



ANNUAL REVIEW

10/11

**Annual
Review**
2010/11



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Professor David Tidmarsh

Welcome to our Annual Review for 2010/11 – a year which has seen the University continue to achieve success at a time of great change for the sector. Our focus on putting students at the heart of everything we do has seen our popularity with applicants continue to increase and national recognition for our outstanding support for students, together with a pleasing increase in student satisfaction levels.

We have continued to invest in our resources for teaching and learning and in April 2011 we received the exciting news that planning permission had been granted for a new City Centre Campus, adjacent to our current facilities at Millennium Point. This will offer a new home for the world-class provision of Birmingham Institute of Art and Design, as well as benefiting students on media courses, and providing improved student support facilities on site. The development is part of the University's overall £180 million investment in new facilities to help create the skilled graduates of the future.

We have also continued to provide practical solutions for business, using our expertise and industry-standard equipment to help companies

including Rolls-Royce, Land Rover and O2. Working on these projects allows our students to put their knowledge into practice as well as gaining experience of working with some of the country's biggest firms and building contracts in their chosen industry, all of which helps contribute towards our excellent graduate employment record.

And our achievements continued to be recognised by independent outside bodies. For the third year running, we won a prestigious Times Higher Education award, this time for 'Outstanding International Strategy' – a tribute to our success in continuing to grow the University's reputation overseas. Our latest inspection by the independent Quality Assurance Agency for

Vice-Chancellor's introduction

Higher Education (QAA) praised the “close and sustained partnership” between the University and its students and declared confidence in our management of academic standards, while the 2011 National Student Survey (NSS) saw an increase in our overall satisfaction rating to 80 per cent.

During the year, we had to take the difficult decision on the price of our courses from 2012/13, when government funding for higher education is due to be cut. Unlike some universities, we did not set the maximum fee allowed across the board, instead opting for a variable structure which more accurately reflects our actual teaching costs, together with the specialist equipment and facilities some courses require.

The University is financially stable as it makes significant investment in its estate over the next few years, securing our competitive position against other universities in the area. Following our excellent QAA results, we can be proud that our academic provision is of an excellent standard, but we will continue to look for areas where we can improve the learning experience for our students and explore new opportunities to work with business and industry.

Thank you for your continued interest in, and support of, our University, and I hope you will continue your association with us over the coming years.

Professor David Tidmarsh, Vice-Chancellor

Leading the way *on student engagement*



“Birmingham City University believes that the creation of such a significant student employment scheme would make it distinctive in the HE sector and may be a valuable recruitment tool in the coming years.”

Luke Millard, Head of Learning Partnerships

At a time when changes in the higher education sector are leading universities to pay more attention than ever before to the individual needs of their students, at Birmingham City University we are already ahead of the game.

Central to our efforts in this area has been our Student Academic Partners (SAP) scheme—winner of the Times Higher Education Award 2010 for ‘Outstanding Support for Students’ – which saw the University team up with the Students’ Union to run a range of projects where staff and students worked together to develop new learning and teaching processes, enhancing how our courses are delivered and giving students the valuable

experience of helping to shape their courses. But for us, that was just the start of the process. Over the coming years we plan to do even more to help our students to become involved in the life of the University, helping them to actively participate in their own individualised development.

As a chosen university on the Higher Education Academy’s ‘Change Academy’ programme, we will receive ongoing expert support over a one-year period to develop a new strategy, entitled ‘Investing in Students’, aimed at enhancing student engagement still further through the development of a student employment framework that will provide increased opportunities for students to gain paid work at the University in a wide variety of roles. This will build on the success of the SAP scheme but will take it a step further in terms of employability, giving all students the opportunity to apply for roles through a proper application process with CVs and interviews – giving all applicants invaluable experiences before entering the workplace.

The scheme will be modelled on one which has already been running for a number of years at Northwest Missouri State University, in the USA, which now employs a quarter of its 7,500 students at any one time. Staff and students from our

University have visited Missouri to find out more about the scheme and see its success first hand.

As well as providing important work experience, we believe that if students become part of the fabric of the University they will feel a greater sense of pride and ownership, and that there will be improved interaction between students and staff. Our target is to be employing 1,000 students by 2015, but we believe we have a good chance of exceeding this.

Head of Learning Partnerships Luke Millard said: "Evidence in the USA, from our partners at Northwest Missouri State University, suggests that students develop a greater sense of belonging to a university when they also work within it. Birmingham City University also believes that the creation of such a significant student employment scheme would make it distinctive in the HE sector and may be a valuable recruitment tool in the coming years."

One area where we envisage employing more students in future is in the field of mentoring. We already offer support to students fresh to university life, through mentoring schemes involving more experienced peers – while final year students can get a taste of the real world of work by linking up with graduate professionals or local employers.



A friendly and supportive environment

The University's Student Services team has pioneered web-based technology to provide a flexible support service. The University's peer online mentoring service allows mentors and mentees to have conversations via a secure, online space – at a time and place that suits them. So far, more than 30 partnerships have been set up between new arrivals and more experienced students, while our employer online mentoring scheme has matched 34 final or penultimate year students with a local employer or professionals based within the University community. Both schemes are run in partnership with education

charity Brightside UNIAID, and were shortlisted for the 2011 Times Higher Education (THE) Awards in the 'Outstanding Support for Students' category.

Meanwhile, our Inspiring Futures professional mentoring scheme, which is delivered in partnership with Birmingham Future, the membership organisation for young professionals working in the local professional, financial and creative services sectors, brings together final year students with working professionals based in the West Midlands. This scheme has 65 partnerships between penultimate and final year students and local professions.

The Students' Union has also been praised for its work in the field of student engagement, with its innovative work to create a Virtual Students' Union winning the award for best practice in the National Union of Students (NUS) Student Engagement Awards 2011. The Union environment was created within the University's virtual town, Shareville, in partnership with further education colleges around the city. The initial purpose was to support colleges with their own student representation by offering training and support from experienced hands in our own Union. The next phase will be to look at supporting the generation of student-led, extra-curricular activity. There will also be new content



Help and advice where needed

to support the 'pre-arrival' phase of students into Birmingham City University, showing prospective students what it is like to study at our University and where to seek out further information and support. Shareville was also shortlisted for the 2011 THE awards in the ICT category.

Student Academic Partnerships (SAPs) are designed to integrate students into the teaching and research of the University, by recruiting them to work on specific projects aimed at improving the learning experience.

One student who recently took part in a SAP project was BSc (Hons) Health and Wellbeing – Nutrition Science student Kulwinder Bal, who was tasked with investigating how employable our students who hoped to become health and wellbeing practitioners were. By conducting surveys and workshops with students, University staff and professionals at organisations where the University currently had students on placement, she found that lecturers and outside professionals generally had very similar expectations, whereas students, while also understanding the importance of enhancing their own employability, did not always know what was required.

As a result of the project, the course team concluded that it needed to provide additional information for students before they went on placements, and new guidelines have been put together in written and video form concerning what students should expect and how to conduct themselves in the workplace. Kulwinder said: “I definitely feel I got a lot

from taking part – what I learned was useful for me personally, as I now feel I know a lot more about what is expected of people in the workplace, while I also improved my networking, communication and organisation skills which will all be useful for me going forward.”

BA (Hons) Architecture student Luke Nagle was recruited to look at student satisfaction levels on his course and how they could be improved. He started off by interviewing students to gauge their opinions, but later expanded his role to work as an informal mentor to students, finding out more about their needs and requirements that way. Two main areas for improvement were identified – finding more ways to give feedback and breaking down the barriers between different types of teaching by incorporating workshops and group discussions into lectures. After a successful trial, this development has been incorporated into the programme for 2011/12.

Luke said: “As well as reinforcing a lot of what I’d learned on the course the year before, this project also made me more aware of the wider University and what resources and support is available to us. I had to attend and speak at a lot of meetings, which has made me more comfortable in that kind of situation and given me more confidence. It’s also given me a greater sense of ownership of, and pride in, the University, and once my internship is complete, I now plan to come back to continue my studies with an MA.”

