

COU15D015

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Admissions position (Confidentiality status: Confidential)

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League Tables (Confidentiality status: open)

THE World ranking – up to 149

Learning and Teaching (Confidentiality status: Confidential)

REDACTED DUE TO COMMERCIAL SENSITIVITY

Research (Confidentiality status: Open)

- So far in 2015, UEA has won around €9m in EU research funding from Horizon 2020. We have again increased the number of Marie Skłodowska-Curie 'Individual Fellowship' applications to 13 in 2015, from 11 in 2014 and 7 in 2013. Two UEA academics have been successful in the 2015 European Research Council (ERC) Starting Grants call, winning a total of €2.7m in EU funding. Dr Johannes Laube in ENV won €1.5m, and Dr Charlie Wilson in ENV €1.2m.
- UEA submitted five ERC Starting Grant applications to the 2015 call with a success rate of 40% (greatly exceeding the UK average of 15-17%). Five applications were also submitted to the 2016 call. 7 applications were submitted to the 2015 ERC Advanced Grants call of which 2 have progressed to the second stage, final decisions will be announced March 2016.
- The Eastern Academic Research Consortium (EARC, www.easternarc.ac.uk) held a very successful Autumn Conference on the 6th November 2015 at the University of Essex. Over 70 attendees from UEA, the University of Essex and the University of Kent met to discuss progress so far and future developments and collaborations in the areas of Synthetic Biology, Digital Humanities and Quantitative Social Sciences.
- By the end of November 2015, 17 of the 19 School Research Strategy Review Panels will have been held with the final 2 completed early December. The purpose of these Panels is to provide guidance on the development and implementation of a strategic plan for research in each School. The opportunity to reflect on the REF2014 performance, to seek constructive contributions on Schools research strategies and involvement of external assessors has been welcomed.
- UEA has invested in Open Access support for academics through two 12 month fixed term open access administrators. John Stewart-Rayner and Constance Roberts-Croot joined REN in

September and are now working with academics and Schools to improve understanding and awareness of open access as well as use of PURE to deposit the full text of accepted outputs.

- The University has secured £150,000 from the Newton Fund for short-term research student visits in the environmental sciences to and from the University of Cape Town, ranked 171st in the QS World University Rankings 2015.
- Four Faculty postgraduate recruitment videos have been produced (<http://bit.ly/1QJeZt3>). A leaflet showing UEA's research themes for PGR supervision has been produced. Further improvements to communications with applicants and a social media campaign to raise awareness of PGR opportunities are underway.
- Spot checks have been carried out on turnaround times for making decisions on international PGR applications and further analysis is being carried out to identify sources of delays and reduce their impact which we hope will translate into increased numbers of applications.
- PGR Executive noted the changes which may result from the Comprehensive Spending Review outcome potentially affecting Research Councils, HEFCE, QAA and PGR funding. Already AHRC are planning to cut 18 Doctoral Training Partnerships nationally to 10 and ESRC from 21 to 15.

Enterprise (Confidentiality status: Open)

- UEA is currently in negotiation with founders and funders for the establishment of two new spin-out companies, one from the school of Biological Sciences and one from the School of Chemistry.
- UEA's enterprise was featured strongly at the New Anglia iExpo 2015 Innovation Event organised by New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership and held at the NRP Centrum building. UEA demonstrated both the breadth of the UEA offer and its desire to work more closely with local and regional companies.
- The ESRC Impact Accelerator Account continues to develop strongly with agreed strategic themes around Big Data, Assessing and Influencing Policy, Cultural Tourism and the Marine Environment (focussing on coastal areas). A fifth theme is under development. In addition to the strategic themes rapid response awards have also been made to projects from across the university research base.
- UEA spin-out company Syrinix (<http://syrinix.com/>) has successfully secured a place in IP100 League Table rankings for 2015. The IP100 Club identifies the UK IP-savvy companies that are leading the way in terms of IP asset strength, commercialisation and creation. This recognition will enable Syrinix to showcase their investment in IP and commitment to innovation and investment in research and development.
- The Recruitment and Opportunities Fair in October was a great success, with a record-breaking number of students attending – 2022 compared to under 1400 in previous years. Both student and employer feedback has been very positive and several organisations have already committed to attending next year.
- The UEA Award launched in October to coincide with the Recruitment and Opportunities Fair. Over 400 students are registered so far (including those involved with the Skills Award Pilot earlier this year) and are embarking on the Award.

Capital/Estate (Confidentiality status: Open)

A number of Local and Regional Awards have been received in the preceding months for projects that have been completed:

Bob Champion Research and Education Building (BCRE) was awarded by South Norfolk District Council in the category of Design for New Building Norfolk Association of Architects- Craftsmanship Award

Earlham Hall was awarded by– Norwich Society Design Award in the conservation category.

Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors, East of England Award (short listed) for Building Conservation.

Edith Cavell was awarded by-
Norfolk Association of Architects, Craftsmanship Award

Crome Court was awarded by-
Norfolk Association of Architects, Craftsmanship Award

The Enterprise Centre was awarded by the Education Estates for its Sustainability Achievements.

Fourteen Teaching Rooms this summer period were refurbished as part of a continuing investment across the Campus. The Arts Teaching Wing level 01 was the last year of a 5 year programme to upgrade the Teaching Rooms and install a new Heating system. This has provided;

- 4 Active Learning Environment Rooms
- 5 new accessible teaching rooms created (from offices)
- 5 Rooms fully refurbished

The Enterprise Centre was completed providing, with an investment circa £15M to engage with entrepreneurs, innovators and business that are committed to building low carbon future. The Centre has been built to Passivhaus and BREEAM Outstanding standards as an exemplar of low carbon building.

