

INTRODUCTION

This review of 2008/09, which complements our formal Annual Report and Financial Statements for that year, helps to account for the University of Bristol's overwhelmingly positive reputation within and beyond the higher education sector. The achievements of the students and the range and quality of the work undertaken by academic and support staff are truly inspiring. Council, the governing body, is proud to play its part in ensuring that the University continues to be renowned for high standards and academic success, and to deliver invaluable benefits to individuals and to society at large.

Throughout 2009, the University has been celebrating the hundredth anniversary of the granting of its Royal Charter. What better year than the centenary to refresh the institution's overarching Vision and Strategy? Doing so has been a stimulating exercise; the outcome, which you can see in full at www.bristol.ac.uk/university/vision/, is that the University is clearer about its future direction, its priorities and how best to pursue them.

It has been a year of challenge as well as celebration. The University's outstanding performance in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise has had favourable financial consequences, but the severe pressures on the public sector, combined with the global economic downturn, have created uncertainties that are likely to prove persistent. Bristol is at least as well placed as other leading universities to come through these difficult times in good shape, but there is no disguising the fact that Council – and, indeed, the whole University – will have to navigate some inhospitable waters.

The objective is to maintain the University's academic trajectory and to keep investing in the estate, but to do so in a prudent and sustainable manner. That way, the University will not merely survive the current economic turbulence but continue to achieve national and international distinction as a leading centre for education, research and enterprise.



Top: Eric Thomas, Vice-Chancellor
Below: Jim Foulds, Chairman, University Council

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric Thomas'.

Eric Thomas
Vice-Chancellor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J.S. Foulds'.

Jim Foulds
Chairman, University Council

MISSION, VISION & VALUES

Through its Royal Charter granted in 1909, the University of Bristol is committed to ‘the promotion of Arts, Sciences and Learning’. In its centenary year, the University restated its mission, together with its vision and values. These are set out below. They also appear at the start of the University’s new Vision and Strategy for 2009-16. This Review of the Year, together with the associated Annual Report and Financial Statements, charts progress in 2008/09 against the Vision and Strategy.

MISSION

To pursue and share knowledge and understanding, both for their own sake and to help individuals and society fulfil their potential.

VISION

The University of Bristol is an international powerhouse of **learning, discovery** and **enterprise**. Its vision is of a university whose excellence is acknowledged locally, nationally and globally and that is:

- dedicated to academic achievement across a broad range of disciplines, and to continuous innovation and improvement
- research-intensive, supporting both individual scholarship and interdisciplinary or thematic research of the highest quality
- a centre for intellectually demanding, research-informed education that nurtures independence of mind and helps students achieve their personal goals and serve society’s needs, both during and after their time here
- an inclusive and collaborative community of scholarship that attracts and retains people with outstanding talent and potential from all walks of life and all parts of the world
- a stimulating and supportive environment for all students and staff, distinguished by a commitment to high standards, respect for the individual and a strong sense of collegiality
- committed to operating in a sustainable manner
- engaged with society’s interests, concerns, priorities and aspirations
- a major contributor culturally, environmentally and economically to Bristol and the South West
- well led and responsibly run, with an emphasis on consultative decision-making and open communication as well as personal responsibility and accountability.

VALUES

Our mission and vision are underpinned by these values:

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| <p>Truth
We seek and are inspired by truth, which we pursue for its own sake</p> <p>Excellence
We strive for the highest quality in all we do</p> <p>Innovation
We welcome the challenge of the new and value the creative and entrepreneurial</p> <p>Ambition
We have high aspirations for the University and all its staff, students and alumni</p> | <p>Responsibility
We aim to make a positive difference to the wider world and the future</p> <p>Independence
We encourage independent thinking and cherish academic and institutional autonomy</p> <p>Collaboration
We are committed to teamwork and to partnership with others</p> | <p>Transparency
We want to be accountable for our decisions and actions</p> <p>Diversity
We view the diversity of our staff, students and alumni as a great asset</p> <p>Equity
We believe in the equitable treatment of all</p> |
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Right: The winning entry, by Timo Kunkel in the Department of Computer Science, in a competition to design a centenary banner for display on the wall of the Physics Building

