



University
of Exeter



ANNUAL
REPORT
2024/25

FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS
TO 31 JULY 2025



Highlights of the year

Success in global and UK rankings

We saw a 14-place rise this year, to =155th globally in the QS World University Rankings 2025 putting us amongst the very best institutions worldwide. We rose three places to 11th in the Complete University Guide 2026, representing one of the biggest gains of any institution in the UK top 20.



High levels of satisfaction amongst our postgraduate researchers

We ranked 11th in the UK with an overall satisfaction score of 86.5% in the latest Postgraduate Research Experience Survey.

New partnership with Amazon Web Services



Our partnership aims to transform digital education, enhance skills literacy and drive sustainability innovation with lasting regional impact. Together we will harness cutting-edge digital and data-driven solutions to address critical sustainability challenges faced by communities, public sector entities, and civic organisations worldwide.

Employers target our graduates

We are the 8th most targeted university nationwide by the Times Top 100 Graduate Employers, according to The Graduate Market 2025 report by High Fliers Research. And our Careers Service achieved 3rd in the UK in the 2025 Student Crowd Best University Careers Service rankings.



Highlights of the year



New blood test algorithm helps GPs detect cancer earlier

Our scientists have developed a new way to interpret routine blood tests, helping GPs spot early warning signs of cancer. Our Medical School is working with the Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, the first organisation to adopt this approach. It uses an algorithm that interprets raised blood platelet levels in a tailored way and flags concerns for GPs to investigate. The initiative, known as the High or Elevated Level of Platelets (HELP) Flag, is being piloted in selected GP practices across Devon. The aim is to understand how well the system supports earlier cancer detection, which improves patient outcomes and ultimately saves lives.

University Mental Health Charter award

Our achievement of this award demonstrates our commitment to a whole-university approach to mental health, dedication to wellbeing as a core priority, and to working with our community to continually develop our approaches.



New cutting edge research

From our £1.5 million Global Meteorological Simulator, which lets researchers simulate the conditions from any weather station in the world to explore solutions for global food security, to £19.6 million funding for our MetaHub focussed on metamaterials - our researchers are at the forefront of innovative projects vital to global futures.



Global ambition

Our ambitions to deliver our world-renowned educational programmes at universities across the world are progressing at pace. This year, our new partnership with Ain Shams University in Cairo was announced which will create a branch campus in Egypt, making us the first Russell Group university to establish transnational education in Africa. China's Ministry of Education has approved our partnership with Zhejiang University of Technology to create a world-class education institute in China, offering degrees in engineering, data science and digital media. These examples are the latest in a range of partnerships across the world, including Canada, Europe, the Middle East, India and Australia.





Highlights of the year

Power of our partnerships recognised

Our Centre for Degree Partnerships received a prestigious gold award at the QS Reimagine Education Awards 2024, in the Power of Partnerships category. As the Russell Group's leading provider of Degree Apprenticeships, we now offer 20 Degree Apprenticeship programmes, supported by over 650 employers, which address skills gaps, help diversify workforces and integrate academic excellence with industry collaboration.

Degree apprenticeship schemes recognised for diversity and inclusion

Our degree apprenticeship programmes won in the Diversity and Inclusion category at this year's Apprenticeship and Training Awards. In November 2024, we were also named University of the Year at the Multicultural Apprenticeship Awards where nine of our apprentices received nominations and one won their category.

Outstanding Contribution to Environmental Leadership recognised

Our commitment to conducting and communicating world-leading climate research won us the Times Higher Education's prestigious Outstanding Contribution to Environmental Leadership award.

SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS

Global top 2 per cent in commitment to UN SDGs

We're named as one of the top 30 educational institutions (or top 2 per cent) of those ranked worldwide in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2025. Our strongest performance was against the UN Sustainable Development Goal Responsible Consumption and Production where we ranked 2nd globally (1st in the UK).





New Sarah Turvill Multifaith Centre opened

Our new Centre is designed to promote inclusion and respect for diverse faiths and beliefs, fostering inter-faith collaborations at the same time as offering a space for quiet reflection, prayer and contemplation for all.

Delivering growth and resilience

We achieved a strong financial performance this year, with total income climbing to £681m — a 2% increase on last year. Teaching income delivered a solid £350m contribution, research income contributed £137m won competitively from grants and funding bodies and we generated £48.1m in operating cash to support future capital investments.



Highlights of the year

Influencing global climate policy



Our Parliamentarians' Guide to Climate Change, originally developed for UK MPs, has been distributed internationally by GLOBE Legislators (founded by Al Gore and John Kerry) with a new global version of the guide created in association with the Inter-Parliamentary Union and Arizona State University and launched at COP30. It was the subject of events at COP29 and COP30, and was presented during the UN's World Meteorological Congress. Our research on climate tipping points was used by the Brazilian government as a key element in their Presidency of COP30.

Recognition at Social Mobility Awards

We were recognised for our work across the UK in championing equal opportunities and improving life outcomes for young people when we were named University of the Year at the UK Social Mobility Awards in London.



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Chair's Foreword

It gives me great pleasure to present our Annual Report and Financial Statements for 2024/25.

I am proud that our university continues its steadfast commitment to the goals of our Strategy 2030, and our quest to forge a greener, healthier and fairer future. This mission extends around the world, but it starts on our own doorstep, and I am delighted to see so much activity taking place over the past 12 months that commits us to making a positive difference to individuals and organisations in the South West.

Playing a major role in our local community is central to our core purpose as a university and is something that we have been doing for many years. Government has recently challenged all universities to do more, and to meet further priorities on improving access for students from under-resourced backgrounds; make a stronger contribution to economic growth; raise the bar on teaching standards; and deliver sustained efficiency and reform. These are all demanding priorities to which we are wholly committed and at Exeter I believe we are already fulfilling each of these duties in meaningful, impactful ways.

Government has also set out its ambitions for the future of Higher Education through the Post-16 Education and Skills White Paper. At Exeter we are already aligning our activities to the White Paper, and evolving our education to meet these important priorities, for example through our flagship Curriculum for Change programme. This will ensure that

the unique education we offer will support students to acquire the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in the future workplace, whilst also creating equality of opportunity for students from under-resourced backgrounds. At the same time, our students will graduate from us ready and equipped to meet 21st century national priorities.

All our activity is taking place against a very challenging and unrelenting financial backdrop, and our university, like the entire Higher Education sector, is having to spend much time and energy focused on ongoing cost-saving and efficiency measures. At Exeter we have, over the last year, taken further steps to respond to these issues in a carefully considered manner, and we will continue to do so over the coming twelve months. We have an unwavering commitment to ensuring the long-term financial sustainability and resilience of our institution, and as Chair of Council, this is my utmost priority.

At a time when the value of universities to UK society has been called into question, we also need to focus on our strengths, and we must ensure we are working with partner institutions, organisations and individuals, to maximise the value of the unique benefits that we bring to the table.