The Union House refurbishment was completed with a £6M investment. This was the second phase and remodelled the upper and ground floors as a gateway into the University Campus. Playing an active part in the Recruitment Open Days and creating social teaching space and improvements for this vital hub for the community of the Campus.

Blackdale Residential development construction work started in June as the first phase with a £30,000,000 investment to construct 514 bed spaces consisting of groups between 8-12 students each having en-suite study bedroom facilities and sharing kitchen, dining and, lounge areas.

Earlham Park Car Park was rebuilt with an investment of £0.3M to support the new Enterprise Centre.

The first activities of the developing Estates Strategy was started with the Briefing document being compiled as part of what is parochially named Project Zero, the replacement building for Congregation Hall.

Student experience (Confidentiality status: open)

Student Experience Committee received the University's response to several reports from the Students' Union focussed on the undergraduate student experience, the postgraduate student experience and the costs of study, including additional course costs. In total, PVC Academic has received 215 individual recommendations from the Students' Union since the start of academic year 2014/15. All have been responded to, or are in the process of being responded to.

The Vice-Chancellor has been selected to sit on the "Harassment on Campus Taskforce" which amongst others includes Jo Johnson.

International (Confidentiality status: Confidential)
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Partnerships (Confidentiality status: Open)

UCS has been awarded degree-awarding powers and is proposing to change its name to the University of Suffolk.

Higher Education Landscape/the National Picture (Confidentiality status: Open)

The Department of Business Innovation and Skills has published the “Green Paper” which is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/higher-education-teaching-excellence-social-mobility-and-student-choice>. This provides additional detail on how the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) might operate noting that the expectation is that TEF will evolve from TEF1 through a number of subsequent iterations. The early TEF requires a satisfactory quality assurance assessment with later TEFs introducing additional requirements. The finer detail will be subject to additional technical consultation in 2016.

By the time Council meets the Comprehensive Spending Review outcomes will have been published and additional information will be provided orally at the meeting.

Faculty of Arts and Humanities (Confidentiality status: Open)

Dr Eylem Atakav (AMA) has been appointed as Intercultural Communication and Training (ICT) Network Leader for the Teaching, Learning, and Scholarship Knowledge Community (TLS KC) of NAFSA. Dr Atakav is the only UK-based academic to have a leadership role within NAFSA. She will travel to Washington DC in this capacity in January and is well placed to help the Faculty develop its engagement with US and other international students interested in studying in the UK.

Faculty of Medicine and Health (Confidentiality status: Open)

Prof Dylan Edwards appointed as replacement for Prof Ian Harvey as Executive Dean of the Faculty

Prof Rosalynd Jowett will take on interim Head of School role when Prof Val Lattimer stands down as Head of Health Sciences this month

Prof Bill Fraser (MED) has been made Director of a new Centre of Excellence which will improve the diagnosis and treatment for Paget’s disease of bone

Ongoing consideration around changes to funding for nursing and therapy courses in HSC with an expectation the CSR may lead to these courses moving to a student-finance model (probably 17/18 entry). Faculty undertaking scenario planning and market research to prepare position should there be significant market changes.

Also development within the Medicine market likely with the announcement of six new medical schools opened/-ing (including Buckingham, Chester, Surrey and BPP) which may disrupt both government funding and some aspects of student expectations.

Faculty of Science (Confidentiality status: Open)

Research

The Faculty of Science had a successful month in relation to being awarded a series of research and other grants, most notably:

- Dr Steve Dorling (ENV) and Prof Phil Jones (ENV) have been awarded two European Centre for Medium Range weather Forecast (ECMWF) projects, aimed at advancing global numerical weather forecasts through cooperation. The value of these awards come to ~ 1.7M Euros and will focus upon European Climate Energy Mixes.

- Prof Andy Cammidge (CHE) and Dr P McCormick (PHA) have each been awarded Industrial sponsored Research Projects amounting to ~ £32k each, from Opsec Security Ltd and GSK Research and Development Ltd respectively.

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Internationalisation and research collaboration

The Executive Dean of Science, Prof Phil Gilmartin, along with four members of Science Faculty and Mr Andy Moore from CEFAS, are travelling to China in December as part of the 3rd OUC-UEA symposium on Environmental and Marine Sciences: Marine Biogeochemical Processes and Air-sea Interaction. The OUC has particular strengths in oceanography and fisheries science, complementing research carried out in the Schools of Environmental Sciences and School of Biology.

New Executive Dean of FMH

We wish to congratulate Prof Dylan Edwards, currently Chair of Cancer Studies, School of Biological Sciences in his appointment of Executive Dean of FMH. Dylan has, for the last few months, been caretaking as interim Director of TGAC whilst a new permanent appointment is made.

Faculty of Social Sciences (Confidentiality status: Open)

Professor Anna Robinson-Pant is to be awarded a UNESCO Chair in Adult Literacy and Learning for Social Transformation. UEA will be invited by UNESCO to join its prestigious universities network. The UNESCO Chair programme, which will build directly on the expertise of the cross-school (EDU-DEV) Literacy and Development Group, will develop understanding about how adult learning (particularly for women and young people) can help address inequalities in the poorest communities in the world. It sets out to strengthen qualitative research capacity in the field of adult literacy, learning and social transformation by working closely on research and curriculum development with partner institutions in Ethiopia (Bahir Dar University), Nepal (Kathmandu University and Tribhuvan University Research Centre for Educational Innovation and Development) and Egypt (Ain Shams University).

The activities Professor Robinson-Pant will be undertaking also include co-hosting an international conference with the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (Hamburg), as well as establishing a UEA PhD studentship for a doctoral study connected to this theme.

Veterinary Medicine (Confidentiality status: Confidential)

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