which builds on our Creative Industries research to bring together the many disciplines central to a sector that has catapulted Northern Ireland onto the global stage.

Our people make us who we are and you can read about many of those who have made an impact this year, both within our University community and beyond. A community of

committed and energetic staff, passionate and inventive learners, trailblazing alumni and inspirational honorary graduates, ours is a collective of bright minds; an Ulster University community with far reaching influence.

We were particularly delighted that three of our staff joined a distinguished group of academics across the UK recognised for their outstanding impact on student outcomes and the teaching profession in Higher Education. You can learn more about our most recent National Teaching Fellows and the difference they make to our young people, external partners and communities who have been inspired, supported and encouraged by our colleagues.

The remarkable successes of 2018-19 were forged in spite of an operating environment that had changed dramatically and against the backdrop of Brexit and its possible implications for staff, student mobility and research. Of course, our operating context has further significantly changed in recent months with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. I am hugely proud of the truly transformational contribution that Ulster University consistently makes, as demonstrated in this Annual Review, and we will continue to build on these achievements in the months and years ahead.

On behalf of Ulster University,

**Professor Paul Bartholomew**  
Interim Vice-Chancellor (from March 2020)

**We were particularly delighted that three of our staff joined a distinguished group of academics across the UK recognised for their outstanding impact on student outcomes and the teaching profession in Higher Education.**

## Chair of Council



Ms Jenny Pyper

It was my privilege to take up the role as Chair of Ulster University during the summer of 2019, at the close of the year under review; succeeding John Hunter, whose many years of insight and contribution added much to the University's development.

I am struck by the depth and breadth of Ulster's impact that stretches from being at the heart of Northern Ireland's research and development landscape, its diverse workforce and entrepreneurial community, to global networks across both research and teaching.

Ulster University plays a progressive and long-standing role in research and the year in review was no exception. From exciting new work in computation neuroscience to off grid access transforming lives in sub Saharan Africa and tackling global water safety

challenges, Ulster's diverse research community was once again at the forefront of pushing boundaries. Patient outcomes remained central, including breakthrough treatments in pancreatic cancer to leading the way in advanced research in personalised medicine, supporting diagnostic advances across a range of degenerative diseases. UK Space

Agency funding saw our environmental scientists support the landing of the ExoMars mission to Mars in 2021; whilst closer to home our mental health leaders tackled the genetic factors contributing to anxiety and depression. Our research impact stretched from our homes and families to worlds yet to be explored.

Against a still challenging funding backdrop, the confidence placed in Ulster University by our largest ever single donation of £5m is supporting us to respond to the real-world needs of data analytics and artificial intelligence. Underpinned by a 20-year track record of excellence in intelligent systems, the Dr George Moore Chair honours one of the founding fathers of data analytics.

Transatlantic ties further cemented our leadership in peace and conflict studies, with the launch of PhD scholarships by Former President of the US, Bill Clinton in New York. Partnering with Dublin City University and University of Massachusetts, the linkages between the 3 scholars will share expertise and forge academic and civic exchanges in a subject area that matters as much to our University as it did to the former President in his years of encouragement for the often challenging journey to secure peace in Northern Ireland after decades of conflict.

Alongside the University's continued innovation in research advances and new course development, it continues to make its talents and resources available to the local community. From public access to our rich library resources and treasures

to social enterprises showcasing artistic talent and encouraging arts participation, our local communities remain very much a part of campus life.

The university's commitment to building vibrant, thriving campus communities, also extends to a focus on community engagement, by further developing civic relationships with those communities in which it operates. To strengthen this, the 'University Community Benefit

Framework' has been developed jointly with Inner North Belfast and Greater Shankill Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships, to ensure that Ulster University maximises the social, educational, environmental and economic benefits that will arise from the University's move from the Jordanstown campus to the new Belfast development. Furthermore, through the 'Civic University Agreement', the university has pledged to put the economy and quality of life in the local community at the top of the list of priorities, in partnership with local government and other major institutions. These partnerships help solidify the university's position as a truly civic university, one that is committed to building the future, and I look forward to contributing to this work as Council Chair.



# BUILDING THE FUTURE

Investing across all four campuses, we are transforming the higher education landscape fuelling our infrastructure with passionate minds and helping to drive the local economy. From our landmark Belfast campus development to new centres powered by innovative research and flexible learning spaces we are forging new ways of teaching, learning and discovering.



# Building the Future

## A TRULY CIVIC UNIVERSITY

This year we reaffirmed our position as Northern Ireland’s civic university by pledging to put the economy and quality of life in the local community top of our list of priorities by joining 30 other institutions in committing to produce a “Civic University Agreement” in partnership with local government and other major institutions.

The Civic University Agreement includes four key points:

- Understanding local populations and asking them what they want.
- Understanding ourselves and what we can offer.
- Working with other local anchor institutions, businesses and community organisations to agree where the short, medium and long-term opportunities and problems lie for communities.
- A process of agreeing on clear priorities and aligning resources with local authorities, LEs (Local Economic Partnerships) and NHS bodies to identify the live issues that we can most usefully help with.

## MAGEE

### Opportunities for growth

In January 2019, the University completed the purchase of the Foyle College lands, marking a milestone in the development and expansion opportunities for Magee campus.

The purchase followed the 2018 opening of the £11m state-of-the-art teaching centre at the heart of the campus, which greatly enhanced the vibrancy of campus life and paved the way for future capacity at Magee. Options for the Foyle College lands will now be explored in line with the University’s plans for growth of the Magee campus and its wider estates strategy.

### Graduate Entry Medical School (GEMS)

Ulster University continued to work closely with the Department of Health and a number of stakeholders in the health sector on outline business plan feedback. During 2018 to 2019, we have made significant progress despite the challenging political environment, a selection of which includes; progressing through Stages 4 and 5 of the General Medical Council accreditation process, working with visiting professors to develop Year 1 curriculum, sourcing GP teaching



capacity for all Year1 students and increasing the connection between the Graduate Entry Medical School and the Faculty of Life and Health Sciences.

## COLERAINE

### ‘Towards Tomorrow’ statue marked Coleraine’s 50th anniversary

Designed by and for the local community under the direction of local artist Sara Cunningham-Bell, ‘Towards Tomorrow’ an impressive 30ft sculpture standing at Lodge Road roundabout at the entrance to Coleraine town was unveiled in June 2019.

A partnership between Ulster University, the Garfield Weston Trust, Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council and The Honourable The Irish Society, the sculpture depicts a student holding a quadrant representing research, innovation and inventiveness with objects reflecting academia, research, music and sporting achievement at their feet. The project was a true community endeavour with Sara working closely with local school pupils, Ulster University students and community groups.

### Official host for The 148th Open

With The 148th Open making a historic return to Northern Ireland, championship organisers, The R&A chose the University to host The Open Camping Village.

Strengthening our position as a civic hub for the local community and a sports destination of choice for international guests, a packed schedule of live music, entertainment, family fun and food was delivered by University staff and students during the championship. Spectator facilities included pre-erected tents and a campers’ clubhouse with The Riverside Theatre running a 19th Hole Festival featuring daily barbeques and a fully licensed bar. The University was also host to park and ride provisions and over 100 Ulster students secured work and volunteering opportunities including marshalling at the 18th hole. The legacy of the partnership involves golf development projects for young people in Northern Ireland including local club and schools golf programmes.



UU Official host for The 148th Open



Students showcase skills at the Open

The project was a true community endeavour with Sara working closely with local school pupils, Ulster University students and community groups.



Towards Tomorrow Sculpture



COLERAINE (continued)

Brand new creative learning space launched

The University launched the Collab Lab, a new flexible and shared learning space on the Coleraine campus for staff, students and the wider community. Built to encourage the free flow of ideas in an inspiring and welcoming environment, the Collab Lab features flexible equipment and décor as well as emerging technology to ensure it can be utilised by a wide range of users including staff and students as well as local businesses, charities and professional organisations.

Facility dedicated to nutrition and cardiovascular disease opened

The opening of a new Nutrition and Vascular Studies unit in June has greatly enhanced our ability to conduct cutting-edge nutrition and cardiovascular research, a priority area within Ulster's Nutrition Innovation Centre for Food and Health (NICHE) and a global health issue of concern for people in Northern Ireland.

Ulster University has been conducting pioneering research to address high blood pressure (hypertension), the biggest risk factor for heart disease and stroke globally and has discovered a novel nutrition solution for preventing and treating hypertension in people genetically at risk of developing hypertension. The state-of-the-art equipment at the new facility will enable researchers to extend this work and carry out studies that will provide a greater insight into how nutrition is influencing cardiovascular risk.

JORDANSTOWN

Spaces re-imagined

Many new businesses arrived in the Mall this year boosting the campus experience and providing our students with more choice (see Campus Life section pg 28 for more details). Alongside these entities, much was done to rejuvenate the mall making it more sociable and providing new experiences for students. Air hockey and table tennis facilities encouraged students to connect and interact between lectures and new flexible and modern seating transformed the spaces on campus which have become home to a hive of activity.

Enhancement of teaching and learning spaces

The Campus Life team worked hard with academic staff to improve some of our current learning spaces for students. The focus was on making the spaces more conducive to flexible teaching methods to enable the lecturer and the student to work more collaboratively. Work included improved technology and equipment to replicate what the new state of the art spaces will be like at the enhanced Belfast campus with the aim of highlighting to students and staff the advantages and benefits of different styles of learning.



The University launched the Collab Lab, a new flexible and shared learning space on the Coleraine campus for staff, students and the wider community.



Launch of UU Connect

In an important step in enhancing the student experience, UU Connect, a pilot Student Services Centre opened on Jordanstown campus. Created after feedback from students suggested a need for a single place to get information, guidance and support, the vibrant interactive space was launched on the Mall manned with specialist staff.