This annual report offers a snapshot of those benefits, within our region, nationally and

internationally in both teaching and research. This includes some fantastic work over the past 12 months to enhance our presence and impact on the global stage, with new teaching campuses being launched in Egypt and China – proof that our education and innovative research really does extend around the world.

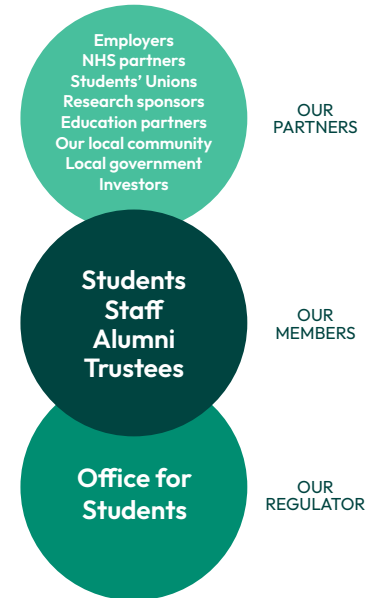
It also includes the excellent work taking place to grow our partnerships with corporate organisations, such as Amazon Web Services, in which we aim to transform our digital education and provide new capabilities that empower students, enrich research and create opportunities.

Reflecting on our purpose, and on our future, I want to be clear that we cannot deliver on our Strategy 2030 priorities without the support of you, our valued stakeholders. Our friends and partners are drawn from across sectors, including research, education, the NHS, local government, investors and our local and regional business communities. We are, indeed, a diverse community, made stronger by each and every one of our students, colleagues, alumni, trustees and the many friends and partners who champion, guide and support us.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued belief in our university and our ambitions; your support is invaluable and we are all incredibly grateful.

Quentin Woodley
Chair of Council

OUR STAKEHOLDERS



OUR COMMUNITY





Introduction from the President and Vice-Chancellor

As we complete the fourth year of our ambitious Strategy 2030, we should reflect on the past 12 months with a sense of pride in our students, colleagues, alumni, partners and the achievements we have made together.

Our Strategy continues to be our guiding light, and by aligning our activities to our ambitious goals, we have made significant progress in our mission to use the power of our education and research to create a sustainable, healthy and socially just future.

Our students continue to demonstrate high levels of student satisfaction. This year we made solid progress in the Graduate Outcomes Survey, climbing to seventh in the Russell Group; and we were ranked eighth nationally in The Graduate Market 2025, which assesses the universities most targeted by Times Top 100 Graduate Employers.

However, we must keep responding to the changing needs of learners and employers. Our Curriculum for Change programme (C4C), will deliver a distinctive model of education for Exeter. In addition, we continue to expand our portfolio of Degree Apprenticeship programmes, working with over 650 employers, ensuring that students on these programmes are developing the in-demand skills that will see them succeed in their careers.

We pride ourselves on our world-class research and innovation. This summer the Science Minister, Lord Vallance, announced that Exeter will lead a £19.6m Metamaterials

Hub, a research collective centred on cutting-edge, 3D nanoscale metamaterials science. This year we also launched a £10m, UKRI-funded, Centre for Net Positive Health and Climate Solutions, based at our Penryn Campus.

At the heart of our mission is our quest to support every person to reach their full potential. We are delighted to have achieved the University Mental Health Charter Award, recognising our dedication to the mental health and wellbeing of our entire community. We remain committed to investing in personal development, and this year launched our new staff mentoring scheme, and continued our Elevate pathway, for people from under-represented groups.

If we are to make a global impact, we must continue to strengthen international partnerships. This year we have fostered a new collaboration with Université Paris-Saclay, focussing on climate, environmental sciences, law, social sciences, AI, data and antimicrobial resistance. Additionally, we launched an exciting collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, bringing together our unique strengths in sports sciences, elite performance, injury prevention and biomechanics, with industry.

Furthermore, we have entered into a significant new agreement with the University of Khorfakkan, Sharjah, in marine biology. It is this sort of activity that helped us rise 14 places in the QS World Rankings, to joint 155th globally.

Perhaps the most significant step in our global ambitions is the progress we have made launching Exeter's first ever transnational education activities. Working with Ain Shams University in Cairo, we will be the first Russell Group university with a teaching presence in Africa; whilst in China, we have established a world-class education institute alongside Zhejiang University of Technology.

We are firmly committed to maintaining impactful regional partnerships. This year we chaired the Devon, Plymouth and Torbay Education Alliance, bringing together local councils, academy trusts and Further Education providers to initially focus on expanding our student-led tutoring and mentoring scheme. We also led consultations for the Devon Housing Commission, providing a comprehensive analysis of housing challenges in Devon. Furthermore, we've established a new strategic partnership with Cornwall College Group and are preparing a new Memorandum of Understanding with University Centre Somerset College Group. As you will read in this report, over the last year we secured more than £25m in philanthropic pledges, an astonishing 231% of our fundraising target. This includes a £15m pledge towards the construction of the Al Qasimi Building.

It is especially remarkable that these achievements have been made against a backdrop of deep uncertainty across the sector. International Student Recruitment trends continue to decline, particularly Postgraduate Taught programmes, significantly impacting income streams for many Higher Education institutions. Unfortunately, with Government immigration policy continuing to make the UK a less-attractive destination for study, and with ongoing global economic and

geopolitical challenges, we do not anticipate this trend improving for the foreseeable future.

At the same time, we continue to grapple with higher inflation and the rise in Employer National Insurance contributions, which have neutralised any benefit from the small Home Undergraduate tuition increase in 2025/26.

At Exeter, we have faced these challenges head on. Our leadership team has been proactive on addressing these sector-wide challenges, and as a community we have been working for more than two years to position ourselves in the best possible way to remain financially strong.

This has been achieved through our Enabling 2030 programme, which has taken concerted and careful action across our teaching, research, non-pay, and capital budgets, prioritising investment in areas of growth and innovation that can protect or increase income, whilst enhancing the student and colleague experience. This includes diversifying the programmes we deliver, such as through online degrees, executive education and CPD, to respond to employer and learner needs.

In June, we also re-opened The Exeter Release Scheme for a limited time, enabling some colleagues to leave the University on a voluntary basis, with an enhanced severance package. These are not easy decisions, but we are leaving no stone unturned in our quest to seek savings, generate new income and create an efficient financial model for the future.

We are also acutely aware of the need to support our students, and you will see from these accounts that this financial year we spent £3.8m to assist students from under-resourced backgrounds to study at Exeter. This speaks of our commitment to ensure that university education remains accessible to all with the ability, regardless of background.

However, supporting our students goes beyond finances. Ongoing geopolitical challenges, including the war in Ukraine and the situation in Israel and Palestine, have impacted many in our community, and we have a duty to support everyone, whilst also giving space for lawful protest and freedom of speech. This goes to the heart of our purpose as a university.