Kulwinder and Luke are both now working on a six-month graduate internship with the University to conduct a wider investigation into the impact of SAPs. Kulwinder will be assisting new applicants and looking at the profile of those currently taking part to ensure that a representative range of ages, genders, ethnicities and abilities are getting involved, while Luke will be looking at students who were involved in SAPs a few years ago, and what

the long-term benefits were; how the experience helped them to develop further and how they have taken those skills into the workplace.



Students Luke and Kulwinder both took part in the University’s award-winning Student Academic Partnerships scheme

Investing in *the student experience*



“Eastside is an essential part of Birmingham’s future and the commitment Birmingham City University has made to the area is formidable.”

Councillor Mike Whitby, Leader of Birmingham City Council.

We are continuing to invest in our facilities to ensure students have access to a fantastic learning environment. This includes our exciting plans for a new campus in the city centre, together with ongoing development of our existing sites, all of which helped us to become one of the UK’s top 10 universities for spending on facilities in the 2012 Complete University Guide.

In April 2011, we were granted planning permission for Phase 1 of a new City Centre Campus in the Eastside area of Birmingham, next door to our existing facilities at Millennium Point, which will provide a state-of-the-art home for Birmingham Institute of Art and Design (BIAD), currently based at Gosta Green, from September 2013.

The project – part of the Big City Plan for the wider regeneration of Birmingham – is also part of the University’s overall £180 million investment in new facilities to help create the skilled graduates of the future. The University has teamed up with Birmingham-based Associated Architects and city construction firm Willmott Dixon for the 18,310m² building, which is designed around an inner atrium and will house cutting-edge media facilities including television and photographic studios. Associated Architects can trace its beginnings directly back to the University as the three original partners were architecture tutors before deciding to form their own company more than 40 years ago, while a number of University students have since gone on to work for the firm.

This centre of excellence will boast the largest television facility between London and Salford and perfectly positions the University and Birmingham as a major contributor to the creative industries. These resources will be integrated with those which are already at Millennium Point for students on media courses offered by the Faculty of Technology, Engineering and the Environment. The development will also provide the opportunity to converge some of the student support facilities within Millennium Point, creating a greater campus ‘feel’.

Professor David Tidmarsh, Vice-Chancellor of the University, said: "This landmark facility, in the heart of the city, will directly support the creative industries, business engagement, applied innovation and cultural excellence across the region and beyond."

Councillor Mike Whitby, Leader of Birmingham City Council, paid tribute to the University's role in aiding the regeneration of the city. He said: "This is a flagship development for Birmingham and will add immeasurably to the city's cultural and education offer. The Eastside location is one of the largest regeneration plots in the UK and the new Birmingham City University campus is ensuring that despite difficult times the pace of change and momentum of development in the city continues to the benefit of the city and the entire region."

Birmingham Conservatoire is also looking to the future with confidence after celebrating its 125th anniversary in 2011, with exciting plans for a new home. It is proposed that the Conservatoire will relocate from its current base in Paradise Circus, as part of the wider redevelopment of the area, and move to a new city centre site nearby. Negotiations were ongoing throughout 2010/11, with a detailed announcement expected in the near future. To support the Conservatoire's world-class education, the earmarked premises would be fully fitted with purpose-built facilities, while a new 475-seat concert hall would be built on Centenary Way, which will run from Centenary Square to Chamberlain Square. "We're delighted to be part of a city – and a University – that is serious about our development as one of the UK's leading conservatoires," said David Saint, Acting Principal for Birmingham Conservatoire. The move has not stopped our investment in the existing Conservatoire, with the building of five new

practice rooms, an upgrade of the coffee bar and redecoration of the lobby to the Adrian Boulton Hall. The past year has also seen the completion of a new £2 million teaching wing at our City South Campus in Edgbaston. The new development means the University will be able to deliver all of its health-related courses on one site from the 2011/12 academic year, following the move



Refurbishment of the Kenrick library

of diagnostic radiotherapy, radiotherapy, speech and language therapy, visual rehabilitation and foundation degree courses in health and social care from City North Campus. The extension is part of the £30 million Seacole Building which was opened in 2006, and won a Built in Quality award from Birmingham City Council in 2007.

The new teaching facilities include a virtual radiotherapy suite, a radiography imaging suite, a simulated home environment for visual rehabilitation students to learn how to help those with limited or complete loss of sight and a specialist resource room, fitted with a two-way mirror, to allow speech and language therapy students to review and develop effective communication skills. Head of the School of Health and Social Care, Stephen Wordsworth, said: "The University is very proud of the Seacole Building with its contemporary architecture in a magnificent landscape setting, designed for modern teaching and learning practices. The faculty boasts up-to-date, innovative facilities that simulate the real situations that many health and social care students encounter in their practice. Therefore these resources are essential in providing our students with a hands-on opportunity to develop their skills in a safe and supportive environment."

City North Campus has benefited from a £2.5 million investment in a range of projects with the objective of improving the appearance of the site and enhancing the student experience through the improvement of social amenities and social learning spaces. The most significant of those projects is the creation of the new Kenrick café on Level 2 of the building, fully integrated within the library and the 24-hour Open Access IT Suite. Together with the refurbishment of the Baker and Edge cafés, City North Campus now

has a superb and varied food and refreshment offering in excellent surroundings.

Elsewhere on the campus, the Students' Union has remodelled Bar 42 at a cost of £250,000 while a major investment in Birmingham City Business School provided a new reception in Galton Building and the upgrade of teaching and social spaces on the upper floors. To complete the picture, the Faculty of Education, Law and Social Sciences received a revamp of the entrances and corridors to the Dawson and Attwood buildings with new lighting, flooring and redecoration.



The official turf-cutting ceremony at the site of the new campus



Raising standards *in teaching and learning*

“The University has formed an exceptionally close partnership with its students, integrating them into the process of teaching, design and delivery, and the students’ experience is one of dedicated informed support from staff at the institution.”

QAA audit, 2010

Our academic staff come from and maintain their links with industry and the professions, ensuring that our students are kept up-to-date with the latest developments in their chosen career field and that employability is a central theme of all our courses. Our teaching quality is confirmed by our continued success in external audits, including the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA), and by the feedback we receive from our own students through the National Student Survey.

Student involvement and representation was highlighted as a key strength of the University in its latest audit by the **QAA**. Auditors visited

for a week in November 2010, interviewing staff and students, after which they praised the “close and sustained partnership” between the University and its students. The QAA declared its confidence in the University’s management of academic standards and the quality of the learning opportunities available to students, and identified the Student Academic Partners scheme as a feature of good practice, noting its “positive achievements in promoting innovation in learning and teaching”. The report went on to say: “The University has formed an exceptionally close partnership with its students, integrating them into the process of teaching, design and delivery, and the students’ experience is one of dedicated informed support from staff at the institution.”

There was further good news for the University with the release of the 2011 **National Student Survey** (NSS) results, which saw an increase in our overall satisfaction rating to 80 per cent. The NSS is an annual survey that targets final year undergraduates throughout the UK, gathering feedback on their experiences of higher education. A total of 83 per cent of our students were satisfied with the quality of teaching on their course, 87 per cent agreed that staff were good at explaining things to them and 84 per cent said staff were enthusiastic about their subjects.



Students use the University's virtual radiotherapy system

Our secondary teacher training provision has been ranked the fourth-best in the country after a recent survey. The **Newly Qualified Teacher (NQT)** survey collects and analyses NQTs' perceptions of their initial training by asking them to rate the quality of their training against 34 different categories using descriptors 'very good', 'good', 'adequate' or 'poor'. The percentage of students reporting that the provision at Birmingham City University is at least 'good' was 96 per cent, well above the sector average of 85 per cent. Course director Simon Spencer said: "Our success in this survey reflects the high quality of provision offered on our secondary teacher training courses. We take pride in the success we achieve and this good work provides a platform from which we can continue to build."