Bringing together a range of student services including Student Administration, Registry and Examinations Office; Student Support; Student Finance; Residential Services; Careers/Employability; The Students' Union; Sports Services, and the Office of Global Engagement it provides general support and advice creating one easy go to space for students.

Our Lough Shore legacy

With a history in this community over many decades, we started exploring ways to leave a legacy and capture the spirit and achievements of a campus that has been an academic home to so many for so long.

Earlier this year, the Jordanstown legacy working group met to generate ideas for how we might mark and celebrate our time at Jordanstown and our lasting impact. With a plan to capture the spirit of Jordanstown from a variety of perspectives over several decades the group contacted alumni, former staff and partners and neighbours of the University to capture their thoughts. One idea that has already come to fruition is the showcasing of student designed artwork celebrating the history of the campus which is now proudly on display in the mall.



BELFAST

Building the university of tomorrow

With work restarting on-site in June 2018, the past year has seen significant progress for the Greater Belfast Development build. A new addition to the skyline, levels 2-8 of the main campus buildings were completed with work on the Frederick Street site also commencing. A mixed-use development with ground floor retail opportunities and a three and a half story car park offering 350 spaces, including electric charging points and 196 bicycle stands it is on schedule to be completed in the first quarter of 2020. In addition, the mechanical and electrical contractors began on site putting glazing in place. By July 2019 there were 189 workers on site with the number set to grow.

A new website [ulster.ac.uk/campuses/gbd](http://ulster.ac.uk/campuses/gbd) with more information on the enhanced Belfast campus was launched including live camera feeds, updated news and events and a section focused on our neighbouring communities.

Engaging with the community

Alongside this physical progress, our contractors continued to work with the University in proactively engaging with residents and our neighbouring communities.

Community engagement activity was a key focus throughout the year with Professor Duncan Morrow presenting the University’s approach at The Northern Ireland Construction Conference and Expo exploring the opportunities and challenges involved and how this new campus plays an important role in delivering the University’s core mission of being a civic institution making an educational, social, cultural and economic contribution to its community.

As our contractors, Somague made progress with the build, they simultaneously met with residents and local community organisations. The work of our contractors on the campus phase two development was independently audited by the Considerate Constructors Scheme receiving an exceptional rating across all audited areas. Delivering on their social clauses Somague offered apprenticeships, student placements and job opportunities for those long-term unemployed.

University Community Benefit Framework

As part of the Greater Belfast Development and our Civic Contribution commitments, we developed jointly with Inner North Belfast and Greater Shankill Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships, the “University Community Benefit Framework”. Through this initiative, we are working with our local communities to maximise the social, educational, environmental and economic benefits that will arise from the University’s move from the Jordanstown campus to the new Belfast development. Throughout the year we began actively working on an Appreciative Inquiry into Health and Wellbeing in North Belfast, community arts activities, heritage projects and a Community Fellows Programme led by our Flexible Education Team.

Through this initiative, we are working with our local communities to maximise the social, educational, environmental and economic benefits that will arise from the University’s move from the Jordanstown campus to the new Belfast development.



Belfast Campus



North Belfast Community Framework



## EXCELLING IN EDUCATION

From renowned teaching inspired by world-class research, to first class resources and facilities, all within an inclusive, supportive learning environment, we place ambition at the heart of everything we do to ensure our students excel and unleash their full potential.

An outward looking university that is committed to widening access to education, our strong industry partnerships and dedicated and talented staff create an exceptional environment to prepare the minds that will make the future.

# Excelling in Education

WE ARE AWARD WINNING

Best Business and Third Level Institution Collaboration Award

Ulster University’s Business School (UUBS) collected the award for Best Business and Third Level Institution Collaboration at the annual Education Awards in Dublin. The award-winning submission was the successful collaboration between the University’s Food and Consumer Testing Suite (FACTS) with businesses across a wide range of projects relating to new product development, product testing, marketing and driving internal efficiencies.

The category commended them for working together with businesses to support food and drink manufacturers in all aspects of the product innovation process including sensory evaluation, nutritional testing, shelf-life testing as well as market research relating to consumer perceptions around pricing, branding, promotion and product placement.

**Top 10 position in PhD rankings for Doctoral College**  
The Postgraduate Research Experience Survey (PRES 2019) placed Ulster University in the top eight universities in the UK for postgraduate researcher satisfaction. The national benchmarking exercise surveys postgraduate research students from over 100 universities across the UK about their postgraduate research experience. Highlights for Ulster’s Doctoral College include; third for research culture, ninth for responsibilities and professional development and placement in the highest quarter for progression, research skills and resources.

**School of Education recognised as excellent**  
Our School of Education was recognised for its excellence and strategic leadership in the Education Training Inspectorate’s (ETI) report. Celebrating its 50th anniversary, the School of Education has played a vital role in the changing landscape of teacher training and the education sector by preparing students for a rewarding career in the classroom and responding to the emerging demands of the curriculum and schools’ leadership.



Education Award success for Best Business and Third Level Institution Collaboration



UUBS and first derivatives masters

WE ARE CREATING COURSES FOR THE FUTURE

UUBS partners with global businesses on new Masters programmes

Embracing opportunities in the expanding fintech sector, Ulster University Business School (UUBS) designed a bespoke postgraduate programme for multinational software and consulting firm First Derivatives.

With plans for rapid growth, First Derivatives were aware of the huge demands on the skills market of such sustained expansion. Alongside the company’s HR team, UUBS co-created the MSc in Global Capital Markets to fit the specific skills needs of First Derivatives for now and anticipated for the future.

In January 2019 alongside PwC, Ulster University launched the UK’s first Masters degree in Professional Services Operational Delivery. The innovative partnership between PwC’s Operate division and the UUBS, provides the opportunity for participants to undertake a customised part-time programme leading to a prestigious MSc qualification.

These new Masters programmes represent a firm commitment to recognising the necessity for educational institutions and employers to be in touch with the needs of the modern economy. By working alongside professional colleagues, we can optimise educational product development to provide highly relevant and progressive programmes.

Developing the next generation of lawyers

The Legal Innovation Centre and AI software provider, Neota Logic, partnered in the delivery of a leading-edge Law Tech and Innovation in Practice course.



UU Media Students

We are one of four law schools in Europe running modules using the Neota Logic System, a no-code development platform for the automation of professional services. In what is a first for legal education in Northern Ireland, our students had the opportunity to learn how to map, design and build digital legal solutions using the Neota Logic System.

Students showcase their skills at The Open

Ulster University second-year media students put theory into practice by working in key roles during The 148th Open Championship. The students were part of the group of 100 Ulster University students who secured work and volunteering opportunities during the competition.

The selected media students secured roles as production runners, graphics operators, monitor display changers and camera operators for the event. They were a central part of the production team, helping to manage the live feed in the main production hub and working alongside the directors to ensure the visuals were transmitted smoothly. This unique opportunity allowed students to gain invaluable experience behind the scenes in seeing how a large-scale, international outside live-event broadcast operates.

New radio and University partnership to find next media stars

The University teamed up with Downtown Radio and Cool FM in an exciting new partnership to help prepare student journalists for the workplace. The link-up with the MA in Journalism course gives students a unique opportunity to experience life at Downtown Radio. As part of this partnership, one student is offered an internship at the end of their year-long course, and during this, they will get to work on all aspects of radio broadcasting along with digital and social media training.



Legal Innovation and AI Software Provider Neota Logic - New Law Tech and Innovation In Practice Course

**Largest university disaster simulation exercise**

Ulster University’s Magee campus was the site of the largest university disaster simulation exercise to take place on the island of Ireland. Over 320 participants were involved in the all-day event in March when students faced several different scenarios designed to challenge them in dealing with serious injuries and emotional trauma, to test their ability in responding to mass casualties, gunshot wounds, chemical attacks and flooding.

Students of Nursing, Paramedic Practice and International Journalism: Hostile Environment Reporting participated in the event, which included involvement from The Red Cross, St John’s Ambulance and Foyle Search and Rescue. Incorporated into one of the modules for final year students, the simulation allowed them to participate in active learning whilst highlighting the need to pursue healthy coping mechanisms in the face of trauma.



Novosco Camp

**Working with Novosco to develop future IT skills**

In a drive to inspire the next generation of IT talent we gave 40 school pupils from around Northern Ireland the chance to sample life with a leading IT business as part of a summer initiative to develop future computing skills.

Facilitated by professional IT engineers from Novosco working alongside specialist lecturers from the School of Computing and drawing on expertise from the Connected Health Innovation Centre at the University pupils experienced sessions in our smart environment labs, which include robots and some of the latest smart technologies at the free camp.



Science shop 30th anniversary



**Introducing the Ulster Screen Academy**

The Ulster Screen Academy was launched within the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (AHSS) bringing together Northern Ireland’s top talent in screen production, animation, games, VFX, photography and creative design.

The driving force behind Northern Ireland’s fast-growing screen industry, the launch of the Ulster Screen Academy draws together the wide range of courses and research across the Faculty focussing our activity on generating new research, jobs and opportunities in film, television, animation, games and the immersive technologies.

**New course on hedging risk in the agri-food industry**

A new course, offered by the Agri-Food Business Development Centre at Ulster University Business School, aiming to assist companies in dealing with risk of price volatility with the use of financial instruments had its first intake in January. The course was developed following a visit by agri-food business representatives to the university’s Financial Innovation Lab and aims to raise awareness around the use of derivative products to hedge against the uncertainty and volatility encountered by producers, particularly in the dairy sector.



Helping primary school pupils to understand their emotions and build resilience on World Mental Health Day



Waves Portrush

**Our Coleraine campus has 750 STEM graduates each year which are helping to shape the future of the industry in NI and beyond.**

**WE ARE GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY**

**Northern Ireland’s first age-friendly university**

Endorsing the ten principles of the international Age-Friendly University Initiative, we were recognised as Northern Ireland’s first age-friendly university.