This report gives further detail on this and offers an overview of our activities and impact as a world-class, research-led university. I would like to thank every member of our community for their contribution to another successful year.

Professor Lisa Roberts
President and Vice-Chancellor

OUR PURPOSE

To use the power of our education and research to create a sustainable, healthy and socially just future.



Lead meaningful action against the climate emergency and ecological crisis



Make key breakthroughs to transform human health and wellbeing.



Lead the progress towards creating a fair, socially just and inclusive society



HOW WE PERFORMED:

We challenge and inspire our community of learners from every background to thrive, develop the skills they need for the future and lead the change the world needs.

Education and student experience

Transforming education through Curriculum for Change

This has been a pivotal year for Education and Student Experience at Exeter, marking the conclusion of our 2019–2025 Education Strategy and progress towards delivery of *Curriculum for Change* (C4C), the most significant academic transformation in our recent history and central to achieving the ambitions of Strategy 2030.

Through C4C we are re-shaping every programme to ensure our graduates are equipped with the skills, knowledge, and values to thrive in — and help shape — a Greener, Healthier and Fairer future in a rapidly changing world.

Co-created with students, staff, and partners, C4C is further embedding graduate skills, interdisciplinarity, sustainability and authentic assessment into the heart of our offer. In 2024/25:

- the Exeter Skills Framework was piloted and is now being rolled out across all programmes, mapping skills across modules and assessments.
- we started developing employability and skills-focused secondary areas of study for students to pursue alongside their main degree (minors), using student and industry insight, to bridge academic study and career readiness.

- student panels run by the Students’ Guild and Students’ Union helped ensure our student’s voices shaped design.

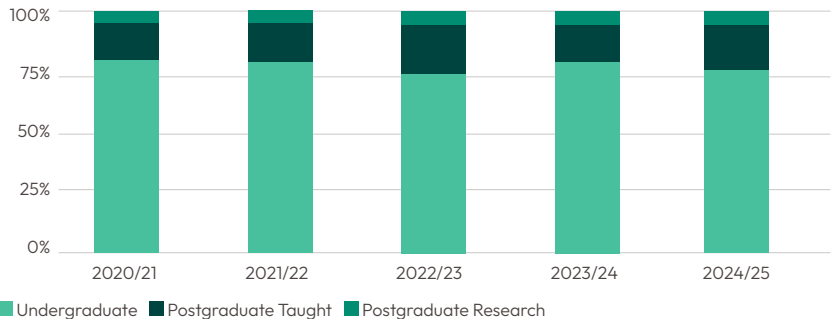
We continue to diversify our course portfolio and the pathways to a University of Exeter award. We welcomed 11,271 new students this year, bringing our total student population to 28,600 FTE across undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. Degree Apprentices and online learners now represent 7% of our community.

Our position as the Russell Group’s leading provider of Degree Apprenticeships was strengthened and recognised through the QS Reimagine Education Gold Award for The Power of Partnerships. We now offer 20 Degree Apprenticeships, partnering with over 650 UK-based and global employers, addressing skills gaps, helping diversify workforces and integrating academic excellence with industry collaboration.

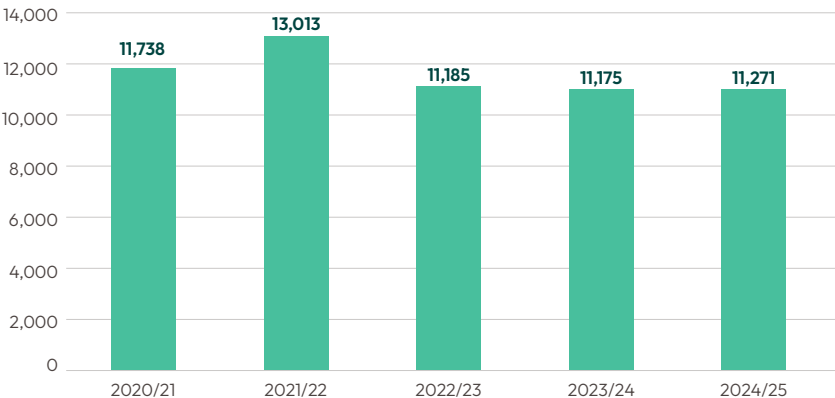
Growth in online and flexible learning is vital in realising our Strategy 2030 commitment to “offer a diverse in-person and online educational portfolio, enabling lifelong learners from all backgrounds to gain the experiences and qualifications they need, in flexible ways”.

Student numbers and portfolio diversification

Total Student Numbers
Full time equivalent by level of study

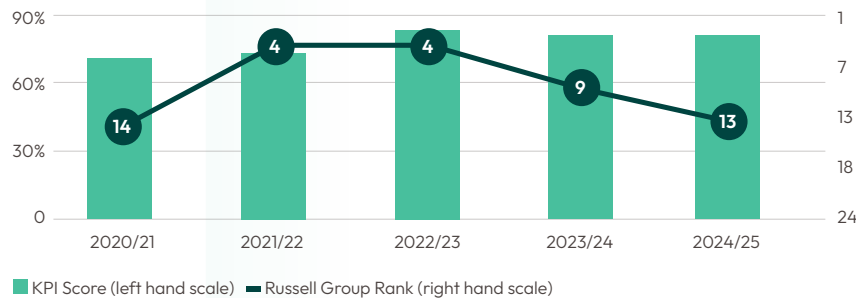


New Student Entrants
Full Time Equivalent





National Student Survey



National Student Survey

NSS 2025 continues to demonstrate high student positivity for the quality of their education and student experience. Exeter achieved a weighted mean score across the NSS questions of 82%, up from 80.3% in 2024. Scores increased across all themes, with the largest gain in Assessment and Feedback (+2.4%). Across the Russell Group several universities have seen significant improvements in performance and, therefore, despite the gains, Exeter's rank has fallen. Current and planned work to improve NSS performance is, therefore, an institutional priority.

The Exeter Skills Framework and assessment design principles are expected to lead to improvements in two key thematic areas: learning opportunities and assessment and feedback. Enhanced pastoral mentoring and co-designed welcome activities have strengthened belonging and academic support and further gains are expected as Pastoral Mentors are appointed and embedded across all departments.

Postgraduate Research Experience Survey (PRES)

The latest PRES showed that our postgraduate research students are among the most satisfied in the country. We ranked 11th in the UK with an overall satisfaction score of 86.5% rising 3% since last year with all faculties and campuses showing improvement.

Graduate Outcomes

Our Graduate Outcomes performance improved markedly. According to the 2024/25 Graduate Outcomes Survey (2022/23 graduates), Exeter ranks 7th in the Russell Group and 12th in the UK - improvements of 13 and 18 places, respectively - for graduates in highly skilled employment or further study. Furthermore, positive graduate outcomes for the last three years are above benchmark for all demographic groups within the University.