The Faculty of Health was also recognised for the quality of its teaching after being put forward by its own students, who highlighted the collaborative approach to teaching and learning. The Department of Skills and Simulation, School of Professional Practice within the Faculty of Health won the 2011 Learning and Teaching Team Award from the **Higher Education Academy (HEA)** for Health Sciences and Practice disciplines in Higher Education. This year's award was given for the faculty's collaborative approach in improving students' learning experiences.

As part of the University's determination to put student employability at the heart of its provision, it has been trialling a new **Student Employability Award**, which recognises our students' extracurricular activities. Jointly organised by

Point. Linking up with the Ormiston Trust to provide similar learning opportunities for the 14 to 19 age group fulfils a University pledge to provide access to excellence. Together with BOA's founding partners, Maverick TV and the BRIT School, BOA will continue to develop new partnerships with business and industry, sharing their knowledge and experience with students. As BOA develops, Birmingham City University will not only continue to provide advice and support on curricular development and industry engagement, but will also introduce progression programmes to help ensure that Academy students set themselves high aspirations and get access to high quality degree-level education. Mary Carswell, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic) at Birmingham City University, said: "All of us involved in the Academy want to support the fantastic talent to be found in this cultural city and surrounding region. With the Ormiston Trust we have found the perfect partner to deliver this important agenda."



BBC TV's The Apprentice winner
Tim Campbell visits the University



Working with
*business, industry and
partner organisations*

“By bringing together ‘think and do’ representatives from business, academia and leadership, we have the potential to create a real international powerhouse in the Midlands.”

Beverley Nielsen, Director of Employer Engagement

We are committed to sharing our expertise with businesses and organisations of all shapes and sizes, helping them to grow and develop, as well as benefiting our own students and graduates, who get the opportunity to work alongside some of the biggest names in their chosen industries. We promote business growth and development by providing consultancy and partnership services, sharing academic expertise and graduate talent.

During the past year, the University has worked to set up and lead a new network promoting the West Midlands’ innovation and design capabilities. **Innovation: Design Birmingham** also involves other universities from the region as well as leading local companies including Jaguar Land

Rover, AGA Rangemaster, Morgan Motor Company, Glenn Howells Architects, leading advertising agency Cogent Elliot, international legal practice Squire Sanders Hammonds and Europe’s largest out-of-home advertising company JCDecaux. The intention is to follow the example of other global innovation capitals, such as Boston and Cambridge, and create a platform for industry-university collaborations focused on new business developments. To help showcase up-and-coming talent, the network has also pledged to support a future awards scheme and exhibition for new designers. Beverley Nielsen, Director of Employer Engagement at the University, said: “This is a very exciting opportunity. By bringing together ‘think and do’ representatives from business, academia and leadership, we have the potential to create a real international powerhouse in the Midlands.”

The year also saw the launch of a new awards programme to recognise and encourage excellence in the field of employability and entrepreneurship. The **Birmingham City University Employable Students (BEST) Awards** were devised to recognise the innovative work being carried out by staff to enhance the employability of our students, as well as rewarding students who had taken positive steps to improve their own career prospects. The overall winners included

staff from our visual communication, video game production and business and marketing courses, together with BA (Hons) Business Studies student Selena Forrester, who had set up her own online fashion company. Beverley said: "We're continually innovating to help our students develop the skills and knowledge that will help them throughout their working lives and we are proud to have one of the best graduate employment rates in the country. Thanks to the commitment of our colleagues at the University, our students are gaining employability and entrepreneurship skills, providing them with the best chance to develop satisfying careers."

Our Research, Innovation and Enterprise Services team has worked to encourage entrepreneurship among the University's students and graduates through its involvement in two regional schemes. **SPEEDWM** (Student Placements for Entrepreneurs in Education West Midlands) provides grant funding, training, networking and mentoring in addition to coaching support, to help students develop business ideas in a supportive environment. In 2010/11, 26 student businesses were created in fields including corporate clothing, graphic design, an online music shop, freelance photography, accountancy, events management, product design and the promotion of a band in Romania. **BSEEN** (Birmingham Skills for Enterprise and Employability Network) was created as a partnership between Aston, Birmingham and Birmingham City universities, providing supported incubator space, wage subsidy and consultancy support for graduate entrepreneurs. Birmingham City University supported 30 graduates, of which 21 went on to set up their own business and five continued with businesses already in operation. The project won the Excellence in Entrepreneurship Award from the Association of Graduate Careers Advisory



Discussing ideas during SPEEDWM

Services (AGCAS) and is a finalist for the StartUp Britain Enterprise Support Award at the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Awards.

Students from the School of English and Birmingham Conservatoire put their creative skills into practice by teaming up with **Music Theatre Wales**, the Welsh National Opera and the University of Birmingham for the 'Make an Aria' project, designed to offer emerging young composers and writers the chance to explore the various 'ingredients' that are required for writing an opera – including character, story, dramatic situation and emotion – to create a single piece of music. Eight student writers worked with eight student composers on the project, and the results were the subject of a masterclass by the eminent composer Nigel Osborne at Birmingham's Barber Institute in October 2011.

Students from the School of Architecture designed and constructed an eco-friendly pedestrian bridge and access ramp at a Grade II listed



Jewellery created by students on the BSEEN project

country house in Staffordshire, using timber felled from the building's grounds. **The Friends of the Hayes** approached the University about a Student Academic Partner scheme, which saw students work with the organisation, together with local charity Trinity Skills for Life, local structural engineers and a tree surgeon, to develop their ideas, while also conducting a public consultation on their plans. The construction of the bridge was supported by the Student Academic Partner scheme with the University, an O2 'Think Big' award, a grant from St Modwen Environmental Trust and one from the University's employer engagement department. As well as giving improved access on the Hayes site, the project also provided a model for small-scale construction using local materials, giving the students experience and awareness of sustainability issues in the design process.

The University has continued to play a leading role in training staff for the UK's booming computer games industry. Following the success of our **Gamer Camp** for aspiring developers, which

returned during November and December 2010, we hosted another significant games-related event in January 2011 with **IndieCity**, a 48-hour gaming marathon in partnership with Blitz Games Studios, as part of Global Game Jam – the world's largest game jam event, bringing together thousands of games enthusiasts around the world to make games in small teams. Around 30 participants took part in the event at our Millennium Point campus, with prizes for the best games devised over the weekend.

Meanwhile, our School of Computing, Telecommunications and Networks signed a major deal with global software development company **5G Technologies** to support the Government's 'green' agenda by undertaking a wide range of research and development projects aimed at improving efficiency and cutting energy costs. As well as providing a consultancy service, centring on the integration of maintenance and energy management software into a range of global companies, it is anticipated that a wide range of collaborative research opportunities for staff and students will develop using Knowledge Transfer Partnerships. In addition, the company will be embedding its software technologies into the University's courses, offering students the chance to get 'hands on' experience of industrial plant maintenance software.

We teamed up with the **BBC** in February to run a 'media bootcamp' for aspiring journalists. The event, at our New Technology Institute, saw 36 students in Years 9 and 10 from 14 schools across the West Midlands learn more about the techniques and knowledge needed for a career in the media, working alongside experts from the University on our industry-standard equipment. The pupils created their own news and current

affairs radio packages and gained 'hands on' experience in identifying stories for a particular target audience, news-writing and production, interviewing and presentation techniques, as well as the editing and other technical skills required to create newsworthy stories and entertaining features.

Situated within the Birmingham City Business School's Centre for Leadership and Management Practice, the Academy of Multi-Unit Leadership delivers a range of performance-enhancing hospitality, leisure and retail post-graduate development programmes. In 2011 it recruited new blue chip clients such as **Greene King plc** (Loch Fyne and Hungry Horse) and **Rank plc** (Grosvenor Casinos and Mecca Bingo) whilst gaining repeat business from its extensive list of existing retail and leisure clients. In August 2011 the Academy was cited as a centre of excellence in the provision of Retail Area Manager development in the CBI's 'Business Investment in Skills – The Road Back to Growth' and was shortlisted in June 2011 (alongside Morrisons, the Savoy and McDonald's) by the CIPD for its 'Learning and Development Award'.

