



Education and the student experience

We aim to educate the brightest of their generation to become the leaders in their chosen career. We continue to invest comprehensively in facilities, training, technology and support services, and to seek to remove barriers to university for people from disadvantaged backgrounds via widening participation, scholarships, e-learning and other ICT initiatives, school visits, and research projects with an international reach.

The University's priorities in this area are to:

- attract and retain academically gifted and highly motivated students from a wide range of backgrounds, creating a diverse and international University community;
- provide an education of the highest quality that is research-led and focused on the needs and expectations of our students;
- ensure students have a fulfilling, challenging and intellectually stimulating experience while at University, that prepares them for employment and worldwide opportunities when they leave;
- provide effective and enabling educational leadership and structures that support educational enhancement;
- ensure that learning takes place within a high-quality environment that enables both students and staff to achieve their full academic potential.

Employability and skills development

Against the backdrop of a continuing economic downturn and an increasingly competitive jobs market, the Careers Service is constantly developing and improving its range of services for students. Its move from Priory Road to a more prominent location on Tyndall Avenue led to a 67 per cent increase in footfall during the 2011/12 academic year, with 24,000 visits to the new premises.

Careers staff held over 380 specialist training sessions for students on career planning and research, job hunting and skills for the workplace, in addition to employer presentations and recruitment fairs. In a successful pilot scheme supported by Higher Education Innovation Funding, the University offered 100 funded internships for students and recent graduates in small and medium-sized enterprises in areas such as ecotourism, events marketing, development agencies and charities. In addition to this, many University departments (including Marketing and Communications, Sustainability and the Vice Chancellor's office) also offered internships. The feedback from students, graduates and employers was overwhelmingly positive.

The Bristol PLuS Awards, a scheme to help improve students' chances in an increasingly competitive job market, was relaunched with a new component in 2011/12. The Awards offer formal recognition of students who complete 50 hours of work experience, either as a volunteer or in a part-time job or an internship. They are seen as a valuable addition to a graduate's CV and are endorsed by over 30 employers including the NHS, Airbus, Rolls-Royce and Cancer Research UK.

The number of students who registered for the Bristol PLuS Awards in 2011/12 rose by 48 per cent to 1,200; the number completing the award increased by 15 per cent to 300. Over 1,200 students now participate in the Bristol PLuS Awards. A new addition to the scheme is the Bristol PLuS Sustainability Award, which encourages participants to devote 25 of the required 50 hours to activities with a positive environmental, social or ethical impact.

Student feedback and satisfaction

Statistics on student satisfaction were gathered through local, national and international surveys such as the National Student Survey (NSS) and the Bristol-Barometer Survey. In the NSS, 86 per cent of Bristol respondents expressed satisfaction overall (against a national average of 85 per cent) and 90 per cent expressed satisfaction with the teaching on their course.

Schemes introduced to address the issues raised in these and other surveys included a series of focus groups in schools and a continuation of the 'You Said, We Listened' campaign.

Widening participation

The University continues to invest in a wide range of activity to encourage the most able, least likely students to apply to study at Bristol. Among the activities in 2011/12 was the Access to Bristol Scheme, which now offers 15 subject streams and hosted 288 students from over 49 local schools. Pathways to Law offered a two-year Law programme for 110 students from 36 schools. The University also took part in the Realising Opportunities Programme in partnership with 11 other institutions. This programme provides opportunities for young people across the UK to engage

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Left: Undergraduates at the Bristol Veterinary School.

Bottom left: Students take a break in the Priory Road Café.

Bottom right: A postgraduate in the Biogeochemistry lab, School of Earth Sciences.



with, and prepare to study at, research-intensive universities. The University also retained the Frank Buttle Trust Quality Mark for supporting care leavers (initially awarded in 2009/10).

Chemistry LabSkills goes global

The award-winning Chemistry LabSkills software, developed by Bristol ChemLabS and Learning Science Ltd, is to be used in chemistry classes around the world, thanks to a partnership with Cengage Learning, one of the world's most successful science publishers and a leader in electronic publishing. The partnership is developing a new, online version of the Chemistry LabSkills package, which was launched in

2008 as a platform for e-learning and skills development through practical, science-based, interactive tasks.

First intake of Lloyds Scholars at Bristol

Fifteen students from the University have been accepted onto the Lloyds Scholars Programme, a new initiative designed to support and encourage students from below-average income families to study at leading universities.

Bristol was one of two UK universities involved in the pilot year of the scheme, which aims to help students enhance their academic qualifications through providing financial support, mentoring and volunteering opportunities. The successful

15 students went through a challenging assessment centre and had to meet a number of criteria to be accepted onto the programme. In return they receive bursaries and performance-related awards worth up to £10,000 over three years, plus work experience and skills to help them develop a competitive edge at the end of their studies.

Biosciences accreditation for Biochemistry BSc

Bristol became one of the first UK universities to receive accreditation for its undergraduate biochemistry course as part of a new scheme designed to raise the standard of bioscience higher education.

The Society of Biology developed its Accreditation Programme (with the support of the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council and the Department for Business Innovation and Skills) to address the gap between the skills graduates possess and the skills employers need. Bristol's BSc in Biochemistry with a Year in Industry is one of four programmes to gain accredited status. The accreditation criteria put a strong emphasis on academic excellence, research experience, and time spent in an active research environment.