Activities implemented this year will further increase opportunities for our graduates. The Exeter Skills Framework ensures every programme explicitly nurtures transferable employment skills. The new interdisciplinary minors and continued development of real-world learning initiatives—such as Future17, Grand Challenges, and Green Consultants—connect learning to global issues and industry, deepening graduate readiness.



Delivering on the Education Strategy 2019–25

The 2019–25 Education Strategy created the foundation on which C4C builds:

Success for All – We have strengthened inclusion and student support, through our sector-leading Student Academic Support programme, with dedicated Pastoral Mentors now embedded across all departments to connect academic tutoring with wellbeing services and proactively support students at risk, ensuring consistent, effective support for all students. Inclusive design principles are embedded in the reforms to our curriculum, ensuring accessibility and flexibility for all learners. Further detail is available in the Access and Participation section of this report.

Diversified and career-aligned Postgraduate Taught programmes – We have undertaken a review of our PGT programmes with a focus on employability and skills. The continued development of Exeter's Online, Continued Professional Development and Executive Education offers are expanding access for a wider range of learners. To find out more about how we work with partners to deliver education, see the Partnership and Place sections of this report.

Valuing educators – Our EduExe Framework continues to support colleagues and innovation. Following reaccreditation of our Advance HE programme under the new Professional Standards Framework, we have seen fantastic engagement and recognition of our educators with 242 colleagues awarded Fellowships during 2024/25. Our Exeter Education Incubator and Global Classrooms Microgrant scheme has continued to support academics in developing their pedagogy and sharing best practice. Projects this year included developing more authentic assessment and feedback, integrating generative AI into group work effectively and inclusive communication in peer facilitation.

Capitalising on digital transformation – This year we have rolled out new systems (our virtual Exeter Learning Environment – ELE2 and our Curriculum Management System), optimised our wider suite of Student Information Systems and introduced digital pedagogy including AI pilots. Digitally enabled learning spaces and accessible design are integral to C4C delivery and our new AI and Digital strategies support students and educators in a rapidly changing digital environment.

Student partnership

Partnership with our students has remained at the heart of our work this year, shaping not just individual programmes but the wider educational culture at Exeter. Students have been active co-creators of C4C with their ideas and lived experience directly influencing decision-making. New insights work by the Students' Guild and Students' Union has given students greater voice, allowing us to respond more quickly and effectively to emerging themes.

Working with the Students' Guild and Students' Union, we are revamping key transition and induction activities, including a refreshed Welcome Week and longer-term immersion and belonging activities.

These initiatives demonstrate a deepening culture of collaboration, where students are not just consulted but are genuine partners in shaping the academic and social experience of their peers and successive cohorts of students.

Looking ahead

We will continue delivering Curriculum for Change, marking a step change in the Exeter student experience. Every undergraduate programme will embed the Exeter Skills Framework, ensuring students can clearly see how their studies connect to the digital, professional and global competencies they will need for the future. The first wave of new interdisciplinary minors will offer opportunities for students to explore topics such as sustainability, AI and data across disciplinary boundaries, giving them the perspective and skills to tackle complex global challenges.

We will also deepen our focus on graduate outcomes to ensure our graduates leave Exeter confident, adaptable and well-prepared for their careers. Alongside this, we will expand our lifelong learning, degree apprenticeship and professional education pathways, creating flexible and modular pathways for learners at all stages of life. In doing so, we will continue to build an educational model that is inclusive, future-facing and distinctive to Exeter, creating a Greener, Healthier and Fairer future through education.

HOW WE PERFORMED:

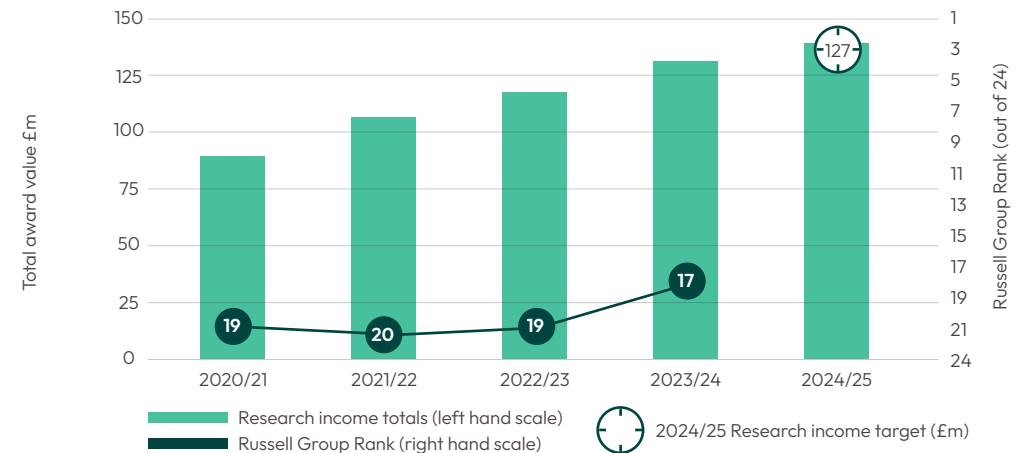
Research and Innovation

Our dynamic and innovative research culture fosters new discoveries, inspires creativity and brings people together to solve the challenges of today and tomorrow

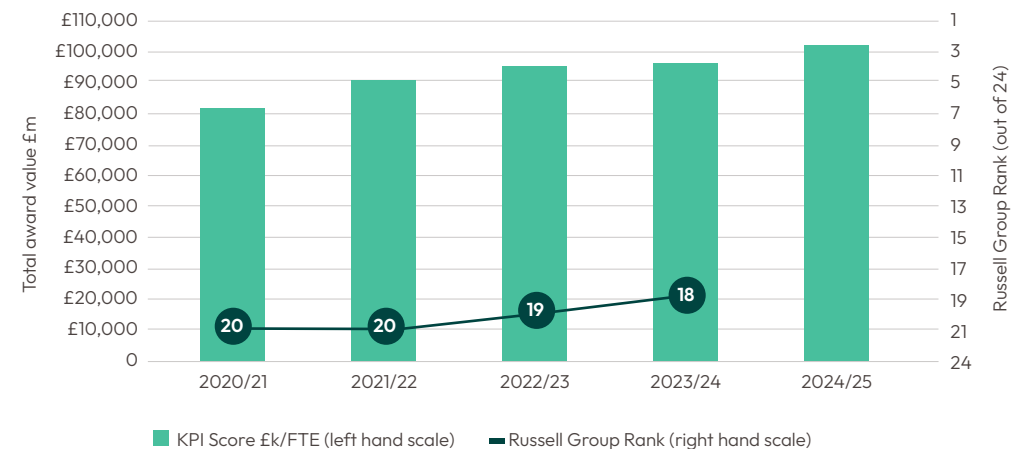
As a Russell Group University, we are at the forefront of ground-breaking research that's making a difference across the world. By breaking down barriers between disciplines, we are tackling the most pressing challenges of our time, from both human and physical perspectives. Through collaborations with global institutions, policymakers, businesses and organisations, we are harnessing the power of our research to create a sustainable, healthy and socially just future.