Now part of an international group of higher education institutions dedicated to addressing the challenges and opportunities presented by a rapidly ageing population, we are committed to widening access to higher education by enhancing the lives of older members of the local community through innovative educational programmes, civic engagement and research.

**Science Shop celebrates 30 years**

A collaboration between Queen’s University Belfast and Ulster University, the Science Shop, which supports hundreds of community groups across Northern Ireland, celebrated its 30th anniversary in February. Established in 1988, the Science Shop contributes valuable research expertise and enables knowledge transfer into the community and voluntary sectors across the region as part of the wider european network of Science Shops. Over the past five years alone the Science Shop has delivered 1,314 community research projects, with 4,894 students and 366 community organisations taking part. These groups have included sports clubs, youth groups and environmental organisations.

**Helping primary school pupils on World Mental Health Day**

To mark World Mental Health Day in October, over 90 primary school pupils came together at our Coleraine campus for a series of workshops promoting positive psychological wellbeing. Research has shown that 50 percent of mental health problems emerge by the age of 14 so early intervention and mental health promotion are of paramount importance.

Researchers from Ulster University’s Institute of Mental Health Sciences shared their knowledge and expertise with children from the local community to promote positive mental health and wellbeing. Primary Sheven pupils from Leaney Primary School in Coleraine, St. Matthew’s Primary School in Limavady and Ballycastle Integrated Primary School took part in three workshops focusing on understanding emotions and how to build resilience.

**Bringing STEM to the Air Waves Festival**

This year we exhibited at the Air Waves Festival in Portrush to get more people excited about STEM. Featuring an array of interactive stalls from employers and educators that are pioneers in the industry, staff and students from the Faculty of Life and Health Sciences demonstrated to the future generations the excitement and variety that a career in STEM can offer. Our Coleraine campus has 750 STEM graduates each year which are helping to shape the future of the industry in NI and beyond.



# PIONEERING RESEARCH WITH IMPACT

Every day our cutting-edge research and innovation is making a difference to thousands of people and their communities.



# Pioneering research with impact



## WE ARE LEADERS OF CHANGE AND INNOVATION

### Huge Growth Forecast for the Creative Industries Sector

Through a new multi-million pound Creative Industries Institute, we're facilitating collaboration with industry, government and civic partners to significantly increase employment on the industry and encourage product and service development.

One such initiative is set to deliver a £400m increase in Gross Value Added (GVA) to boost the local economy. The 'Future Screens NI' project, funded by the AHRC Creative Industries Cluster Programme, is a collaboration between Queen's University Belfast, and other partners such as the BBC and Belfast City Council, as well as a large number of local SMEs working in the immersive technology, gaming and animation sectors.

### Changing lives in Sub-Sahara Africa

The University has developed an off-grid energy access project in Botswana, which has the potential to transform standards of living for people in Sub-Sahara Africa. The pilot 'SolaFin2Go' field trial is the first of its kind and invests in reliable, affordable and secure distributed energy solutions for communities with unreliable or no grid connectivity. 'SolaFin2Go' is powering buildings in Botswana including a primary school with 150 pupils. The system installed at the school generates up to 2kWh of electricity per day to power computers, a refrigerator, and other electrical equipment. The prototype also provides up to 100 litres of hot water each day for kitchen use. More than 1.3bn people

worldwide lack access to electricity, and reducing this number is critical to bringing opportunity and prosperity to developing countries.

The project has the potential to transform standards of living for over 600m people in Sub-Sahara Africa who live without access to electricity, with 90 percent of the population directly burning solid fuel for cooking, boiling water, lighting and heating.

### Tackling global water challenge with easy-to-use smart devices

According to the United Nations, three in ten people lack access to safely managed drinking water services and each day, nearly 1,000 children die due to preventable water and sanitation-related diarrheal diseases. Ulster University's SAFEWATER project is tackling this global challenge with the development of innovative smart devices to quickly tell if water is safe to drink.



SAFEWATER is developing autonomous Internet of Things (IoT) devices that can rapidly determine microbiological water quality in remote locations without the need for highly skilled staff or specific microbiology laboratories. The IoT prototype devices are no bigger than a coffee cup. The user simply adds the water to the device and closes the lid. Within a matter of hours the device notifies the user of a positive or negative result for faecal contamination, but also communicates via the cloud to inform researchers of the information including position, time, and level of contamination. The community can then take steps to make their water safe. This is a major step forward in the fight against waterborne disease, and for surveillance of outbreaks.

**At the forefront of the battle against pancreatic cancer**  
Pancreatic cancer remains one of the most lethal cancers, with little improvement in survival outcomes in the last 40 years. We have developed a new treatment that could have a dramatic impact on outcomes and quality of life for pancreatic and other cancers.

Sonotarg technology, created by professors John Callan and Tony McHale, utilises ultrasound and "microbubble" technology to deliver anti-cancer treatments directly and safely into pancreatic tumours.

This proprietary platform has provided impressive size reduction in pancreatic, prostate and breast tumours in animal models to date and minimises the adverse side-effects associated with conventional chemotherapy. The technology will soon move to clinical trial stage in humans with the aim of having it available for patients within the next few years.

**Leading the field in personalised medicine**  
The Northern Ireland Centre for Stratified Medicine at Ulster University is undertaking some of the most exciting and advanced research in personalised medicine globally. This new era in medicine aims to move away from the current "one size fits all" model and replace trial and error medical diagnoses and treatment.

With the largest single critical mass of researchers solely focused on this area in Ireland, Northern Ireland Centre for Stratified Medicine (NICSM), aims to distil data into clinically useful knowledge, and apply it to develop personalised medicine diagnostic tools for a range of degenerative diseases.

The five current research clusters within the NICSM's Centre for Personalised Medicine; Clinical Decision Making and Patient Safety (CPM) are looking at heart disease, emergency surgery, acute kidney injury, unscheduled care in diabetes and diagnostic accuracy in dementia. These disease areas are associated with significant clinical need and commercial potential.

**UK Space Agency funding to explore Mars Rover route**  
Ulster University researchers were awarded funding from the UK Space Agency to assist the European Space Agency in determining the optimal route for the ExoMars rover, set to land on Mars in 2021.



The funding, part of a £375k award secured by the Environmental Sciences Research Institute will be used to investigate the effect of wind on the landing site for the ExoMars rover, a mission that will search for signs of past and present life on Mars and investigate how the water and geochemical environment varies. The three-year project in partnership with The Open University, University of Aberystwyth and Ulster University aims to understand how the wind has shaped the Oxia Planum site on Mars where the European Space Agency ExoMars rover will land.

WE ARE AWARD WINNING

**Two wins at International Conferences**  
Dr James Uhomoibhi of the Artificial Intelligence Research Group at Ulster University presented a paper entitled ‘Learning Analytics for Motivating Self-Regulated Learning and Fostering the Improvement of Digital MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) Resources’, at the International Conference on Interactive Mobile Collaboration and Learning hosted by McMaster University, Ontario, Canada.

The academic paper reported on research undertaken to explore learning analytics from different perspectives in a MOOC context. Co-authored by research colleagues from University College London and University of Warwick it won the Overall Best Research Paper Award.

Dr Farid Arya, Lecturer in Mechanical Engineering, won the Best Paper award at the International Research Conference for the second consecutive year with his paper entitled, ‘The Effect of Glass Thickness on Stress in Vacuum Glazing’. The research seeks to provide solutions in the field of Home Renewable Energy and Efficiency Technologies helping



Dr James Uhomoibhi



Ark - Lucy Michael

project set up in partnership with Cardiff University, the University of Edinburgh, and Ulster University to explore risk factors for anxiety and/or depression. The project aims to collect saliva samples and questionnaires from 40,000 people across the UK.

The study has the potential to truly transform our understanding and treatment of two common mental health conditions. Mental health is a key research priority at Ulster University; through our Institute of Mental Health Sciences we are taking a holistic approach to mental health research, exploring all aspects from gene to gym.

**Providing dramatic solutions to health care problems**  
A University research study educated nursing students in applied drama techniques, to help improve the quality of care given to patients. The innovative project attempted to address growing concern within the National Health Service (NHS) on the quality of the ‘patient experience’, by seeking to further enhance the communication skills of adult and mental health nursing students. This was achieved by adapting techniques from actor training, applied drama, puppetry and the use of simulation.

The key findings of the research showed that specific techniques derived from drama training provided nurses with a systematic approach in how to improve the quality of care given to patients generally. Through their role play students can experience real life situations and scenarios which are considered difficult or stressful and has led to increased confidence among the individual nursing students. This collaborative project has now become the focus of PhD research that is being carried out by Karl Tizzard-Kleister at Ulster University.

refugees globally and indications of emerging anti-refugee politics in the rest of the world.

In June, ARK released a further report entitled ‘The Missing T: Baseline Attitudes Towards Transgender People in Northern Ireland’ used data from the 2018 Northern Ireland Life and Times (NILT) Survey. The results from the research indicate that the majority of people in Northern Ireland described themselves as ‘not prejudiced at all’ towards people who are transgender whilst 21 percent expressed some level of prejudice.

The NILT data demonstrates the importance of collecting and analysing attitudes towards gender identities separately to attitudes towards sexual identities. The survey results point to positive attitudes towards transgender people and fairly high levels of support for the realisation of their rights.

**Genetic Links to Anxiety and Depression (GLAD) Study**

In February the University launched the Genetic Links to Anxiety and Depression (GLAD) Study in Northern Ireland. Depression and anxiety are the most common mental health disorders worldwide. In the UK, one in three people will experience significant symptoms during their lifetime. Research has consistently shown that environmental factors are important in understanding why these conditions develop and that 30-40 percent of the risk for developing both depression and anxiety is genetic. GLAD will study both environmental and genetic links to anxiety and depression to find effective treatments and improve the lives of people experiencing these disorders.