Left: A graduand at the Summer 2012 ceremony.

Right: Students in the new premises of the Careers Service on Tyndall Avenue.

Supporting and rewarding teaching staff

University Teaching Fellowships

University Teaching Fellowships are awarded through open competition to members of academic staff to enable them to spend up to one year on researching and disseminating innovative teaching and learning practices at a national or international level. Fellowships were awarded in 2011/12 to Dr Michele Barbour (PhD 2003, PGCE 2007) (Oral and Dental Sciences) and Professor Bruce Hood (Experimental Psychology) for the 2012/13 academic year.

University Teaching and Learning Awards

The University presents awards annually to celebrate and recognise excellent teachers as well as individuals who support teaching and learning. Awards are made in a number of categories and are judged by a panel of Education Directors, chaired by Professor Nick Lieven, the Pro Vice-Chancellor for Education.

The University Teaching and Learning Awards, which recognise excellent teachers, were given this year to:

Barbara Perks

School of Physics

Dr Catherine O'Rawe

School of Modern Languages

Dr Josie McLellan

School of Humanities

Dr Chris Metcalfe

School of Community and Social Medicine

Liz Gaze, Dr Gus Cameron and colleagues in the Centre for Comparative and Clinical Anatomy

Faculty of Medical and Veterinary Sciences

Dr Val Williams

School for Policy Studies

The Rising Star category of award, for those who have been teaching in higher education for less than five years and who show excellent potential, was given to:

Dr Mark Dennis

School of Physics

Simon McIntosh-Smith

Merchant Venturers School of Engineering

Dr Alaa Daud (MSc 2010)

School of Oral and Dental Sciences

The use of e-learning in programme delivery and support of staff and students is recognised through the University e-Learning Award, which this year went to Andrea Zhok and Elena McNeilly (School of Modern Languages).

The Award for Influence in Higher Education, recognising academic staff who raise the profile of education and influence higher education beyond the University of Bristol, was given to:

Dr Tony Hoare

Widening Participation Research Cluster

Professor Judy Harris

School of Physiology and Pharmacology

A new 'Education for Sustainability' Award, sponsored by Sustainability via Green Impact and the Green Academy, recognises academics who have shown innovation in integrating education for sustainability into current teaching. The inaugural award was given to Dr David Drury (MEng 1997, PhD 2006) (Merchant Venturers School of Engineering).

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Statistics and commentary

Financial support to students

The University can provide financial support to students in the form of bursaries, scholarships and discretionary assistance from hardship funds. In 2011/12, the University disbursed the following amounts in these kinds of financial support:

	Bursaries £	Scholarships £	Hardship funds £
Undergraduate	3,496,043	194,815	345,163
Postgraduate	125,040	1,990,981	60,975
Total	3,621,083	2,185,796	406,138

Total student numbers 2011/12

	Undergraduate	Postgraduate taught	Postgraduate research	Total
Arts	2,870 (78.1%)	514 (14%)	293 (8%)	3,677
Science	2,974 (78.8%)	140 (3.7%)	659 (17.5%)	3,773
Engineering	1,881 (74.4%)	315 (12.5%)	331 (13.1%)	2,527
Medical and Veterinary Sciences	1,540 (81.1%)	102 (5.4%)	257 (13.5%)	1,899
Medicine and Dentistry	1,707 (73.1%)	454 (19.4%)	174 (7.5%)	2,335
Social Sciences and Law	2,487 (50.6%)	1,856 (37.8%)	568 (11.6%)	4,911
Year total	13,459 (70.4%)	3,381 (17.7%)	2,282 (11.9%)	19,122

Total student numbers 2010/11

	Undergraduate	Postgraduate taught	Postgraduate research	Total
Arts	2,721 (79%)	435 (12.6%)	290 (8.4%)	3,446
Science	2,912 (81.6%)	131 (3.7%)	524 (14.7%)	3,567
Engineering	1,735 (69.76%)	425 (17.09%)	327 (13.15%)	2,487
Medical and Veterinary Sciences	1,449 (82.2%)	85 (4.7%)	240 (13.2%)	1,824
Medicine and Dentistry	1,677 (69.9%)	549 (22.9%)	172 (7.2%)	2,398
Social Sciences and Law	2,544 (49.5%)	2,024 (39.4%)	576 (11.2%)	5,144
Year total	13,182 (69.5%)	3,645 (19.2%)	2,138 (11.3%)	18,965

Number of degrees awarded

	2011/12	2010/11
Undergraduate	3,016	3,110
Postgraduate taught	2,431	1,869
Postgraduate research	605	564

Graduate destinations

Every year, new graduates are asked to complete a questionnaire concerning their employment or study status. The resulting figures enable the University to build a year-on-year picture of the destinations of its graduates.

Graduate destinations 2011

Full-time paid work	51.4%
Part-time paid work	6.5%
Voluntary/unpaid work	3.0%
Work and further study	6.7%
Further study	20.0%
Assumed to be unemployed	5.9%
Not available for employment	3.5%
Other	1.1%
Explicit refusal	1.9%

Graduate destinations 2010

Full-time paid work	53.8%
Part-time paid work	6.1%
Voluntary/unpaid work	2.5%
Work and further study	5.2%
Further study	20.4%
Assumed to be unemployed	5.5%
Not available for employment	3.7%
Other	1.0%
Explicit refusal	1.8%