In 2024/25 we have seen a year on year growth of 6% in income from research grants and contracts and a +6% improvement in research grant and contract income/FTE to over £104k per year.

Research grants & contract income £m and Russell Group ranking

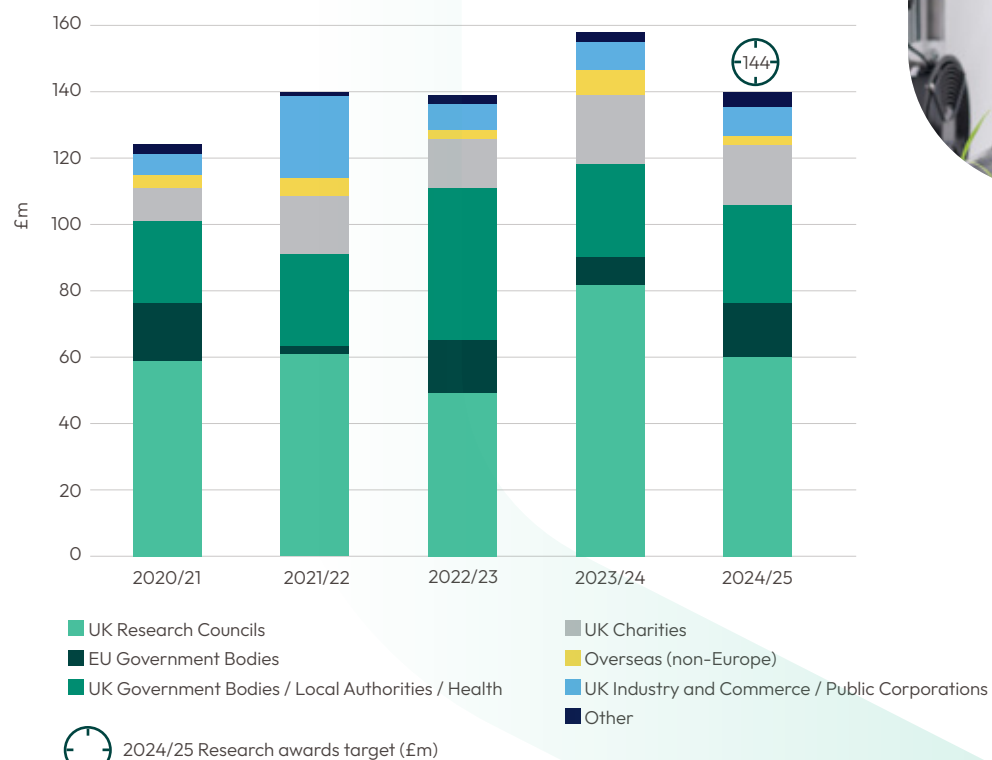


Research grant & contract income/FTE



We have also seen an 11% contraction in awards year on year; 29% contraction in UK Research Council awards, following exceptional success in awards for 2023/24 partially offset by 49% and 19% year on year growth in European and UK Government awards respectively.

Research awards by sponsor category





The following pages highlight some of our most significant research achievements and funding successes this year.

Metamaterials Hub

A pioneering new research collective, designed to spearhead the UK's world leading, cutting-edge 3D nanoscale metamaterials science, will be led by the University of Exeter. Announced by Science Minister Lord Vallance on a visit to the Streatham Campus, the initiative shows the value of cutting-edge research as a driver of investment into all corners of the country.

The £19M **MetaHUB**, which will develop new forms of engineered materials – designed at the nanoscale – for use in everything from medical sensors to healthier food colourings. MetaHUB will help drive the UK at the forefront of a transformative field set to redefine the interaction of energy, light and information with the world around us.

Metamaterials are 3D engineered structures with properties not found in nature, allowing unprecedented control over light, heat, sound and even the mechanics of materials. Solutions will support green energy, sustainable design, environmental remediation and healthcare innovation.

Advanced Research + Invention Agency (ARIA)

This year we were excited to announce that we have been successful in seven ARIA R&D funding grants. One of these will investigate early warning signs of climate tipping points, which occur when a small change sparks an often rapid and irreversible transformation. The new project will focus on the Subpolar Gyre – part of a large system of rotating currents in the Atlantic Ocean that plays a crucial role in regulating regional and global climate – that could tip quickly and soon. Collapse of the Subpolar Gyre – potentially triggered by melting Arctic ice – could fundamentally alter conditions in parts of Europe.

ESRC's Celebrating Impact Prize 2024

Congratulations to our experts in the School of Law who have played a pivotal role in examining the Post Office Scandal and won a prestigious award. They won the "Outstanding Societal Impact" category at the Economic and Social Research Council's Celebrating Impact Prize 2024, recognising researchers who have achieved impact through exceptional research, knowledge exchange activities, collaborative partnerships and community engagement.



Their work has ensured professional misconduct by lawyers is a primary focus of the ongoing public inquiry, demonstrated the devastating mental health impact of unfair accusations on sub-postmasters and aided their search for compensation and justice. The team's research into why innocent people plead guilty to crimes they did not commit helped lay the groundwork for the blanket exoneration for all convicted sub-postmasters rather than forcing them to each battle a complex appeal process to prove their innocence. The Post Office Scandal is one of the largest miscarriages of justice in modern English history.

New £10m centre to tackle the health impacts of climate change

A new centre focused on delivering research on climate change and its impacts on health that will address climate-environment-health inequalities across each life stage is being created by the University of Exeter. Together with the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), the National Trust, Forest Research, the Met Office and other partner organisations, the £10m Centre for Net Positive Health and Climate Solutions is funded by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI). From its hub in Cornwall, the centre will focus on finding net positive solutions to the well-established

negative impacts of the climate crisis and associated environmental changes in human health.

Defence, security and resilience

The University of Exeter's Defence, Security and Resilience Network brings together more than 200 of our academics from across all disciplines to support government and industry in an increasingly uncertain and challenging world. In February 2025, cutting edge work by experts at the University of Exeter's Defence, Security and Resilience Network was celebrated at the launch of the Defence and Security Compendium in Whitehall. The prestigious event, with attendees from the MoD, the Armed Forces, the Home Office, FCDO, NCA, Cabinet Office, the Intelligence Community and the defence industry, highlighted Exeter's expertise on a wide range of strategic defence topics.