Led by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Mental Health BioResource and researchers at King’s College London, GLAD is a UK-wide



GLAD Research Launch



Dr Farid Arya

researchers to develop durable Vacuum Glazing systems to be used by industries and research institutions.

WE ARE HELPING SOCIETIES

**Attitudes towards refugees and transgender people in Northern Ireland**

Separate research reports released by ARK, a joint initiative between Ulster University and Queen’s University Belfast, found support among the public for asylum seekers and refugees in Northern Ireland as well as transgender people.

The report entitled, ‘A welcoming Northern Ireland? Understanding sentiment towards asylum seekers and refugees’, used data from the 2017 Northern Ireland Life and Times (NILT) Survey and Young Life and Times Survey. The data shows that people in Northern Ireland are largely hospitable to refugees, despite concerns we might have about racism and discrimination. This is an important finding in the context of increasing numbers of

**Tackling player wellbeing and transition out of football**  
University research into player career transition out of football to protect wellbeing provided key recommendations for UEFA, the administrative body for association football in Europe.

With serious injury, drop in form or termination of contracts having the power to bring flourishing careers and aspirations to an end, research has found that many footballers are ill-equipped to deal with this transition and the psychological consequences. Providing expertise on how football associations, players and coaches can be better supported, principal investigator Dr Gavin Breslin, Sport and Exercise Psychologist, Ulster University presented his findings at UEFA Headquarters Nyon Switzerland which recommended the promotion of dual careers and better mental health and wellbeing support to players and coaches.

**Working with the Stroke Association to help survivors**  
Developed in partnership with the Stroke Association, our report, ‘Struggling to Recover’, launched at Stormont in February, revealed that around half of all stroke survivors in Northern Ireland feel abandoned when they leave hospital and are unable to make a full recovery due to a lack of rehabilitation and on-going support.

‘Struggling to Recover’, found that Stroke survivors in Northern Ireland receive approximately one-third of the recommended 45 minutes of physiotherapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy per day with 45 percent of stroke survivors feeling abandoned when they leave hospital and 90 percent of stroke survivors feel their emotional needs are not met. It is hoped the report will draw attention to the need for investment and training to provide the recommended level and intensity of rehabilitation and support that all stroke survivors deserve.



**WE ARE DRIVING SUPPORT**

**Ulster University’s largest philanthropic donation from an individual received**

In October 2018 Angela Moore, the wife of the one of the founding fathers of the data analytics industry Dr George Moore, donated £5m to Ulster University to establish the Dr George Moore Chair in Data Analytics.

The Chair position will build on our 20 year track record of research excellence in intelligent systems. The Chair will be a stellar, world-class academic, who will lead an innovative research team responding dynamically to the real-world needs of data analytics. In recognition of Mrs Moore’s gift, Ulster University recruited an associated research fellow and three PhD students who will contribute to revolutionising global AI and data analytics research.

**EPSRC funding secured**

In September we were named as a research partner in a prestigious £5.3m Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) project. The programme grant is one of three across the UK supporting the investigation and execution of new approaches with wide-ranging impact.

Ulster University’s Professor Neil Hewitt is a member of the research team led by the University of Warwick, in partnership with Loughborough University, London South Bank University and Ulster University. The heating and cooling of buildings and industrial processes currently accounts for more than one third of the UK’s CO2 emissions and about half of overall energy demand. The LoT-NET project will investigate how waste heat streams from industrial and other sources can be fed into low temperature heat networks and combined with heat pump and thermal storage technologies, to address these heating and cooling needs.

**WE ARE SHARING EXPERT KNOWLEDGE**

**Ulster researcher co-authors book on food poverty**

Dr Sinéad Furey, Ulster University researcher and Lecturer in Consumer Management and Food Innovation, has co-authored a Palgrave Pivot book entitled ‘The Economics of Emergency Food Aid Provision: A Financial, Social and Cultural Perspective’, with Dr Martin Caraher, Professor of Food and Health Policy at City University London. The authors look at the historical positioning of food aid and the growth of the food aid sector in the UK, before addressing the causes of food insecurity and concluding that food banks are a symptom of austerity and government inaction which fail to tackle the underlying causes of food poverty.

Food poverty is defined as the inability to afford or access a healthy diet and is becoming recognised as a public health emergency with food banks standing as a metaphor for poverty in our society. Given the rise in reliance on food banks and current policy focus on Universal Credit, this book shines a light on the need to address food poverty by focusing on a ‘right to food’ framework and addressing those policy issues that will

increase income and benefit uptake while also reducing poverty and hunger.

**Expertise used to examine ‘The hidden wealth of cities’**

In January, Dr Peadar Davis from the Belfast School of Architecture and the Built Environment participated in the first U4 TRIAL Policy Innovation Workshop, held in Kampala, Uganda, with

the title of ‘The hidden wealth of cities – Making urban land values visible and work for all’. U4 TRIAL is a new initiative with the mission of developing ideas for addressing corruption and testing them in specific contexts.

Dr Peadar Davis was invited as a subject expert on land and valuation in Uganda, East Africa and on his knowledge of developing jurisdictions. The aim of the workshop was to introduce a small and very unique group of people from very different backgrounds – from land specialists to open data/remote sensing experts, from government and business to civil society and technology sector – to jointly brainstorm on how to advance the transparency of urban land valuation/ownership in Kampala and beyond.

**UUBS research informs Irish public health campaign**

In February, Safefood, the all-island Food Safety Promotion Board, used Ulster University’s food retail promotions research to launch their ‘Transform Your Trolley’ campaign to help shoppers make healthier choices amidst constant promotions. It was the first island of Ireland research to consider consumers’ awareness of, attitudes towards and behaviours around retail food promotions.

The research was led by Principal investigator, Dr Sinéad Furey and colleagues from the Consumer Management and Food Innovation degree programme within Ulster University Business School (UUBS), in collaboration with partners from Institute of Technology Sligo, NI Centre for Food and Health (NICHE), University College Cork, University of Surrey, Queen’s University Belfast, and University College Dublin.

**Festival of PhD Research: A Showcase and Celebration of Excellence**

In April, The Doctoral College hosted the second annual Festival of PhD Research on the Belfast, Coleraine, Jordanstown and Magee campuses. The Festival showcases and celebrates PhD research excellence at Ulster University under the key strategic research themes of: Creativity and Culture, Social Renewal, Sustainability and Healthy Communities. Over 100 PhD researchers participated by giving presentations, chairing sessions and participating in the awards presentation.



Our PhD researchers make an important contribution to the vibrant research culture of the PhD community at Ulster and the event provides them with the opportunity to come together and present their work to their peers, the Ulster researcher community and external stakeholders and guests in a supportive environment.

**Animal welfare expertise takes all-Ireland approach**

With expertise in nutrition, therapeutics, and engineering, we are striving to offer solutions to farming and industry stakeholders North and South of the Border on their animal welfare issues.

Having engaged in consultancy work with companies in the livestock and companion animal fields, we have advised graduates in these areas on start-ups and licensing deals for their technologies. Working to better support the needs of veterinary and agriculture professionals; from animal welfare – in terms of therapeutics and nutrition – to policy guidance and business management, our experts are sharing their knowledge to help find solutions.



Supporting our students'  
mental health

#mindyourmood

## CAMPUS LIFE

At Ulster we want to create vibrant, thriving campus communities. We are customer focused, connected and collaborative, sustainable and innovative, dedicated to creating a place where our students have a positive experience, our staff want to be, and our visitors and community members want to visit.

# Campus Life



UU Connect



NI Hospice Charity Shop

### New businesses boost the Jordanstown campus experience

This year saw many positive changes to the Jordanstown campus including the reimagining of public spaces, enhancement of teaching and learning spaces and the launch of UU Connect (see pg 6 for more details).

Alongside this, Clements opened their 10th branch on campus and Lemonheadz

hairdressing offered a new service for staff and students. Advocating our focus on social and environmental responsibility, The Northern Ireland Hospice ran a successful pop-up store with all proceeds going to the local charity and students gaining the opportunity to volunteer for a great cause.

**Hungry in Halls initiative helped students to cook**  
ResLife launched their new programme ‘Hungry in halls’ during semester one on the Coleraine campus with the aim of teaching students to cook.

The Campus Life team acknowledges that students need to cook nutritious food on an affordable budget and to address this, they joined forces with the Ulster University Business School and Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council to provide cookery classes and develop a healthy attitude towards food, lifestyle and wellbeing. As part of this programme, the second and third year Consumer Management and Food Innovation students taught housemates how to cook.



Campus Libraries

### Unique Art and Design shop launched online

The Unique art and design shop, based on Belfast campus, offers students and alumni the opportunity to display and sell their work and in May the online store was launched. This was made possible thanks to the work of Jill Robinson, a placement student of Information Technologies, with support from the Web Development team.

A social enterprise, Unique is home to the emerging talent of our students and serves as a distinctive retail offering for the Cathedral Quarter but also as an innovative gateway for the public, connecting the University with the city and Belfast’s vibrant artistic community.

### Campus libraries open their doors to the public

This year we established the Civic Access scheme in partnership with Libraries NI, whereby members of Northern Ireland’s 98 public libraries can now access University library resources. A great opportunity for customers of the public library service to gain access to academic material and study space, the partnership work between Ulster University and Libraries NI is a great example of how co-operation can result in improved services and availability of resources for customers and the general public.