We worked with the NHS to build an online system to help people with mental health problems, by engaging teenagers and young adults who



Working on design projects for Morgan Motor Company.

may be experiencing early symptoms of anxiety, depression or other mental health problems. **Youthspace**, run by a public health team linked to NHS Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health Foundation Trust in partnership with youth charity Fairbridge, approached the University's New Technology Institute (NTI) for the technical help needed to set up the project. The University's brief was to design a website within a restricted budget that was attractive to a broad youth market. Following a successful launch, the



Students take part in a 'media bootcamp' jointly organised by the University and BBC

University has now also been tasked with helping develop the site further during its next phase. The Faculty of Health developed a new vibrating 'suit' which improves posture and could potentially save the **NHS** millions of pounds a year currently lost to staff back injuries. The suit, which consists of sensors linked by cables, is worn over the chest and monitors the position of the wearer. If the wearer moves into a position that could risk musculoskeletal injuries, the sensors vibrate. The vibrations 'tell' the back muscles to return to

the 'neutral' position – in a similar way that the bells in Pavlov's famous experiment 'told' dogs to salivate. Stephen Wanless, senior Academic and Patient Handling Lead in the Department of Skills and Simulation, said: "Using the vibrating suit can help 'teach' not just students but existing NHS staff correct posture in order to avoid injury when moving patients – it's a tool for changing behaviour. It's not just health care workers who can benefit – this method of training could benefit builders, baggage handlers, office workers and hairdressers, to mention a few professions."

The Birmingham Centre for Media and Cultural Research, part of our School of Media, is a leading partner in an innovative research project to encourage citizen reporting in Egypt. The centre joined forces with the not-for-profit technology company, **Meedan**, and the leading independent newspaper in Egypt, **Al Masry Al Youm**, for this prestigious project. Led by Professor Tim Wall, with fieldwork undertaken by PhD student Noha Atef, the project utilises the extensive skills and knowledge base in the School of Media to provide workshops and online tutorials for 100 citizen journalists in Egypt, as well as providing evaluation for the whole endeavour. This supports the incorporation of citizen media production into Egyptian newspapers and news websites.



Research *with impact*

Our teaching is underpinned by cutting edge research, judged as ‘world class’ and in some areas ‘world leading’ at our most recent Research Assessment Exercise – the official audit of research excellence in the UK. Our staff are working alongside businesses and organisations at a local, regional and national level, to discover new ideas and find solutions to contemporary problems. We are currently mid-way through a five-year research strategy which commits us to considerable increases in both the quality and quantity of our research, via a network of research centres of excellence, arranged around different subjects.



A researcher from Birmingham Conservatoire has been awarded a substantial grant to fund his highly-acclaimed musicological research over the next three years. The Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) allocated just over £400,000 to Professor **Ron Woodley** to complete his work on

the writings of the 15th-century music theorist and composer Johannes Tinctoris. The funding

will also bring three other researchers into this online project – the distinguished Renaissance musicologist Dr Jeffrey Dean will join the Conservatoire as Senior Researcher, David Lewis will continue to work with Professor Woodley on the development of a new software application for medieval and Renaissance musical notation and a new PhD student will also be appointed.



The University has teamed up with Birmingham City Council and overseas partners to improve the digital skills of domiciliary care workers across Europe. **Nigel Wynne**, senior academic at the Faculty of Health, is the principal investigator on the DISCOVER (Digital Inclusion Skills for Carers, bringing

Opportunities, Value and Excellence) project, which has been designed to tackle the current lack of training in this area – a situation compounded by the high proportion of care workers for whom English is a second language. The project will support enhanced communication, self-learning and access to web-based support, with a particular focus on mobile device usage. The project also

aims to develop the ability for carers to pass on their enhanced digital skills to the people they care for, thus enabling the cared-for to engage better with digital technology and online materials. Existing technologies will be applied more effectively to improve work practices, particularly by encouraging flexible working. The project will also seek to influence and change management culture towards carers, to ensure they are viewed increasingly as mobile professionals.



New research is also being carried out which could help save the lives of people involved in road accidents. Visiting **Professor Clive Neal-Sturgess**, who is an internationally-renowned academic mechanical engineer, has devised a system which speeds up the relaying of vital information about patients' pre-existing

conditions to surgeons. His method uses entropy, a theory used in physics that measures the energy of the change in form of an object, which in this case are injuries. This helps to give surgeons a better overview of any pre-existing conditions which may affect a patient's chance of survival, such as diabetes and heart conditions, in turn helping them to decide what path of treatment to take. Professor Neal-Sturgess said: "This new research helps to create 'automatic triage' that assesses a crash victim who has been admitted to hospital very quickly – which could mean the difference between life and death."



Alister Scott, Professor of Spatial Planning and Governance at the Centre for Environment and Society Research (CESR), has been successful in winning a grant of £150,000 from the highly-esteemed Economic and Social Research Council, for a project titled "Managing Environmental Change at the Fringe:

Reconnecting Science and Policy with the Rural-Urban Fringe". This exciting and innovative interdisciplinary research project is working across the natural and social sciences to address the current neglect of areas where the city meets the country. An enhanced understanding of the potential impact of environmental change and development of a theoretical approach will enable all research participants to translate their experiences into changing working practices through their own roles and to provide 'living' exemplars for interdisciplinary research and policy activity. In turn this will, through academic and stakeholder collaboration, allow the collection, sharing and challenging of information. An improved understanding of how the fringe might best adapt to the processes of environmental change has the potential to demonstrate economic and societal impact through transformation of rural and urban economies.



Meanwhile, a senior lecturer in human resource management is undertaking a major research project on the subject of employability, focusing initially on the experience of undergraduates from the University's business school during their placement year. **Clare Jones** looked firstly at the methods and

criteria used by organisations to recruit students before exploring whether students' belief in their own abilities and skills changed during the course of their work placement. The final report was published in autumn 2011, although Clare plans to continue her research with further groups of students in future. She said: "Employability is relevant to all our students, and my research will increase our understanding of employers' expectations of students, enabling us to develop the way we prepare students for their chosen career."



Laura Caulfield and colleagues in the University's Centre for Applied Criminology have been conducting an ongoing research project around the impact of the arts on offenders in prisons. The research has included evaluations of music, art, and drama projects in a number of institutions throughout

England, and has provided evidence that arts-based projects can have a positive impact on offenders, helping them work towards non-offending futures. It was found that arts in prison could have a positive impact on offenders' confidence, listening and communication skills, together with their ability

to express themselves and to cope with stress and prison life. This in turn made it more likely that they would re-engage with formal education. Laura said: "It is no secret that many offenders re-offend on leaving prison. Prisons aim to reduce individuals' risk of reoffending through education and other programmes, but often these kinds of formalised courses can seem like a replica of what turned them off education in the first place. In contrast to this, there is much anecdotal evidence that suggests arts-based programmes might help re-engage some of these offenders and help lead them into formalised education courses and towards non-offending futures."



Eastside Projects, an innovative gallery space set up by the University's School of Art in 2008 had reason to celebrate this year after securing £375,000 of funding over the next four years to continue its work and enhance its collaboration with neighbouring projects in Digbeth. The artist-run venue has become

known as a centre for experimental arts projects and exhibitions which makes use of the large warehouse space available. The money will enable Eastside Projects to work more closely with its neighbours who make up We Are Eastside, a loose collective of creative organisations including 7inch Cinema, the Fierce Festival and Grand Union.

Gregory Sporton, Professor of Digital Creativity at the University's Birmingham Institute of Art and Design, said: "We have a responsibility to Eastside and its organisations. This funding will open the door to further developing relationships with We Are Eastside, which in turn will provide real opportunities for Birmingham City University arts students and graduates in the professional arts."

International *reach*



“The University’s strategic approach has resulted in a step change in organisational international awareness and positive impact on the corporate brand and delivery of key international objectives.”

Times Higher Education Leadership and Management Awards judges

With around 25,000 students from over 80 different countries, Birmingham City University has a truly global outlook. Our growing network of partner institutions provides the opportunity for students to gain a qualification from the University in their home countries, while our research activities are helping to build our reputation around the world. From delivering accountancy programmes in Sri Lanka to law degrees in Singapore, we have continued to be a popular choice for international students looking to study at home or overseas.

