

# Introduction

This review of 2009/10 complements our formal Annual Report and Financial Statements and provides a snapshot of some of the many accomplishments and successes that support our world-class reputation. The fantastic achievements of our students and staff are inspirational. Amazing things happen at Bristol.

We are dedicated to academic endeavour at the highest level. Our students benefit from an intellectually demanding, research-informed education that encourages independence of mind and prepares them to achieve their personal goals and serve society's needs across the globe, both during and after their time here. Discovery, learning and enterprise – this is what defines us.

Council, the governing body of the University, is proud to play an important role in ensuring that the University maintains its position as a leading institution at the top of its game, making a significant and unique contribution to society and the economy.

Of course, these are challenging times for all organisations and universities are not immune. For this reason, we have looked at every aspect of our organisation with absolute rigour to ensure that we are best placed not only to deal with the realities of a tough economic climate, but also to continue to invest in order to maintain our global reputation as a first-class institution. We are well positioned to navigate through these difficult waters, but there is no doubt that Council, the senior team and the University as a whole, have an important contribution to make.

We remain true to our mission and, as the successes highlighted in this review show, are well placed to survive in uncertain times and build on our considerable strengths to achieve global recognition as a leading institution in the 21st century.



NICK SMITH



MARTIN CHAINY

Eric Thomas  
Vice-Chancellor

Denis Burn  
Chairman, University Council

**Top:** Eric Thomas, Vice-Chancellor  
**Below:** Denis Burn, Chairman, University Council

# Mission, vision and 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 Vision and Strategy for 2009-16. This Review of the Year, together with the associated Annual Report and Financial Statements, charts progress in 2009/10 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:

### Truth

We seek and are inspired by truth, which we pursue for its own sake

### Excellence

We strive for the highest quality in all we do

### Innovation

We welcome the challenge of the new and value the creative and entrepreneurial

### Ambition

We have high aspirations for the University and all its staff, students and alumni

### Responsibility

We aim to make a positive difference to the wider world and the future

### Independence

We encourage independent thinking and cherish academic and institutional autonomy

### Collaboration

We are committed to teamwork and to partnership with others

### Transparency

We want to be accountable for our decisions and actions

### Diversity

We view the diversity of our staff, students and alumni as a great asset

### Equity

We believe in the equitable treatment of all

Right: Graduation at the Wills Building



LIFE/EVERETT COLLECTION