Unique Art Summer Class

### First university to sign up to the R&A Women in Golf Charter

This year we pledged our commitment to increasing the number of women and girls playing and working in golf by signing up to the R&A Women in Golf Charter. The Charter aims to inspire an industry-wide commitment to developing a more inclusive culture within golf around the world and enable more women and girls to flourish and maximise their potential at all levels of the sport. We have committed to working with The R&A and key stakeholders to develop and deliver innovative programmes to increase awareness, participation and performance levels of women and girls in golf within and beyond the University.



Wo/men’s Network Launch

### Ulster University Wo/men’s Network launched

In January the Wo/men’s Network launched and met for the first time. Set up to provide a supportive space for women and men to focus primarily on specific issues

of interest to them, and to encourage them in their careers and well-being, Professor Karise Hutchinson opened the event highlighting the importance of networks in a large organisation to develop connections and encourage progression. Championed by a number of staff, the new network will host a range of events with steering groups established on each campus to ensure specific campus needs are met.



Staff Reading Groups

### Book Clubs for Staff announced on World Book Day

On World Book Day 2019 the University announced the decision to establish book clubs for staff. The creation of a staff book club gives staff an opportunity to meet and network across the University. The book club is just one way in which we are working to build campus communities by offering

staff social activities that allow people to connect and in turn, make the University a happy and healthy place to work.

### Young Enterprise ‘Start Up’ Programme launched

The UUSU Enterprise Centre is now delivering the new Start Up programme in partnership with Young Enterprise. Start Up marks the next stage in the Young Enterprise charity’s aim to foster a culture of enterprise amongst young people that goes beyond business studies, offering practical, real world experience in developing and running their own venture.

The introduction of the YE Start UP Programme complements the UUSU Enterprise Centre, which is now in its second



year. The UUSU Enterprise Centre supports students and graduates in achieving and developing their ambitions through a range of programmes, competitions, advisory services and funding opportunities.

### Celebrating Magee’s #DerryGirls

With the second series of Derry Girls on our screens the Marketing and Communications team created a social media campaign celebrating the Magee campus’ very own Derry Girls. Piggybacking on the success of the TV show, digital assets aligned with each episode placed the stars of our Magee campus at the heart of the discussions online.

### Mind Your Mood Belfast City Marathon project

A group of brave Ulster University students and staff completed the 26 miles of the Belfast City Marathon in support of Mind Your Mood. As well as partaking in the marathon to raise vital funds, those running were part of a valuable experiment to help experts assess the impact of physical activity on wellbeing and in turn understand how Ulster University can positively influence the student experience. All participants undertook a gruelling 20-week training programme in preparation and made a series of videos highlighting how the challenge has had an impact on their lives, why it was such a beneficial experience and to encourage people to donate. Thriving campus communities is about creating the opportunity for better connection and this project is a great example of how we can bring students and staff from across the University together who would otherwise not have met.

### Campus defibrillators saving lives

Sports Centre staff and users at the Coleraine campus saved a man’s life thanks to their first aid knowledge and the fitness centre’s defibrillator. Staff member Adrian Ferson, along with two other gym users Clare Tracy and Alli Lobach managed to stabilise the person after a collapse until paramedics arrived. Across all four campuses, the University has defibrillators located at the campus reception desks, in our Sports Centres and in various Schools, as well as in the SPAR in Jordanstown. To support the use of defibrillators, the University offers a two-hour Heartstart course to staff and over 300 people have completed this course in the last five years.



Campus defibrillator Adrian Ferson

# REALISING OUR GLOBAL VISION

Our global vision is premised on building a globally engaged and globally relevant university; one which collaborates with the leading universities in the world and that attracts the highest quality staff and students. We want to embrace a highly multicultural community of learners, promote a strong, internationally relevant curriculum, and deliver a transformative international experience for all students.





# Realising Our Global Vision

## FORGING GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

**South Asia Opportunities Day**  
The Office for Global Engagement hosted South Asia Opportunities Day in June, showcasing the wealth of partnerships, research and student engagement opportunities in the region.

Dr Ibrahim Haneef, Air University, presented Pakistan’s Transnational Educational (TNE) Strategy, while Dr Cat Button, Newcastle University and Professor Tony Byrne, School of Engineering shared collaborative research expertise and GCRF and Horizon 2020 funding successes. The University’s student recruitment and research in South Asia was highlighted by Noel Selvin and Humair Ahmad, Country Managers and Teresa Lennon, Head of Research Development, while regional expertise was provided by British Council and Invest NI.

The event has led to increased partnership activity, including the inaugural Pakistan Science Fair Awards and establishing articulation pathways allowing students from strategic partner institutions in India to complete their degrees at Ulster University.

**Expansion for 15 year Chinese strategic partnership**  
Building upon an existing 15-year partnership, which by July 2018 had enabled more than 200 Chinese students to complete part of their degree in Northern Ireland, a new agreement with Dongbei University of Finance and Economics (DUFE) will facilitate collaborative research activity in business and foster increased staff exchange between the institutions. Additionally, there will be new opportunities in the area of joint course development and for students from Ulster University Business School to study in China.

**DUFE’s Finance and Accounting courses are ranked in the top 10 in the whole of China, a country which has almost 3,000 universities.**



DUFE’s Finance and Accounting courses are ranked in the top 10 in the whole of China, a country which has almost 3,000 universities. These networks and relationships are enormously beneficial for Ulster University and help to raise awareness of Northern Ireland in the Chinese market.

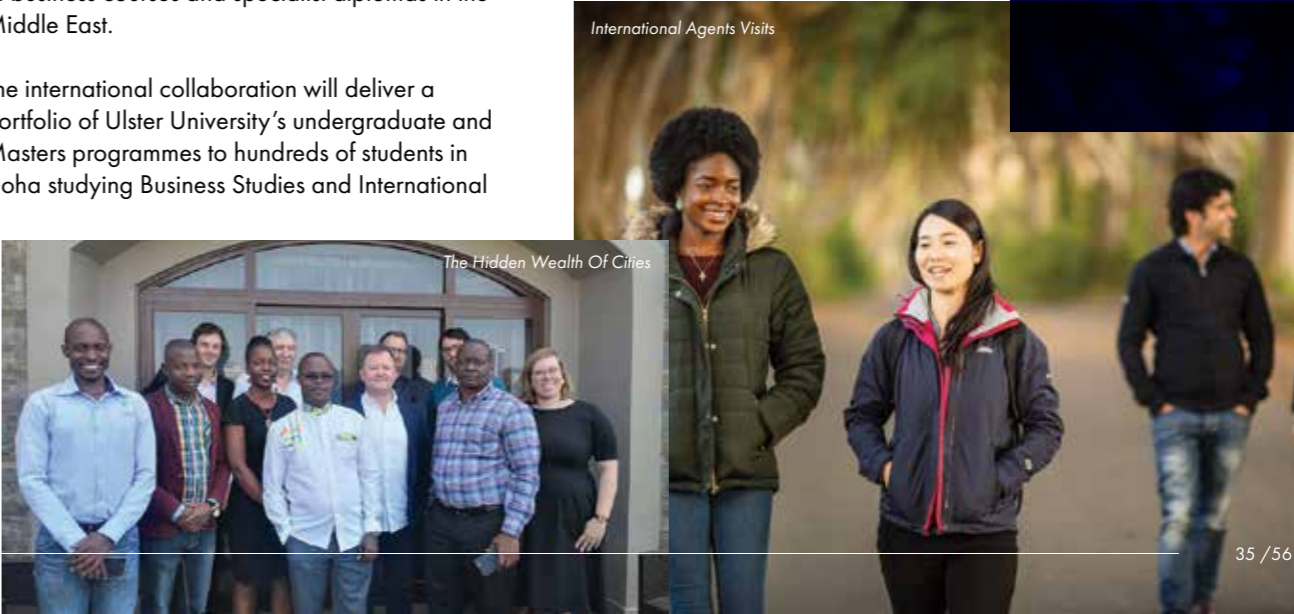
**Ulster College established at Shaanxi University of Science and Technology**  
The Chinese Ministry of Education has granted approval for the establishment of the Ulster College at Shaanxi University of Science and Technology (SUST) in Shaanxi Province. The Ulster College was officially unveiled at the Silk Road Education Cooperation Expo held in Xi’an in May 2019. The courses to be delivered at SUST centre around Mechanical Engineering, Technology with Design, and Computer Science. Students from Ulster College will be able to study at Ulster University in Northern Ireland, for either one or two years of their programme, adding to the diversity of our student population.

**Boosting higher education provision in Doha**  
The University partnered with City College, a new vocational higher education institution in Doha to establish an affiliate college that aims to boost higher education provision of business courses and specialist diplomas in the Middle East.

The international collaboration will deliver a portfolio of Ulster University’s undergraduate and Masters programmes to hundreds of students in Doha studying Business Studies and International

Business from September 2019. Further strengthening our internationalisation agenda and continued global education export efforts, the affiliate college has been endorsed by Invest NI, British Council and the Department of Trade and Industry, Qatar.

**PUTTING ULSTER ON THE WORLD STAGE**  
**International Education Agents welcomed to Ulster**  
Ulster University’s Office for Global Engagement welcomed 55 international education agents, from 13 different countries for the University’s largest initiative of its kind, with the agents spending time on each campus to learn about the very best of what Ulster has to offer. The success of the trip was highlighted with 100 percent of the agents very likely to recommend Ulster (only 40 percent prior to the event) and 100 percent rating the event as very good or excellent. This successful engagement, planned and managed by the recruitment and engagement team in association with Faculty colleagues, is already providing tangible benefits with students enrolled via international agents increasing by 156 percent.



**Abu Dhabi emergency services visit Ulster University**

A senior delegation from the Abu Dhabi emergency services visited the University in October to discuss co-operation in the areas of emergency trauma and building resilience for staff working in emergency settings, major incident and search and rescue.