In June, our International Office received national recognition when it won the prize for Outstanding International Strategy at the 2011 Times Higher Education Leadership and Management Awards – the third accolade the University received from the magazine in the past three years. The judges commented that the University’s strategic approach had resulted in a ‘step change’ in international awareness throughout the organisation and had helped to ensure international objectives were met, with a 20 per cent increase in new international students enrolling at the University in 2010/11 compared to the year before. Cheryl Badhams, Director of the International Office, said: “We’re delighted to

have been awarded this important accolade. It reflects a lot of hard work by the team but also the dedicated support received from colleagues across the University and those based in the many partner organisations we work with, at home and abroad.”

Our success in delivering education and training to recipients from around the world continued when a group of students and staff from a college in the USA visited the School of Jewellery in July to undertake a five-day bespoke silversmithing course. Kendall College of Art and Design, based in Grand Rapids, Michigan, received a programme tailored to their request for an Introduction to Silversmithing to include taster days on related skills such as spinning, polishing, forming and casting. The school was able to source and provide experts from the trade to come in and give demonstrations, while the students also had the chance to visit the Museum of the Jewellery Quarter. Dawn Meaden-Johnson, short course coordinator at the school’s Jewellery Industry Innovation Centre, said: “The students received a very comprehensive and enjoyable training experience; they were given the opportunity to meet and make contact with many local trade experts, trade suppliers and UK jewellery students, and enjoy the fantastic training facilities available

at the School of Jewellery. Student feedback was excellent.” Silversmithing apprentices from the world famous Georg Jensen Company in Denmark, have also attended three bespoke short courses in the school over a two-year period, as part of the Leonardo programme which supports Europe-wide projects to improve training and skills.

Meanwhile, the University has approved delivery of its undergraduate and postgraduate business programmes at Cork City College and Limerick City College in Ireland. The courses will be delivered under a franchise arrangement and will include the MBA (full-time), BA (Hons) Accountancy and Management, BA (Hons) Business and Management and BA (Hons) Business and Marketing. The University has also approved a franchise arrangement with training provider Kaplan in Hong Kong and Singapore to deliver MSc Accounting and Finance (ACCA), MSc Accounting and Finance (for students to build on existing qualifications to achieve a Master’s), BA (Hons) International Finance, BA (Hons) International Business, BA (Hons) International Marketing and BA (Hons) Business Administration. Birmingham City Business School has entered into student progression agreements with institutions in Bangladesh, Canada, China, Malaysia, Nigeria, Sri Lanka and United Arab Emirates.



Marking a new progression agreement with SLIATE

The University has also formed an exciting partnership with the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) to deliver an MSc Accountancy and Finance course in Sri Lanka for students who wish to build on existing qualifications to achieve a Master’s level award. The course was launched in Colombo, Sri Lanka, at an event attended by a number of high-profile delegates including Dr Sunil Jayantha Nawaratne, Secretary of the Ministry of Higher Education in Sri Lanka; Tony Reilly OBE, Country Director of the British Council Sri Lanka, and Professor Kapila C K Perera, Director General of the



Launching a new Accountancy and Finance MSc programme in Sri Lanka

spent the second year of his course studying in San Diego. As well as enjoying the sunshine and cultural experiences of the Californian coast, Anton Perreau also got to learn about the differences between public relations in the USA and the UK. Such was his enjoyment of the experience that he made the last-minute decision to return to the city for another year on work placement. After a rush of late-night phone calls and emails, he secured a place with Lewis PR, which met the University's requirements, and spent nine months there before returning to Birmingham for his final year. He said: "Studying and working abroad continues to add a great amount of value to my learning experience. It has urged me to go back to Birmingham with a stronger sense of commitment to learning,

being an active part of the student community and knowing that once I graduate, there is a bigger, wider world out there than I imagined."

A University alumnus has been appointed as the Auditor General in the Republic of the Maldives. Niyaz Ibrahim completed his MSc in Audit Management and Consultancy at the University. Speaking after presentation of his Letter of Appointment to Mr Ibrahim, at a ceremony held at the President's Office, the President of the Maldives, Mohamed Nasheed, expressed his confidence in Mr Ibrahim's capability as the Auditor General. His post was one of a number of independent institutions created under the Maldives' new constitution and he will be



Former student Niyaz Ibrahim (left), now Auditor General in the Republic of the Maldives

required to regularly and comprehensively audit all government authorities and other institutions, and the entire state treasury.

The University has increased its overseas operations through the establishment of liaison bases in Port Harcourt and Abuja, both in Nigeria, and the Malaysian capital Kuala Lumpur. These

bases support the UK operations within the marketing and admissions process, and are a point of contact for students, partner institutions, alumni and agents. They have complemented our existing operations in both regions and will help the University to market itself to prospective students even more effectively in future.

Academic *leaders*



Our academics continue to lead the way in their fields, helping to enhance the University's reputation through their pioneering teaching and research. Our staff come from and maintain their links with industry, ensuring the University stays up to date with the latest thinking in their sectors and providing real-life insight for our students. Our academics' expertise also benefits business and industry through knowledge and skills transfer, working together to solve real-life problems.

Head of Music Technology at Birmingham Conservatoire, **Lamberto Coccioli**, has spent 15 years at the cutting edge of integrating new technologies into music performance. As well as undertaking his own research, he supervises research students in that field and works with organisations including the Birmingham Contemporary Music Group to support performances that incorporate new technology. A major activity in recent years has been his involvement in Integra – a three-year, €1.9 million project led by the Conservatoire and co-funded by the European Union's culture programme. Integra Live is one of the most exciting outcomes of the project; new open source software developed at Birmingham Conservatoire that allows musicians to compose and perform live

electronic music in a more user-friendly way. The software was used in a public performance for the first time in May 2011 at the ENSEMS festival in Valencia, Spain, and again extensively at the Integra International Festival in Copenhagen in September. He said: "Musicians shouldn't need to become programmers in order to use live electronic technologies in their music. Our work is all about empowering composers and performers to approach technology just as another musical instrument, rather than an end in itself."

"Our work is all about empowering composers and performers to approach technology just as another musical instrument"

Lamberto Coccioli, Head of Music Technology



Sarah King

Senior law lecturer Sarah King is leading research into how e-learning, particularly teaching using virtual worlds, can enhance students' learning experiences. She jointly developed, with colleague Angela Kerry, the Virtual Solicitors' Office, which is used by our students to replicate problem-based scenarios which relate directly to the sorts of cases a trainee solicitor could handle in practice. The virtual office also gives users an insight into how an office works, how the personalities involved may impact on the practice and what they can expect when they begin their legal career. She said: "The idea that students benefit from active and collaborative learning is well established. The aim of the project is to enhance this form of learning and teaching by creating a virtual learning environment which mirrors as closely as possible life in a solicitor's office." Sarah joined the University in 2003 after previously working as a solicitor. She teaches on a number of programmes within the law school, and has presented a number of conference papers on learning and teaching in higher education, and for the last 12 months has also been the Learning, Teaching and Assessments Adviser for the school.



Professor Maxine Lintern

As Associate Dean and Director of Research at the Faculty of Health, Professor Maxine Lintern brings together the faculty's teaching and research activities, ensuring that our students benefit from the latest theory, best practice and ideas. Since a major area of research for the University is in the pedagogical field, analysing how to improve the teaching and learning experience for students and lifelong learners, this can be fed directly back into the University's own programmes, ensuring the best educational experience for our students and the use of innovative teaching methods. Over the past year, she has overseen the development of a new biomedical science lab at our City South Campus, bringing additional scientific insight to our nursing courses, while other areas of research include working with Whittall Street Sexual Health Clinic to improve access to support services for HIV patients, researching the prescription of antibiotics in rural communities in Vietnam and investigating how to improve take-up of post-heart attack treatments for the Pakistani community in the West Midlands. She said: "We're always looking at our research and thinking 'can we learn from that?', not only to make sure that what we are teaching is as relevant as it can be, but also that we are teaching in the most up to date way."