Spin Out Success

The University has seen rapid growth in its portfolio of spin-out companies since 2008 and now ranks joint 5th in the Russell Group for number of spin-outs created per £50M research income and 3rd among SETsquared universities for number of spin outs created. University of Exeter biotech spin-out SENISCA, is taking a bold step into the global longevity landscape. SENISCA emerged from

nearly two decades of academic research at Exeter and will collaborate with L'Oréal as part of the latter's newly launched Longevity Integrative Ecosystem to reprogramme senescent cells - those ageing cells that drive inflammation and tissue dysfunction - back toward a more "youthful, healthy state". Founded on a groundbreaking discovery that dysregulated RNA splicing is a fundamental contributor to cellular senescence and ageing, SENISCA exemplifies how UK academic research can convert into transformative biotech ventures.

Exeter Climate Forum

Jointly with the Met Office we hosted the first Exeter Climate Forum in July, encompassing research conferences, community events and engagement with business leaders and policymakers. Within the Forum week, the New Carbon Economy Consortium held its annual general meeting and the second Global Tipping Points conference took place. Together the events attracted over a thousand attendees and played an important role in enabling deeper connection of policymakers with climate science.

Parliamentarians' Guide to Climate Change

In October 2024 we launched a new guide to climate change which was given to every MP and active member of the House of Lords and has since been quoted in both Houses of Parliament, including by ministers at the dispatch box. Produced in collaboration with Peers for the Planet, with an introduction written by Met Office CEO Penny Endersby, the guide has proven to be an exceptional success, widely distributed beyond parliament in business and local government, issued to every British diplomatic mission around the world and translated into other languages for use in the legislatures of other countries. Since its launch, we worked alongside Arizona State University and the Inter-Parliamentary Union to create a global version of the guide which was launched at COP30.



HOW WE PERFORMED:

We support each other to thrive, be fulfilled and reach our potential.
We celebrate diversity, are inclusive, fair and compassionate

People

University Mental Health Charter award

This year, we achieved the University Mental Health Charter (UMHC) Award, recognising our dedication to mental health and wellbeing as a core priority, our whole institutional approach and our work with our community. Over 900 colleagues and students contributed to our UMHC Action Plan, which supports the following initiatives:

- wellbeing impact assessments for new policies and processes
- enhanced resources for colleagues accompanying field trips
- strengthened governance of student support services
- partnership working with private student accommodation providers ensuring their staff can access training and guidance on student mental health

We were commended for our strong student voice, the role of pastoral mentors, our research-led practices and strong governance processes. This award is an important recognition of the work we have already done in this area and the criteria for retention provides a framework to continuously develop and embody a whole-institutional approach to mental health.

Professional development and leadership pipelines

- **Mentoring scheme** - a responsive and flexible University-wide mentoring scheme has been rolled out to support colleagues' professional and personal development, enabling mentoring relationships across institutional silos. Our new mentoring platform offers a structured framework to help participants establish and manage mentoring relationships, accessible training and data capture for evaluation. Since the platform's launch in May 2025, 389 mentors and 286 mentees have registered and the scheme continues to gain momentum.
- **Talent, Innovation, Discovery Engagement (TIDE) Programme** - supported 48 colleagues keen to progress their career across nine Professional Services Divisions, delivering 96 projects and establishing a new network for professional development. Feedback indicates increased confidence, recognition and career progression opportunities.
- **Exeter Future Leaders programme** - a new leadership programme at the University sponsored by our President and Vice-Chancellor Professor Lisa Roberts, to support and enable our strategic aim of creating a sustainable and diverse internal talent pipeline for our University Executive Board.
- **Elevate** - offering tailored leadership pathways for women of colour, included mentoring support and collaboration with sector partners, has been a transformative and empowering experience for the cohort.
- **Future Leaders and Innovators Graduate scheme** - shortlisted in the University HR Awards, highlighting our efforts towards enhancing diversity and inclusion in recruitment.

Working together for inclusive change

Gender equality

We successfully re-accredited our Athena Swan Silver Award in 2024, indicating our commitment to advancing the careers of women in science, technology, engineering, maths and medicine in higher education and research.

Our new action plan seeks to:

- increase male allyship and engagement
- embed intersectionality within EDI activity
- expand global research partnerships, see partnerships section for details
- enhance support for colleagues experiencing menopause
- refresh provision for parents and carers

Bystander training

The Active Bystander Programme, which provides practical strategies to challenge harmful or inappropriate behaviours effectively, reached an additional 900 students and 520 staff bringing total participation since July 2023 to 3,300 students and 1,800 staff. The programme has now become a core part of our culture, supporting compliance with the updated expectations and guidelines of Conditions of Registration from the Office for Students' (Condition E6).

Protecting freedom of speech and maintaining good campus relations

The sector has experienced tensions relating to Freedom of Speech, which has impacted our student and colleague community. Our proactive engagement with the members of our community directly impacted alongside strengthened policies, practice and processes has proven effective, enabling us to build a culture of tolerance, mutual respect and disagreeing well.

As a result, we have maintained good relations on our campuses and received recognition from Universities UK in their good practice publication and conference.

Fostering a connected and collaborative culture

The results of our most recent Colleague Experience survey in June 2025 have led to the surfacing of common issues for example career progression and growth; workload pressures; and fair opportunities and recognition. It has also supported the co-construction of solutions such as launching clearer career pathways; introducing workload modelling tools; and strengthening equity in progression and recognition through transparent processes and regular communication. Other key findings indicate positive shifts in wellbeing, flexibility and inclusion:

- Wellbeing scores improved slightly across workload, mental health disclosures, and organisational support. 67% of colleagues rated organisational support for wellbeing at 7 out of 10 or higher (up from 64% previously).
- Flexibility: 83% of respondents were satisfied with work schedule flexibility, with more colleagues scoring this more positively than in previous rounds.
- Inclusion: responsiveness to discrimination and sense of belonging showed minor improvement, with 69% rating the University's responsiveness to discrimination at 7 out of 10 or higher (up from 67% previously).



Together with the Student Guild and Students Union we jointly held our second annual Cultural Festival across our campuses, to celebrate diversity, creativity and community.



HOW WE PERFORMED:

We work together to overcome the challenges of the twenty-first century, working with partners, students and alumni

Partnerships

New approach to Corporate Partnerships

Following a review of corporate partners in 2024 we have implemented a sector leading approach to partnership management through our new Corporate Partner strategy.

Our approach:

- is based on performance, impact and alignment to Strategy 2030
- is developed together with a pipeline of emerging and high potential partners
- is a dynamic tiered corporate partnership model, enabling allocation of support and resource proportionate to the level of potential and alignment to priorities.
- supports:
 - consistent management and governance, with executive board ownership of top level strategic partnerships
 - a more positive partner experience
 - the leveraging of relationships in line with strategic priorities to generate more income and impact, through action plans and a formalised Strategic Partnership agreement
- is presented to our potential strategic partners in our Strategic Partner Offer brochure

Smiths Group

Our strategic partnership with Smiths Group is part of a wider collaboration that aims to develop skills and technologies in support of a greener, safer and fairer world through supporting the development of next-generation training tools for aviation

security screeners. At the centre of the work is a joint commitment to innovation that focuses on human performance in real-world operational settings. Researchers from our Virtual Immersive Training and Learning (VITAL) group are working closely with Smiths Detection's Training Team to better understand how screeners search for threats in X-ray images. The research focuses on cognitive performance and behaviour, particularly how training can be tailored to help security staff identify novel and emerging threats. It also explores how Artificial Intelligence is likely to influence visual search and decision-making in the future and creates opportunities for student experience and talent development.