The delegation undertook a dedicated postgraduate programme organised by the School of Psychology within the Faculty of Life and Health Sciences. Delivered over four weeks, it covered areas including the recruitment and selection of emergency staff, police mental health and trauma psychology. The visit marked the start of an exciting partnership that will be cemented through the creation of a formal Memorandum of Understanding and is vitally important to increasing our global reach and reputation.

**Visit from top Chinese medical university students**

Forty postgraduate medical students from Jilin University, China, completed an eight day visit to the Magee campus. The students, who were guests of the Faculty of Life and Health Sciences, met research and teaching staff within the fields of nursing, pharmacy and personalised medicine. Professor Louise Dubras, the Foundation Dean of Ulster's Graduate Entry Medical School, offered the students an insight into the health and social care field in the UK, supported by colleagues from the Western Health and Social Care Trust.

Jilin is one of China's leading medical institutions, ranked in the country's top 20 universities offering this discipline. Some of the students expressed a desire to continue their postgraduate studies, including at Doctoral level, at Ulster and a long-term collaboration between the two institutions is intended to follow this initial visit.



**First UK host of The International Build Peace Conference**

In October, for the first time in the UK, the University was host to the international Build Peace Conference with most events held on Belfast campus. During this three-day event, approximately 250 delegates from around the world attended a wide range of short talks, workshops and conversations on the theme of 'Re-imagining prosperity: Alternative economies for peace'. The conference took place 20 years after the signing of the Good Friday Agreement and brought together academics, politicians and activists to share their experience and ideas on using technology, arts and other innovations for peacebuilding and conflict transformation.



**INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS**

**Mitchell scholarship winner to study at Ulster University**

Alison Mahoney was selected from a record 370 applications to receive the prestigious Mitchell Scholarship and will study Contemporary Performance Practices at Ulster University, beginning her studies in September 2019. The Mitchell Scholarship, founded in 1998 and named in honour of Senator George Mitchell's contributions to the Northern Ireland peace process, sends future American leaders to universities across the island of Ireland for a year of graduate study.



**23 Ulster University students were selected to take part in the British Council's prestigious Study USA programme.**

**Students secure place on US scholarship programme**

23 Ulster University students were selected to take part in the British Council's prestigious Study USA programme. The programme involves students studying business or STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) related subjects in American colleges, across 34 States, with the aim of developing their career prospects when they return to Northern Ireland.

**Transatlantic peace scholarships announced by Bill Clinton**

In June, former President of the United States, Bill Clinton, joined Ulster University and Dublin City University representatives in New York to announce three transatlantic PhD scholarships in Peace Studies.. Alongside Dublin City University, we are collaborating with the University of Massachusetts (UMass) in the development of a new peace and conflict studies research programme to be delivered at Magee campus in Derry~Londonderry, in Dublin and at the UMass Amherst campus.

The partnership establishes three Clinton PhD Scholarships in Peace Studies in recognition of the vital role President Clinton played in supporting and encouraging the often challenging journey to secure peace in Northern Ireland after decades of conflict. Linkages between the three scholars will enable the sharing of expertise in peace studies at each university and will forge academic and civic exchanges between the universities and their local communities.





## INSPIRING PEOPLE

At Ulster University it is our people and their successes that truly set us apart. Our students are at the centre of everything we do and with an outstanding reputation for teaching we are creating an educational experience that develops skills, raises ambitions and prepares future leaders.

# Student And Alumni Successes

## STUDENT AND ALUMNI SUCCESSES

Finance and Investment Management student, **Luke Mulligan**, has won a Chartered Institute for Securities and Investment (CISI) Educational Trust Award. Luke won the PwC Operate Award to pay for completion of two CISI exams, before going on to achieve the University nomination for the Best Performing Eligible Undergraduate studying for a CISI exam (a CISI Educational Trust Award).

**Oluwashina Akinsanmi** was named winner of the 3MT® Final held at the Belfast campus in May. The 3MT® is a research communication competition, which challenges our PhD Researchers to present their thesis in just three minutes, using non-specialist language. This year's 3MT® winner at Ulster was Oluwashina Akinsanmi from the School of Geography and Environmental Sciences, whose presentation was entitled Antibiotic Resistance Crisis: The Sawdust Redemption.

**Victoria McKittrick**, a recent Ulster University BSc (Hons) Environmental Health graduate, was awarded a prize from Safefood, for her undergraduate research on the food hygiene rating scheme. Victoria presented her research findings at a joint Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH)/Environmental Health Association of Ireland (EHAi) conference in Kilkenny in May 2019. Her dissertation supervisor was Ulster University Lecturer Dr. Marie Vaganay Miller.

First-year history student, **Robert Hunter** won a place on the prestigious Flanders Fields Bursary Scheme. The scheme, funded by the Irish Embassy in Belgium, allows students from universities in Ireland to spend three weeks at the In Flanders Fields Museum in Ypres. Students are tasked with expanding and updating the digital archive of the 50,000 Irish soldiers who lost their lives during



Luke Mulligan CISI Award

Proudly supported by



Michael Boyd



Victoria McKittrick

the First World War and Robert is one of the small number of students chosen from universities across Ireland to assist with the project.

Recent Ulster graduate, **Hannah McCartney** won the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health's (CIEH NI) David Montgomery Award for her outstanding performance in her BSc Hons Environmental Health degree.

Ulster University Postgraduate Student of the Year, **Katie Christie**, graduated with a PhD in Molecular Medicine. In January, she followed in the footsteps of her supervisor Professor Tara Moore, taking up a five-year post-doctoral position at the prestigious Harvard University in Boston, a world-leading university for biomedical science and biotechnology.

**Michael Boyd**, Director of Football Development at the Irish Football Association (IFA) was named as First Trust Bank /Ulster University Distinguished Graduate of the Year 2018/19. Michael graduated from Ulster University with an Advanced Diploma in Management Practice in 2005, an MSc in Communication, Advertising and Public Relations in 2001 and a BA Hons Sport and Leisure Studies in 1999. His career with the IFA began as a placement student during his undergraduate degree and has gone from strength to strength. An inspirational leader he has secured millions of EU funding and transformed Northern Irish football.



Katie Christie - Top Spot At Harvard Medical School For Ulster University Phd Graduate

**Recent Ulster graduate, Hannah McCartney won the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health's (CIEH NI) David Montgomery Award for her outstanding performance in her BSc Hons Environmental Health degree.**



**Professor James McLaughlin** has been recognised for his exceptional contribution to keeping the nation healthy. At the forefront of research in the connected health sector his work focuses on developing technology to enhance patient care and deliver cost efficiencies for the healthcare industry.

He was announced as one of the Nation's Lifesavers – the top 100 individuals or groups based in universities whose work is saving lives and making a life-changing difference to our health and wellbeing. Head of School of Engineering, he has co-invented many devices that enable the early detection of potentially life-threatening heart rhythms, most recently the wearable Zensor device - a comfortable and discreet body-worn monitor that intelligently measures ECG, heart and respiration rate with skin temperature.



Professor Peter Flatt

**Professor Peter Flatt**, Research Director of Biomedical Sciences at Ulster University was named as the number one insulin researcher in the UK. The list of the top 30 insulin researchers in the UK, based on the significance and impact of research published by the authors, was produced by Expertscape and published in association with Diabetes Times. An internationally respected authority in the field of regulatory peptides, glucoregulatory drugs and experimental diabetes research, his work has helped shape our understanding of diabetes.

**Dr Kathleen McCracken** won the Seamus Heaney Award for New Writing 2019 for her poem 'Chironomy'. The Seamus Heaney Award for New Writing is organised by the Community Arts Partnership and funded by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland. Kathleen, who is a Lecturer in Creative Writing and Contemporary Literature, is an established poet and author of eight collections of poetry.



Kathleen McCracken

# Exellence In Teaching And Research



Dr Julie McCullough

**Dr Julie McCullough**, a Research Associate in the Centre for Maternal, Fetal and Infant Research in the Institute of Nursing and Health Research, has been awarded a Federation of Holistic Therapists (FHT) Highly Commended

Complementary Therapist of the Year Award. The award is for those involved in academic research in complementary therapy and Julie's research in 'The CAM in pregnancy trial' saw her pick up the award at the FHT research conference in London, where she was attending as an invited speaker.



Dr Mary Hannon-Fletcher

**Dr Mary Hannon-Fletcher**, Senior Lecturer in the School of Biomedical Sciences, was presented with a Special Recognition Award at the Advancing

Healthcare Awards 2019. Mary's outstanding career spans 40 years, educating and training biomedical scientists ensuring they are healthcare leaders of the future. At Ulster she was Head of School of Health Sciences from 2011 to 2017; and works across the UK and Ireland, to ensure students graduate with the best possible clinical skills and professional practice. She is involved in the regulation and monitoring of biomedical science courses in the UK, is a member of several influential national committees and is a passionate Athena Swan (AS) and Aurora Champion working to ensure gender equality and diversity inside and outside the University.

**Professor Marlene Sinclair** was awarded a British Journal of Midwifery Lifetime Achievement Award. Marlene is Head of the Centre for Maternal, Fetal and Infant Research at the Institute of Nursing and Health Research at Ulster University and the President of the Doctoral Midwifery Research Society (DMRS). Marlene is also the founder and editor of Evidence Based Midwifery (EBM), a unique midwifery-led and midwifery-owned RCM research journal that is world class. She is the only midwife in Ireland to hold the Personal Chair for Midwifery research and is an outstanding professional midwife academic who has provided support, mentorship and guidance to 25 PhD researchers and many others in the field.



Professor Marlene Sinclair

**Professor Hugh McKenna** was appointed to the Academia Europaea, the pan-European Academy of Humanities, Letters and Sciences. The Academia was founded in 1988 as an initiative of The Royal Society to act as the co-ordinator of national research agencies and be the official scientific advisory body for the EU. He has also been appointed to the Board of Trustees of the UK Alzheimer's Society, which invests £150m in research into the care and cure of dementia. Finally, he was awarded an Honorary Doctoral Degree from the University of Maribor (Slovenia), following on from his Honorary Doctoral Degree from Edinburgh Napier University. These honours are the result of a long career in nursing during which he has produced over 250 publications including twelve books and has obtained £3.5m in grant income.