Hannah Phillips

Hannah Phillips is helping to take the arts to a wider audience as course director for our BA (Hons) courses in Community and Applied Theatre and Community and Applied Dance Theatre, both of which started in 2009. Over the past year, events have included a theatre and education tour to raise awareness of HIV and AIDS among young people, while speaking to HIV service users about their experiences, and 'Flipside', a project to increase accessibility and participation in the arts whilst raising awareness of homelessness in Birmingham, culminating in a performance at the mac, which resulted in two of the individuals concerned enrolling on part-time courses at BSA. In addition, her students have been commissioned for a number of shorter 'flashmob' performances at the REP, Broadway Plaza and the Bullring Indoor Market. She said: "As the course's reputation has grown, services and organisations are now approaching us to respond to the needs of our local communities. West Midlands Police are currently funding us to develop a devised piece exploring 'hate crime' and the August riots to tour schools in Great Barr this autumn." Now the course is established, the next priority is to build up the University's research presence in the field, writing up what has already been learned from projects students have been involved in and building relationships with other institutions.



Professor David Edwards

Birmingham City Business School academic Professor David Edwards has been appointed as an academic representative on a prestigious national panel due to his extensive research. David, who leads the Centre for Business, Innovation and Enterprise (CBIE), has been selected to be part of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) noise and vibration panel which aims to raise awareness and reduce the risks of Noise Induced Hearing Loss (NIHL) and Hand-Arm Vibration Syndrome (HAVS) in the workplace. The group seeks to gather and share knowledge and experience in good practice and promote awareness and changes in behaviours and attitudes towards health and safety at work. David said: "It is both a pleasure and privilege to be working with the HSE again on workplace hand-arm vibration and noise. The scientific community has a duty to proactively engage with, and support government bodies in this way and I am delighted that our University academics are involved."

"As the course's reputation has grown, services and organisations are now approaching us to respond to the needs of our local communities."

Hannah Phillips, Course Director



Ron Austin

As senior lecturer for our networks programmes, Ron Austin has pursued a variety of innovative methods to help students gain a deeper understanding of network engineering, tailoring teaching and learning methods to suit their needs. He has pioneered delivering course materials through mobile devices and virtual learning environments, placing videos and lecture notes online, as well as demonstrations of computer code being written in 'real time'. He has also developed e-books for the iPad, with embedded video at the appropriate point in the text, helping students to see real-life demonstrations of what they have just read. While his initial focus was his own students, Ron has also helped to develop hi-tech teaching aids for other faculties, including an app, designed by colleague Ian Archer from the School of Computing, Telecommunications and Networks, to help students at the School of Property, Construction and Planning to carry out valuations. Another app is also being developed to enable staff to easily put course materials online. Ron said: "This could eventually be used by staff on all subjects – the app has been designed so information can be uploaded easily by anyone, not just those with detailed technical knowledge."



Dr Lubo Jankovic

The University is home to a leading expert on making buildings more energy-efficient. Dr Lubo Jankovic is a reader in sustainable design at our School of Architecture and a member of the University's Centre for Low Carbon Research, which co-ordinates research across a range of disciplines, faculties and external partners. He has been leading a team of researchers on monitoring and evaluating the groundbreaking Birmingham Zero Carbon House – a carbon neutral building based on a 170-year-old redbrick Victorian house, which won a Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Architecture Award in 2010 and attracted media attention worldwide. A PhD student, Halla Huws, has been recruited to work on the project, while the University's growing expertise in this area has led to the creation of a new module on zero-carbon design for Master's students. Dr Jankovic's new book, *Designing Low Carbon Buildings Using Dynamic Simulation*, is set to be published in 2012 and he expects to generate further interest. He said: "There is a good deal of momentum building in this area and we are in a good position to take what we know to a wider audience."



Professor David Maguire

Professor David Maguire, formerly part of the leadership team at the University, has been appointed Vice-Chancellor of the University of Greenwich. Professor Maguire, who was Pro Vice-Chancellor responsible for Corporate Development at the University – including the research and employer engagement agendas – took up his new post in London on 1 October 2011. While at Birmingham City University, Professor Maguire led major strategic reviews of research, employer engagement and ICT projects. He said: “I have really enjoyed being at Birmingham City University, especially working with great colleagues who are very talented and friendly people. I genuinely believe that the University’s research and employer engagement activities have moved forward substantially and good things will result from the foundations we have laid.”

“There is a good deal of momentum building in this area and we are in a good position to take what we know to a wider audience.”

Dr Lubo Jankovic, School of Architecture

Student *Success*



As a university which places a great emphasis on graduate employability, we are delighted to regularly hear of the success of our former students in the workplace. Whether they are rising to the top in their chosen industry or building their own successful businesses or freelance careers, a degree from Birmingham City University has been a passport to a successful future for these graduates...

Ben Whitehouse, a graduate in animation has won a prestigious Royal Television Society (RTS) Student Animation Award for his stop motion film *Til Death Do Us Part*, which explores a lighthouse keeper's relationship with his deceased wife. The RTS awards are considered the 'gold standard' of achievement in the television community, with the student awards recognising the best audio-visual work created by full or part-time students as part of their course. Ben's triumph marked the second year running that a student from Birmingham City University had won the award. Ben graduated from his course with first class honours in 2010 and now runs his own animation company Stop Motion Ben. Kelvin Wong, Acting Course Director for Animation, said: "I am sure this will be the beginning of his journey to a successful career. Ben's achievement has also elevated Birmingham City University's recognition for excellence in the creative arts."



A law graduate who joined the University as a mature student has been awarded a £6,000 scholarship at The Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn and is now officially a Lincoln's Inn Scholar.

Siobhan Freeman applied for a place at Birmingham City University through the UCAS Clearing process, and has since taken

every opportunity to improve her employability prospects through involving herself heavily in the School of Law's highly successful Mooting Society. Lincoln's Inn is one of the UK's four Inns of Court which play a fundamental role in preparing students for call to the Bar. She said: "Two years ago I was a young single mum from Birmingham with no idea what the future held. This just proves that you don't have to move away for university just for the sake of it; if the university is right for you, that should be the deciding factor."

Birmingham School of Acting graduate

Catherine Tyldesley is making a name for herself with a role in the world's longest-running TV soap opera, Coronation Street. She joined the show's cast in June 2011 as Eva Price – Leanne Barlow's long-lost half-sister. This followed previous roles in series including Lilies, Holby City and Red Riding, as well as an earlier appearance in Coronation Street as a midwife. Her success in securing the role means that the Birmingham School of Acting is now represented in each of the UK's 'big three' soaps – fellow graduate **Rachel Bright** joined the cast of EastEnders in January as Poppy Meadow and **Tom Lister** has played Carl King in Emmerdale since February 2004 – while this autumn sees the debut of 2002 graduate **Dhafer L'Abidine** in long-running medical drama Casualty, as paramedic Omar Nasri.

A former student was gunning for glory at this year's Oscars ceremony, after creating the sets for one of the biggest British film hits of recent years.

Jude Farr has built a successful career as a set designer in film and TV since graduating in three-dimensional design in the early 1980s, and was nominated in the category of Best Art Direction for her work on The King's Speech, starring Colin Firth. Although she ultimately lost out on the night to rival production Alice in Wonderland, Jude was soon enjoying more success as set decorator on the second series of hit ITV1 drama series Downton Abbey, which secured ratings of over 10 million and enjoyed wide critical acclaim. She said: "It's very much a collaborative effort, with the designers working closely with the producer and directors, and everyone putting forward ideas until we come up with a setting everyone is happy with."



Catherine Tyldesley



Rachel Bright



Tom Lister

A fashion design graduate had the surprise of a lifetime when one of her experimental designs was worn by pop icon Lady Gaga. **Rebecca Short** produced the dress for Graduate Fashion Week, where it was spotted by one of the singer's stylists who contacted Rebecca to say it was under consideration, along with several other student designs. Rebecca only knew that her outfit had been chosen when she saw Lady Gaga wearing it at an event in Singapore. Rebecca said: "I loved every minute of Graduate Fashion Week. It offers a great opportunity to show people what you can do and it feels great being able to see all the hard work come together in a professional way. Lady Gaga is such a huge fashion icon at the moment – it's an honour for her to be wearing my dress."