Amazon Web Services

We have formally entered a new strategic collaboration agreement with cloud provider, Amazon Web Services (AWS). This collaboration represents a shared vision to transform digital education, enhance skills literacy and drive sustainability. We aim to create pathways into digital careers, boost social mobility and regional digital inclusion. We will provide opportunities for students and staff to build essential skills in cloud computing, artificial intelligence and data literacy through new training programmes. A new Sustainability Innovation Hub will be established to accelerate the development of solutions for environmental and public sector challenges using cloud technology. The collaboration will also enhance our overall technology infrastructure and

operations. Our partnership builds on a longstanding relationship, where we offer degree apprenticeships in partnership with Amazon, combining work experience with academic learning.

SETsquared/QantX

Alongside our fellow universities in the SETsquared Partnership, we have partnered with leading regional investment firm QantX to create a £300m spin-out focused investment vehicle to catalyse the creation and growth of science and technology companies addressing global challenges. Supported by Science Minister Lord Patrick Vallance, this new investment vehicle will drive a much-needed step change in early-stage patient capital, expertise and support available to university spin-outs and start-up companies in the region that are working in areas of true global impact.

Global Partnerships

Aligned with our Global Strategy, we have established a set of mutually beneficial strategic partnerships that enhance our research, training, knowledge exchange and student recruitment, in pursuit of new discovery, academic excellence and transformative impact. Highlights of our global partnerships work this year, have included:

Université Paris-Saclay

A new three-year partnership with Université Paris-Saclay will support cutting-edge, faculty-led collaboration across crucial

research themes, seeking solutions to some of the most pressing challenges globally. Central themes include climate and environmental science, law, social sciences, AI and data science, antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and health, amongst others. At the heart of the agreement is a commitment to joint investment, including a €60,000 per year strategic fund that will fuel:

- seed funding for new research and education collaborations
- accelerator grants to scale high-potential projects
- graduate research student mobility to foster international talent pathways
- staff exchanges to share best practice and drive institutional learning

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi

Focused on elite performance, injury prevention, and sports science innovation, our partnership with IIT Delhi will combine expertise on athlete training, sports healthcare, and biomechanics, driving India's push towards global sporting excellence and developing new innovations for the international sporting community. With IIT Delhi's distinguished track record in biomedical engineering, healthcare, and entrepreneurship increasingly being applied to sport and the University of Exeter ranked #1 in the UK's Research Excellence Framework for Sport, Exercise, and Nutrition Science and 37th in the world (QS Subject Rankings), the institutions are uniting their world-leading expertise to drive cutting-edge research, industry collaborations, and education initiatives.

University of Queensland

The UQ–Exeter Institute (formerly QUEX) continues to be one of the largest and most impactful partnerships in the sector; now in its eighth year, the partnership has generated almost £20m in external research funding and has seen 60 PhD students enrolled in our collaborative programme. Our research spans urgent global challenges, from tackling antimicrobial resistance and improving menopausal health, to advancing algae-based nutrition and securing computing systems in the generative AI era.

Other projects will pioneer sustainable lithium extraction, use remote sensing to monitor pit lakes, develop digital twins for tunnel resilience and shape fisheries strategies to meet the UN's 30x30 biodiversity goal. Our latest Strategic Grant award is funding a new Exeter–UQ project to develop Quantum Link Verification (QLV), a breakthrough technology that uses the laws of quantum physics to detect eavesdropping on fibre-optic cables. By building a working prototype and testing it in real-world conditions, the team aims to deliver a fast, cost-effective layer of protection against cyber threats – safeguarding global data networks whilst training the next generation of quantum researchers.

Tsinghua University

Our new Institute for Global Humanities created in partnership with Tsinghua University opens a new chapter in the Exeter–Tsinghua strategic partnership, deepening opportunity for collaboration in arts and humanities research. The Institute will offer a supportive and inclusive cross-disciplinary research environment for scholars working in humanities subjects, including but not limited to philosophy, history and languages, and connected research with other disciplines.

Arizona State University

Alongside the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research and Arizona State University (ASU), we were asked to convene the Science Pavilion at the 2025 UN Climate Change Conference (COP30). This provided an unprecedented opportunity to shape the debate around climate futures globally. We worked with ASU and the Inter-Parliamentary Union to create a global version of our Parliamentarians' Guide to Climate Change and Climate Solutions. With the Renewal of the Earth League agreement in 2025, the partners are more committed than ever to pooling our expertise for a more sustainable future.

We also hosted the New Carbon Economy Consortium with ASU in 2025, bringing together academics and industry experts looking at how to transition to a more carbon neutral economy. Our partnership with ASU focuses on how we can better convey climate science and environmental science, influencing policy makers and businesses to make more sustainable choices, while educating the next generation.

University of Khorfakkan

Our relationship with the University of Khorfakkan (in Sharjah) focuses on marine research and education through our Centre for Ecology and Conservation (CEC) and the College of Marine Science and Aquatic Biology (CMSAB) at Khorfakkan. An agreement was signed in November 2024 which outlines the roadmap for our partnership. The roadmap includes joint affiliation of 5 CEC research faculties, and sets out the roadmap for further collaboration – such as through opportunities for Khorfakkan Marine Biology students to receive a dual degree at Exeter. The first set of students are expected in September 2026; in preparation for this we hosted 27 Khorfakkan students for a 3-week acclimatisation visit in July. The

roadmap also includes future masters and PhD collaboration. Khorfakkan's new, potentially world-leading, Sharjah Marine Science Research Centre (SMSRC) which will foster joint research projects in marine biodiversity and conservation, was launched in the autumn. Five researchers from our Department of Ecology and Conservation now hold joint appointments at SMSRC.

University of Al Dhaid

In January 2025, we partnered with the University of Al Dhaid (UODH) in Sharjah to agree a project to provide a BSc Geology curriculum, contextualised to the local environment for UODH to deliver to their students. These students will also have the opportunity to spend their final year at Exeter, enabling them to also receive a University of Exeter award. The first students will begin at UODH in 2026/27 with the opportunity to transfer to us for the 2029/30 academic year. The formal agreement was signed in the autumn.