Professor Hugh McKenna



Dr Liz Doherty, Dr Malachy Ó Néill and Professor Colin Turner

Three of Ulster University's teaching staff were recognised in the Advance HE's National Teaching Fellowship (NTF) Scheme joining a distinguished group of academics across the UK recognised for their outstanding impact on student outcomes and the teaching profession in higher education. **Dr Liz Doherty** from the School of Arts and Humanities, an internationally renowned performer with extensive experience in guiding national policy in traditional music; Provost of

Ulster University's Magee campus **Dr Malachy Ó Néill** highly respected across the University for his tireless contribution to building academic communities across disciplines and faculties; and **Professor Colin Turner**, a student-centred outstanding educator from the School of Engineering were all recognised. In addition, Colin was also appointed as President of the Engineering Professors' Council (EPC).

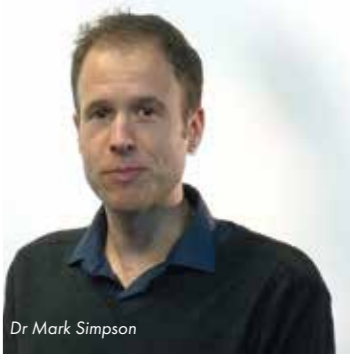


Dr Alistair McIlhagger

**Dr Alistair McIlhagger** was appointed Principal Investigator of the North West Centre for Advanced Manufacturing, which is a network of research collaboration spanning Northern

Ireland, the border region of the Republic of Ireland and the West Coast of Scotland. The function of the Centre is to address industrial-led challenges through knowledge exchange within the Life and Health Science sector.

**Dr Mark Simpson**, Lecturer in Law, has been named as one of the inaugural Members of the Scottish Commission on Social Security, the new body tasked with providing independent and expert scrutiny of the Scottish social security system.



Dr Mark Simpson

# Honorary Graduates

Each year Ulster University honours distinguished individuals who merit special recognition for achievement and distinction in a field or activity and continue to make an impact in our society.



Jonathan Rea

As one of Northern Ireland's leading sportsmen, four-time World Superbike Champion, **Jonathan Rea MBE**, received the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters (DLitt) for his outstanding contribution to sport.

The Director-General of the BBC, **Lord Tony Hall**, received the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters (DLitt) for his civic contribution in transforming the BBC, along with the promotion of skills, employability and the regeneration of local communities.



Lord Tony Hall



Suren Gupta

services to astrophysics and the promotion of women in the fields of physics and astronomy.

An influential and inspirational leader in a global business, **Suren Gupta** received the honorary degree of Doctor

of Science (DSc) for services to the Northern Ireland economy at company, sectoral and regional level.

A trustee for various voluntary organisations, **John Hunter** received the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws (LLD) for distinguished services to the University as Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council.



John Hunter



Eamonn Baker

Devoting 30 years of his life to conflict resolution, **Eamonn Baker** received the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws (LLD) for services

to conflict resolution and to the community in the North West of Ireland.

An inspirational role model for countless women physicists, **Dame Susan Jocelyn Bell Burnell** received the honorary degree of Doctor of Science (DSc) for her



Michael Hutton

**Michael Hutton** received the honorary degree of Doctor of Science (DSc) for services to addressing segregation and the development of young people through education, sport and community engagement.

Dedicating his career to Belfast Boys Model School, **Alan Logan** received the honorary degree of Doctor of Science (DSc) for services to education and his role in inspiring pupils to strive for better. Born in Co. Down and now residing



Dame Susan  
Jocelyn Bell Burnell



Alan Logan

in Belfast, he has positively impacted the educational achievement, aspirations and lives of pupils, their families and the community.



Tony Macaulay

A graduate of Ulster University **Tony Macaulay** received the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters (DLitt) for services to literature and peace building at home and abroad. An author, broadcaster,

peacebuilder, leadership consultant and suicide prevention advocate, he has spent over 30 years working to build peace and reconciliation at home and abroad with hundreds of youth and community groups, schools, churches and government agencies.



Katie Mullan

Making sporting history in 2018, **Katie Mullan** received the honorary degree of Doctor of Science (DSc) for outstanding services as captain of Ireland's Ladies Hockey team.

Pipe Major for The Field Marshal Montgomery Pipe Band, **Richard Parkes MBE** received the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters (DLitt) for services to pipe band music nationally and internationally.



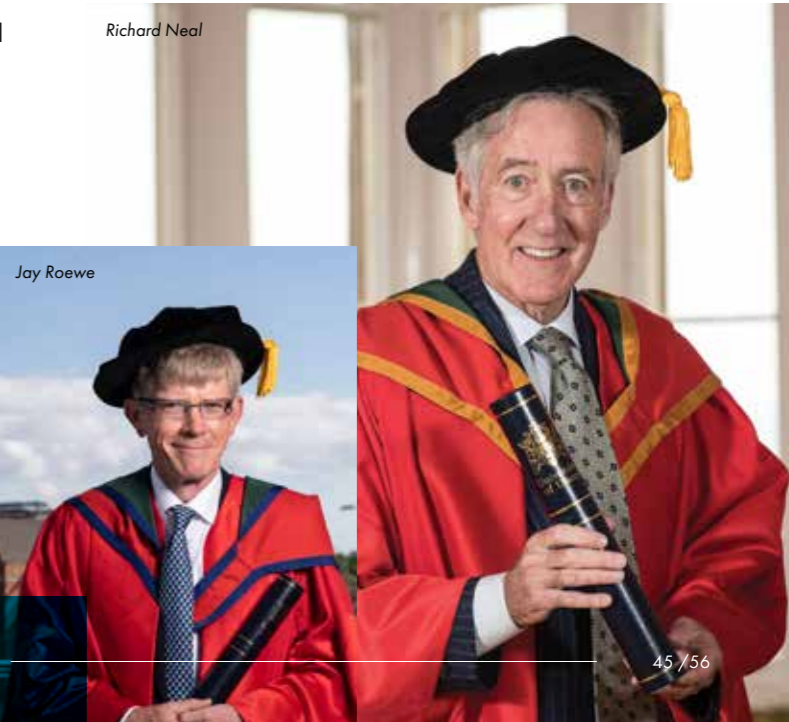
Richard Parkes



Martha Pope

American **Martha Pope** received the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws (LLD) for outstanding contribution to peace talks, which led to the Good Friday Agreement.

Senior Vice President of West Coast Production at Home Box Office (HBO) **Jay Roewe** received the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters (DLitt) for services to the Screen Industries in Northern Ireland.



Richard Neal

Jay Roewe

**Congressman Richard Neal** was awarded an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws (LLD) by Ulster University for his outstanding contribution to peace and conflict resolution across the island of Ireland and for profiling Irish concerns throughout his Congressional career. The degree was conferred upon him by Vice-Chancellor and President of Ulster University, Professor Paddy Nixon at a ceremony attended by Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi.

The Chief Constable of the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) **Sir George Hamilton** was awarded an Honorary Degree for his outstanding contribution to policing within community and for his leadership of the PSNI. The degree, Doctor of Laws (LLD), was conferred upon him by Vice-Chancellor and President of Ulster University, Professor Paddy Nixon, at a ceremony on Belfast campus.



Sir George Hamilton

# FINANCIAL REVIEW

Despite the challenging political and economic environment in which the University operated, the University has been able to operate in line with the approved finance strategy targets for the last twelve months with a reported deficit before gains and deficit of £32.3m against a surplus in the previous year of £10.7m. The significant deficit being due to a downwards pension adjustment of £43m.

All these achievements have happened despite not having political agreement on a sustainable funding strategy for the sector; the collapse of the devolved administration; stalled political decision making; uncertainty over Brexit and the continued disparity in funding between Ulster University and its UK competitors.

# Financial Review

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements comprise the financial results of the University consolidated with the results of its subsidiary company. The University is an independent educational charity whose legal status is derived from a Royal Charter granted in 1984. The distinctiveness of the University within the higher education sector places it within a small group of institutions that are research engaged and business focused with significant commercialisation of research, major knowledge transfer relationships. It has a focus on contributing to economic, social and cultural development in Northern Ireland and its global standing.

Financial Sustainability Indicators	2019 Actual	2018 Actual		Comments
(Deficit)/surplus after taxation as a % of total income	(13.2%)	6.8%		This indicates the charge of £43m actuarial deficit on the pension funds
Surplus as a % of income after deducting pension provision movement	5.6%	7%		This indicates the level of return necessary for investment in capital
Earnings before Interest, Tax, Depreciation and Amortisation (EBITDA)	£24.9m	£20.9m		This is a measure of operating surplus excluding accounting adjustments and finance charges. It is a good indicator of financial capability to service debt and/or capital expenditure from internally generated cash
Liquidity ratio	129 days	211 days		This measures our ability to fund short term cash requirements

## LONG TERM BORROWING INDICATORS

Long term borrowing indicators are targets set within the Financial Memorandum and Banking Covenants established to support the Greater Belfast Development.