Lise-Ann Brennan, a third-year student at Birmingham School of Architecture, was named as the leading Midlands property student in a competition organised by the Association of Women in Property. As a result, she went on to the national finals in London and, although Lise-Ann missed out on the first prize, she was acknowledged for her outstanding contribution and awarded the prestigious accolade of 'Highly Commended.' She said: "It was a fantastic experience to be part of the 2011 Student Awards run by Women in Property, I am proud to have represented Birmingham City University in such a prestigious competition. The candidates I was competing against were all of an incredibly high standard and to have received a commendation from the judges was a real honour."



Dhafer L'Abidine



Jude Farr



Rebecca Short

Two BA (Hons) Media and Communication students went head-to-head with established stars from the worlds of comedy, rock and broadcasting when they were nominated for a Sony Radio award, the radio equivalent of the Oscars. **Steve Thornton** and **Chris Williams** were nominated in the 'Best Music Special' category for a documentary they produced marking 30 years of UB40's landmark album Signing Off. The programme was produced as a University research project for the Birmingham Music Archive, but their work so impressed managers at national station Absolute Radio that they broadcast the documentary on their digital station Absolute 80s. It has also been broadcast on BBC WM, Birmingham community station Switch FM and Radio New Zealand. Degree leader for Radio, Sam Coley, said: "It is rare for a university project to be judged alongside professional

production companies and it shows that students are capable of producing industry-standard work."

For **Naj Alavi**, a degree in applied software engineering has proved to be a passport to a successful and varied career, culminating in his current role as managing director for North and South America at a global financial software firm in New York City. Having worked as a project manager and strategic business consultant in the retail banking sector, he then secured a role with Xenomorph Software, which specialises in data management solutions for the investment banking industry. After working in the UK for around three years, he successfully persuaded his bosses to allow him to head up the new office in the USA, where he is now responsible for winning new business, negotiating contracts, recruiting



Lise-Ann Brennan



Steve Thornton



Chris Williams

staff and devising long-term strategy. He said: "From initially joining a retail bank to becoming managing director of a multinational corporation is a big jump but one that has been a fantastic opportunity for me, and a lot of it is thanks to my time at the University. As well as technical knowledge, the course gave me the drive to succeed and the ability to think outside the box."

A mature student who came to the University via an access course at Dudley College has been praised after receiving top marks on his course. **Taiwona Kanjanda** spent eight years working with vulnerable students and adults since completing his A Levels in Zimbabwe in 1991, and decided to study BSc (Hons) Social Work, so he could play a vital role to help bring positive change to people's lives. As well as classroom-based studies, Taiwona

gained experience through placements with Oldbury voluntary organisation Options for Life, the YMCA in West Bromwich and Birmingham City Council's care management team, working with children, young people and their families. After gaining a first class honours degree, he received a Student of Excellence Award at the Faculty of Health's 2011 Health and Social Care Awards, and has secured a job as a social worker with the city council. He said: "I enjoyed every moment of my three years at Birmingham City University. In particular, I enjoyed the key features of the Social Work modules which emphasises skills development. The course has helped me to have a sense of self belief and self-awareness."



Naj Alavi



Taiwona Kanjanda

Key facts *and figures*

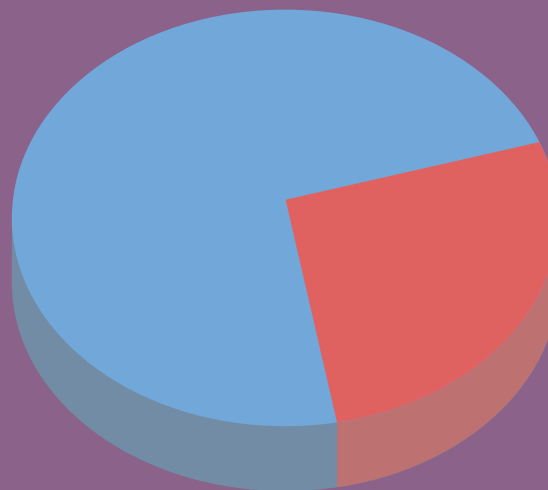


With over 25,000 students, Birmingham City University is one of the larger UK universities; a quarter of our students study part-time and over 2,300 are international students. We offer more than 350 undergraduate and postgraduate courses across our six faculties – Birmingham Institute of Art and Design; Birmingham City Business School; Education, Law and Social Sciences; Health; Performance, Media and English; and Technology, Engineering and the Environment. Here are some of our key facts, figures and achievements...

- Times Higher Education award winner for the past three years – Best International Strategy (2011), Outstanding Support for Students (2010) and Outstanding Recruitment Campaign (2009). Also nominated in 2011 for Outstanding Support for Students and Outstanding ICT Initiative of the Year.
- One of the top 10 universities in the UK for spending on facilities (Complete University Guide 2012).
- 29th of 123 universities for placing the greatest proportion of students in graduate level jobs (Sunday Times University Guide 2012).
- One of the UK's top 20 universities for media studies; communications and librarianship; and social policy and administration (Guardian league table 2012).
- Grade 1 Ofsted 'Outstanding' awarded for our primary and secondary teacher training – one of only 10 universities achieving this level in the UK.
- Winner of Higher Education Academy (HEA) award 2011 for learning and teaching quality in the Faculty of Health.
- Overall satisfaction with the quality of our courses was 80 per cent in the National Student Survey (NSS) 2011; initial teacher training scored 94 per cent, accounting 93 per cent and media studies 93 per cent.
- Our 'Virtual Students' Union' won the award for best practice in the National Union of Students (NUS) Student Engagement Awards 2011.
- Winner of Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services (AGCAS) Entrepreneurship Award for BSEEN entrepreneurship programme.
- 10th in the UK for our research into art and design (Research Assessment Exercise 2008).
- 3rd in the UK for music research at conservatoires (Research Assessment Exercise 2008).
- The University contributes around £180 million to Birmingham's gross domestic product (GDP) and approaching 5,000 jobs in the city. On a regional basis, the University supports almost 7,000 jobs and contributes in excess of £270 million. (Source: Ecotec).

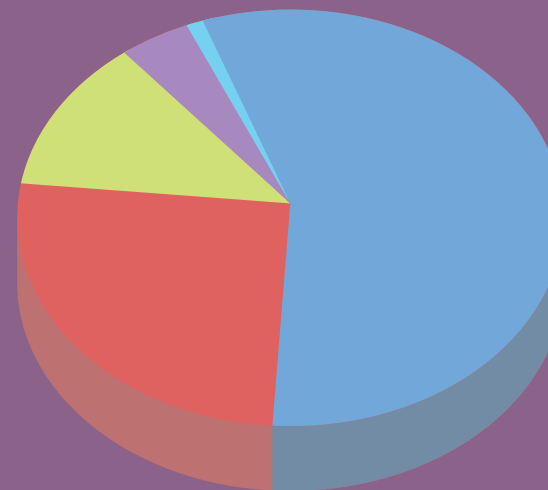
Attendance mode (HE+FE)

Full-time	17,763
Part-time	6,555
<hr/>	
Total	24,318



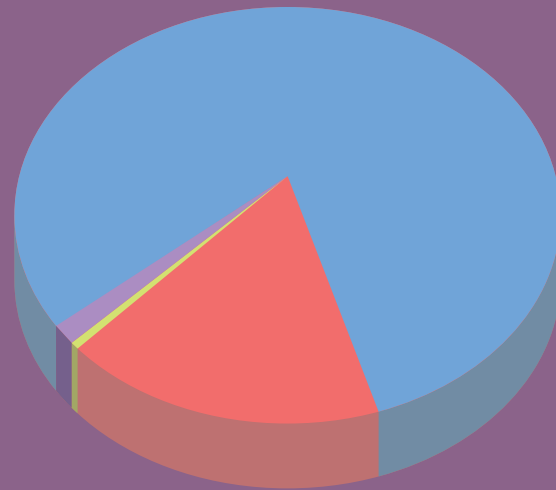
Student ethnicity (HE)