	2019 Actual	2018 Actual		Comments
Current assets to current liabilities	2.6:1	3.4:1		An indicator of financial strength to meet short term liabilities
% Income from No-Government Sources	27%	26%		This measures the diversification of income sources

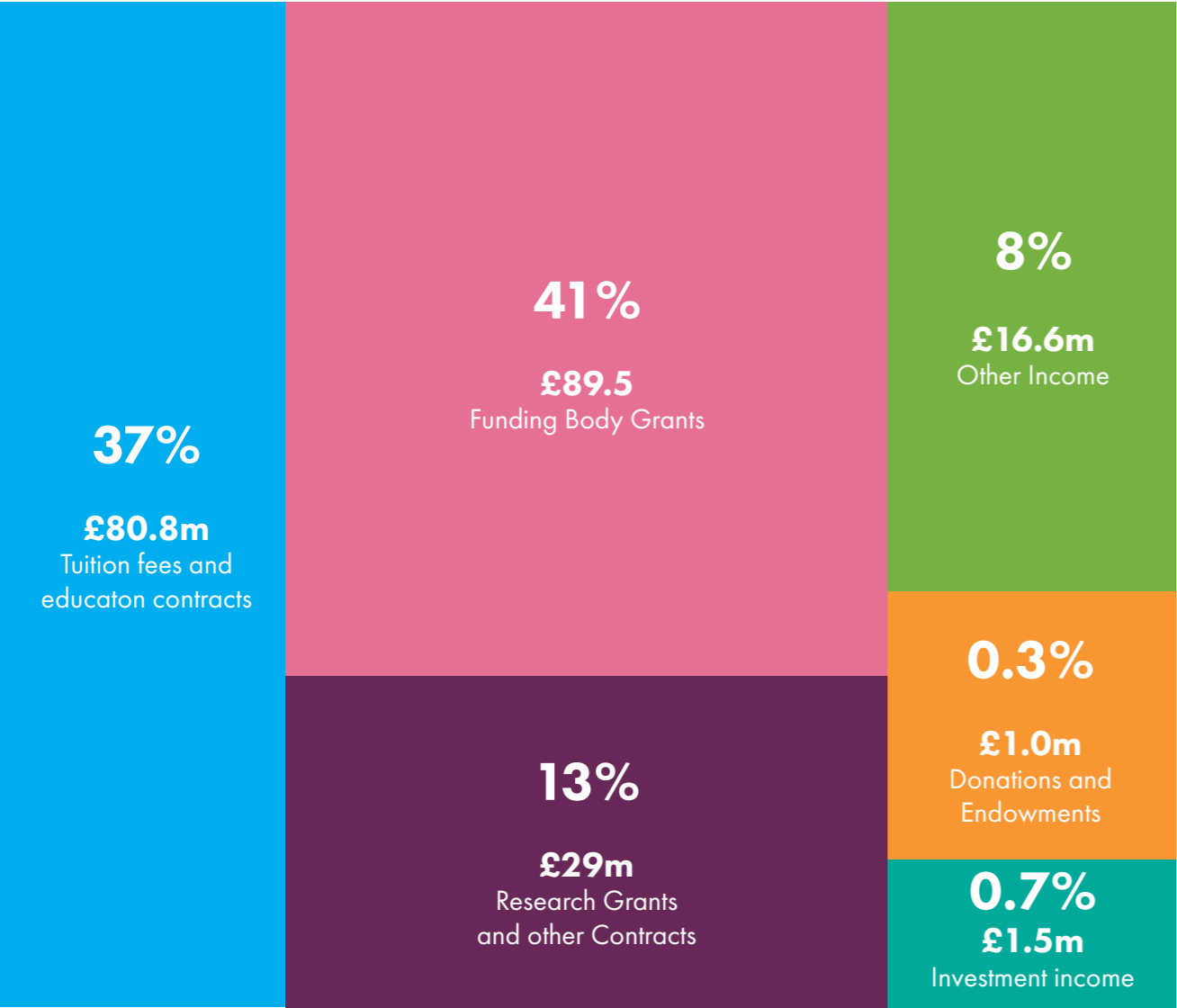
## SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Key Performance Indicators from the financial statements

Year Ended 31 July Indicators	2019	2018	2017	2016	2016
Total income in £m	218.3	210.0	203.2	188.0	201.3
Surplus/(Deficit) before Gains and Losses £m	(32.2)	10.7	13.1	(3.6)	(7.4)
EBITDA £m	24.9	20.9	32.9	19.9	18.6
Net assets £m	262.3	308.7	277.3	259.6	264.5

These tables provide further information on the University’s financial statements.

SOURCES OF INCOME 2018/19

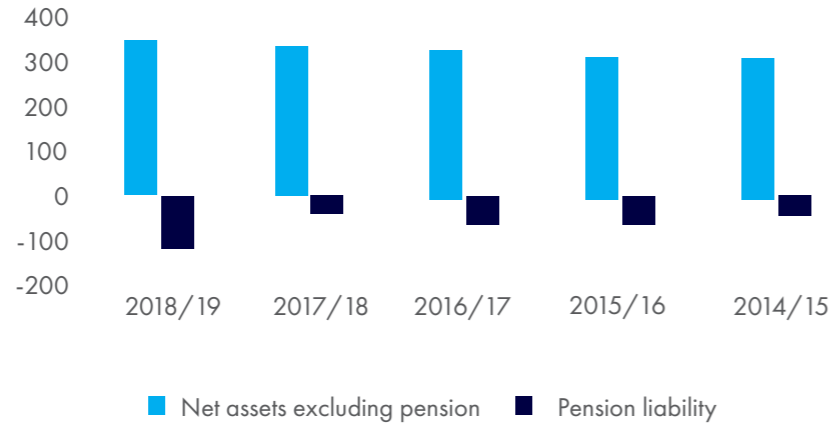


HOW WE ALLOCATE OUR RESOURCES 2018/19



FINANCIAL WORTH OF UNIVERSITY 2014/15 TO 2018/19

The underlying financial strength of the University is demonstrated by the financial worth which is shown to the right:-



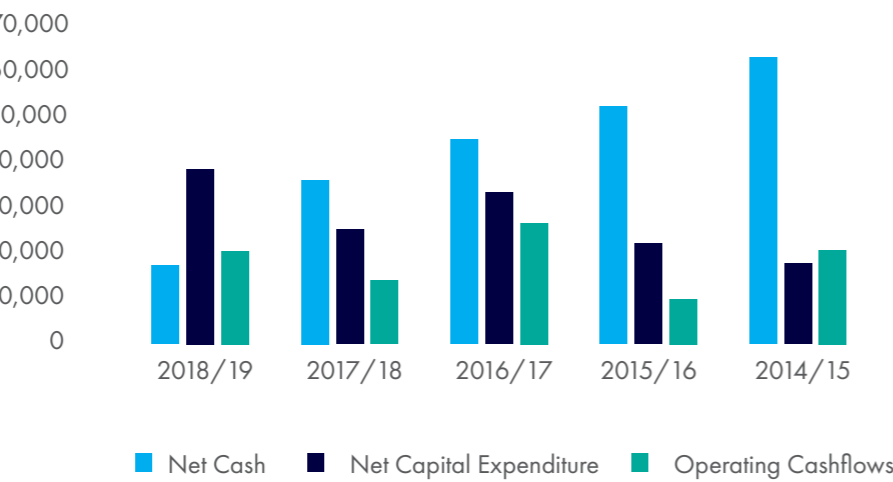
TREASURY, BORROWINGS AND INVESTMENTS

Net cash decreased by £20.7m during the year. The movement in funds is summarised to the right:-

	2019	2018	Change
	£m	£m	£m
Investments and short term deposits	66.0	94.0	(28.0)
Cash at bank and in hand	22.8	21.0	1.8
Bank loans	(71.6)	(77.1)	5.5
Net cash	17.2	37.9	(20.7)

CASH MOVEMENTS AND CAPITAL EXPENDITURE 2014/15 TO 2018/19

The main movement in cash is the impact of net capital expenditure during the year of £39.7m of which £33.5m relates to the Belfast development.



# Governance 2018-19

## COUNCIL COMPOSITION

**Ex-Officio Members**

**Pro-Chancellors**

Mr J Hunter (to 30 June 2019)  
Mrs J Pyper (from 3 December 2018)  
Mr A Langan (from 1 July 2019)

**Vice-Chancellor and President**

Professor P Nixon

**Honorary Treasurer**

Mr D Clements

**President of the Students’ Union**

Mr K McStravock

**Appointed Members**

*Eight persons not being members of staff or students of the University*

Mr A Langan (to 30 June 2019)  
Mrs M Lindsay (from 9 November 2018)  
Mr P Lobban  
Dr P McNaney  
Mrs J Pyper (to 2 December 2018)  
Mrs H Quigley  
Mr P Sheridan (from 9 November 2019)  
Mr R Sloan (from 15 February 2019)  
Dr J Stuart  
Mrs E Way (from February 2018)

**Elected Members**

*Two members of Academic Staff*

Professor M Stringer (to 30 September 2018)  
Professor K Burnett  
Ms G Horgan (from 15 February 2019)

*One member of Academic-Related Staff*

Mrs H Bingham

*One member of Non-Academic Staff*

Vacancy

**Audit Committee Composition**

*Members appointed by the Council*

Mr A Langan (Chair)  
Mrs H Quigley (acting Chair 2017-18)  
Mrs H Bingham  
Professor K Burnett  
Ms M McKee  
Mrs J Pyper  
Mrs E Way (from February 2018)

**Council Committee**

**Governance, Nominations and Remuneration**

**Committee Composition**

**Chairman of Council**

Mr J Hunter

**Vice-Chancellor and President**

Professor P Nixon

**Honorary Treasurer**

Mr D Clements

**Council members**

Mr A Langan  
Mrs H Quigley (for 2017-18)  
Dr J Stuart

**Independent members**

Mr D Bingham (from November 2018)  
Ms K Erwin (up to January 2019)  
Dame Geraldine Keegan (up to June 2018)  
Professor D Licence (up to June 2018)

**Statement of Primary Responsibilities**

The Council has adopted a statement of primary responsibilities which is available for download at:  
<https://ulster.ac.uk/statementofprimaryresponsibilities>