White	13,544
Asian	6,160
Black	2,933
Other	1,074
Not Known	244
<hr/>	
Total	23,955



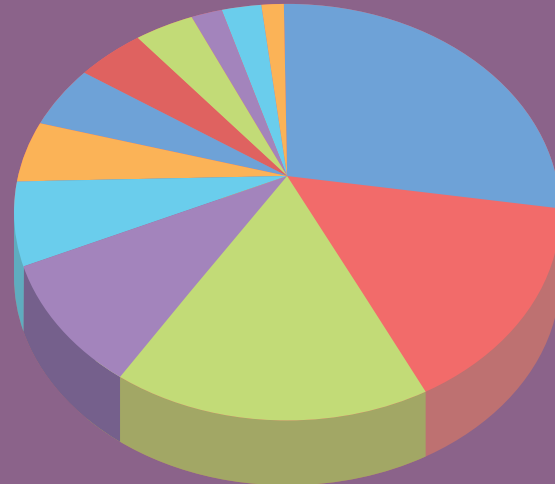
Students by level of course (HE+FE)

	Full-time	Part-time	Total
UG	15,530	4,314	19,844
PGT	1,926	2,060	3,986
PGR	47	78	125
FE	260	103	363
Total	17,763	6,555	24,318



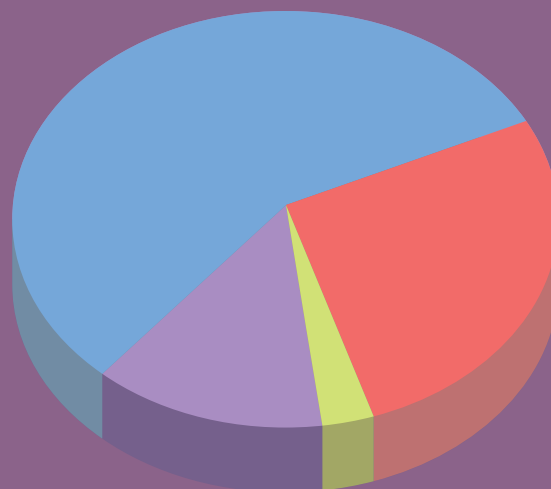
Choice of study subject (HE+FE)

Subjects Allied to medicine	6,657
Business & Admin	3,763
Creative Arts & Design	3,925
Engineering & Technologies	2,262
Architecture, Building & Planning	1,534
Education	1,168
Teacher Training	1,217
Social Studies	1,123
Law	1,006.5
Computer Sciences	537
Media	676.5
English	384
Others	65
Total	24,318



Domicile (FT+HE)

West Midlands	9,984
Other UK	4,713
EU	501
Non-EU	2,305
Total	17,503



All staff by category 1 August 2010 to 31 July 2011

Activity - Summary	2010/11 Headcount
Academic	1,366
Managers	143
Senior administrative professionals	199
Support staff (office based)	635
Support staff (other)	96
Visiting Academics	395

Consolidated accounts for 2010/11

	2010/11 £m	2009/10 £m
Total income	169.6	161.8
Surplus for the year	13.5	5.3
General Reserves at 31 July	88.6	71.6
Net cash inflow from operating activities	30.9	14.2
Cash at bank and deposits at 31 July	74.3	51.3
Capital expenditure during the year	11.8	12.0



Students at our City North Campus

Key officeholders

These people all held office during the 2010/11 academic year:

Chancellor (role taken up annually by the Lord Mayor of Birmingham)

Councillor Len Gregory (to May 2011)
Councillor Anita Ward (from June 2011)

Board of Governors

Pro-Chancellor and Chairman
Mr Alex Stephenson, CBE, BEng (Marine)

Other Members

Ms Judith Andrews, MA, Dip Lib,
MCLIP (to 31 March 2011)
Mr Jim Beeston, OBE, DipTP, MRTPI

Mr Anthony Birch, MA, MSc, DMS,
PgDip Ed, PGCE (to 31 March 2011)
Professor Stuart Brand, BSc (Hons), PhD
Councillor Randal Brew, OBE, FCA
Honorary Alderman John Charlton, CBE, BDS,
LDS. RCS. (Eng), DDH, DDPH. RCS. (Eng)
Mr Vic Cocker, CBE, BA (Econ) (also Pro-Chancellor
and Deputy Chairman from 24 June 2011)
Mr Robin Eves (from 1 July 2011)
Rt Hon Lord Grocott of Telford, PC
Ms Ann Jones, BA (Hons), PGCE
Mr Joe Kelly, FCA, MBA
Ms Jenny Ladbrooke, BA (Hons), MCIPD
Ms Nicky Lloyd, CPA, FCA, BA (Hons)
Ms Jenny Loynton, LLB (Hons)
Mr Andrew Messenger, FCIB (also Pro-Chancellor
and Deputy Chairman until 23 June 2011)
Professor David Roberts, BA (Hons),
DPhil, FHEA, FEA (from 1 April 2011)



David Tidmarsh



Maxine Penlington



Mary Carswell

Mr Raaj Shamji, BA (Hons), ACMA,
MBA, MEGTT (from 1 April 2011)
Mr David Slade
Mr Tom Thompson (to 30 June 2011)
Professor David Tidmarsh, BSc (Hons),
PhD, CEng, FIMechE, FCMI

External Members of Board Committees

Audit Committee

Mr Nigel Gilpin, FCMA
Mr Colin McGhie, MRICS, MCIQB, MCMU, MBA
Mr Shaun Smith

Trustee Committee

Mr John Crabtree, OBE, DL, DUniv
(from 24 March 2011)

Senior Staff of the University

Vice-Chancellor
Professor David Tidmarsh, BSc (Hons),
PhD, CEng, FIMechE, FCMI
Chief Operating Officer
Ms Maxine Penlington, BA
Pro-Vice-Chancellor
Professor Mary Carswell, MBA,
BSc, Chartered MCIPD
Pro-Vice-Chancellor
Professor David Maguire, BSc, PhD
Pro-Vice-Chancellor
Ms Sally Westney, BA, Cert Ed

Director of Finance and Resource Allocation
Mr Richard Spilsbury, BSc, MSc FCA
University Secretary
Ms Christine Abbott, BA (Hons), MA, DMS



David Maguire



Sally Westney



Richard Spilsbury



Christine Abbott



Our proud heritage
Birmingham City
University's timeline

1843 – Marks the origins of Birmingham City University with the opening of the Birmingham Government School of Design

1859 – A music department is established by the Birmingham and Midland Institute

1884 – The Design School evolves into Birmingham College of Art, moving to a beautiful purpose-built Venetian Gothic building on Margaret Street

1886 – Birmingham School of Music opens, it will be renamed the Birmingham Conservatoire a century later

1888 – Birmingham School of Jewellery formed, initially as a branch of the Birmingham College of Art

1909 – Birmingham School of Architecture established, receiving recognition by the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) in 1923

1916 – Birmingham College of Commerce is set up

1961 – South Birmingham Technical College is opened

1966 – North Birmingham Technical College is opened

1971 – City of Birmingham Polytechnic designated, bringing together these various colleges and specialist schools into one institution

1975 – A further three teacher training colleges were incorporated into the Polytechnic – Anstey College of Physical Education, Bordesley College of Education and City of Birmingham College of Education

1988 – Bournville College of Art incorporated into the Polytechnic. This newly merged specialist art and design provision is designated the Birmingham Institute of Art and Design (BIAD)

1989 – Birmingham School of Music renamed Birmingham Conservatoire

1992 – The Polytechnic becomes the University of Central England in Birmingham

1995 – Birmingham and Solihull College of Nursing and Midwifery, and the West Midlands School of Radiography incorporated into the University

2001 – Following the creation of the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine (RCDM) and the decision to locate in Birmingham, with its nursing education based at Birmingham City University, the Defence School of Health Care Studies (DSHCS) is established within the Faculty of Health

2007 – To reflect its pride in the city the University changes its name to Birmingham City University

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