Simon Fraser University

We have also established a new joint Accelerated Law Programme with Simon Fraser University (SFU) in Canada, which will give students the opportunity to graduate in only six years with a Bachelor of Arts (BA) from SFU and a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) from Exeter, qualifying them to pursue legal careers in Canada and the UK. The first cohort of students will start in autumn 2026, spending their first two years at SFU, the next three years abroad at Exeter's Law School and their final year at SFU. Graduates will help meet the forecast demand for lawyers in Western Canada over the next decade and beyond.

Global Advancement

We are in the planning phase of a new philanthropic campaign to secure £150m and 150,000 volunteering hours in support of Strategy 2030, prior to a public launch in 2026. In the last academic year, we secured £25.4m in philanthropic pledges (231% of the annual fundraising target).

Highlights include:

- ▶ several seven-figure donations from alumni donors to fund professorships in our medical and business schools.
- ▶ £1.2m donation from US-based Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation for research in the Living Systems Institute
- ▶ £1m from the Wolfson Foundation for scholarships in the Humanities and laboratory equipment for the Centre for Microbiology and Planetary Health in Penryn.
- ▶ £15m philanthropic pledge towards the construction of the Al Qasimi Building

£83.2m has now been pledged against our overall campaign target – a sum that exceeds the entire amount raised during our Making the Exceptional Happen Campaign (2012–2020).

15,125 volunteering hours were donated by alumni (104% of the annual target) in the 2024/25 academic year. Volunteering activity has positively impacted key strategic objectives such as alumni engagement in the QS, FT, Graduate Outcomes and World 100 Reputation surveys. Over the last two years we have achieved a significant uplift in volunteering to support student recruitment, and we delivered over 100 events globally in support of strategic priorities. Our regular mass giving programme also exceeded expectations, particularly around legacies: 27 legacy pledges were received, with an estimated value of £1.6m.

HOW WE PERFORMED:

We are a global university with regional, national and international impact and relevance

Place



**The Times and
The Sunday
Times Good
University Guide
2026**



**The Complete
University Guide
2026**

National and International rankings

We are placed =155th in the latest QS World University Rankings, a 14-place rise globally in these prestigious rankings, placing us among the top ten per cent of institutions worldwide. We also ranked 23rd nationally. QS analysed more than 8,000 universities across the world and included more than 1,500 in the final published rankings.

The Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2025 ranked us top 30 in the world, and as a leader in our work towards addressing the following United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

- ▶ =2nd globally for SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production
- ▶ =17th globally for SDG13: Climate Action
- ▶ 33rd globally for SDG6: Clean Water and Sanitation
- ▶ =35th globally for SDG17: Partnership for the Goals
- ▶ 39th globally for SDG14: Life Below Water
- ▶ 40th globally for SDG10: Reduced Inequalities

Transnational Education

China: We are partnering with Zhejiang University of Technology (ZJUT) to create a world-class education institute in China, which has recently received the seal of approval from China's Ministry of Education. Our collaboration will eventually see up to 1,200 students across all year groups studying for a dual degree of the same standard as we offer on our UK campuses. The Institute will focus on cutting-edge interdisciplinary fields urgently needed globally, offering three Undergraduate and two Masters programmes, across the fields of engineering, data science and digital media. Commencing September 2026, all programmes will have a focus on sustainability and digital intelligence, providing the outlook and skills for today's global careers market.

Once operational our joint education institute in China will be Exeter's first major transnational education institute, bringing a flagship presence to Hangzhou, the capital city of Zhejiang province. The partnership builds on Exeter's ten-year collaboration with ZJUT and is part of the University's wider plans to deliver its world-renowned programmes in partnership with universities across the globe.

Egypt: Earlier this year, the University announced a transformative partnership with Ain Shams University in Cairo. This collaboration will establish a branch campus in Egypt, marking the first Russell Group university to set up such an educational partnership in Africa. The initiative is designed to enhance academic collaboration, expand access to world-class education and address critical global challenges. The new Exeter campus located at Ain Shams University International Campus will offer undergraduate and postgraduate degree programmes tailored to meet the growing demands of students in Egypt and internationally. Bridging academic excellence and practical application, the partnership will prepare students for industry-ready employment and help fill skills gaps in key sectors.

Devon, Plymouth and Torbay Education Alliance

This alliance brings together leads from local councils, academy trusts, plus further and higher education institutions across the Devon, Plymouth and Torbay region. The initial focus is on developing proposals to expand innovative student-led tutoring and mentoring programmes for school years 6, 7 and 8 (ages 10-13) and to support educators with the increasing complexities resulting from young peoples' social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs and neurodivergence.

The new alliance sits within the overall framework of the Devon County Civic University Agreement with its focus on 'Thriving Futures for Young People'. The new collaboration builds on the successful Exeter Education Alliance model. Its primary objectives are to explore novel approaches to supporting schools' and colleges' provision for SEND (children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) and SEMH (children with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs); and to expand university-led student tutoring and mentoring models. The Alliance's work draws on the findings of the South West Social Mobility Commission, particularly in highlighting evidence of lower than average levels of academic attainment and progression.

Devon Housing Commission launched

Chaired by independent peer and housing expert Lord Richard Best, the Housing Commission was a partnership between Devon County Council, Devon's district authorities and Torbay Council, supported by the University of Exeter. We led the consultation, evidence gathering and developed the published report.

The Devon Housing Commission report provides a comprehensive analysis of the housing challenges faced in Devon and highlights issues such as the affordability crisis, lack of adequate social housing and the growing demand for rental properties. It emphasises the need for sustainable development, the role of local authorities in addressing these challenges and the importance of balancing housing supply with environmental and community needs.

The report offers recommendations including increasing affordable housing options, improving planning processes and better support for community-led housing. It forms the basis of a new action plan by local authorities in Devon and is a successful example of university and civic partner collaboration for the benefit of the region.

New Cornwall College Group Partnership

Our new strategic partnership with the Cornwall College Group plans to expand educational opportunities, strengthen social mobility and boost economic development across the South West.

The partnership will enable us to enhance educational outcomes and aspirations for young people across the county; collaborate on workforce development initiatives to meet regional and national skills demands; drive inclusive and clean growth, particularly in sectors such as mining and critical minerals; support adult education and lifelong learning; encourage broader participation in higher education and to deliver joint projects.



HOW WE PERFORMED:

We ensure the long-term financial sustainability of the organisation through rigorous management of our finances and assets, to enable us to invest in our strategic priorities

Finance and Physical Resources

Finance

Total income grew by £16m, 2.4%, to £681m in the year to 31 July 2025. Teaching income, including the Office for Students teaching grant, remained at £371m, representing 54% of income, down from 56% in the prior year. In an increasingly challenging international recruitment market, entries at Postgraduate and Undergraduate level were lower than in 2023/24 and, despite very high levels of returning students, international fee income contracted by 2% with fewer Undergraduate and Postgraduate entrants compounded by increased scholarships required to remain competitive.

Home Undergraduate student demand and quality remains high, resulting in slightly increased intake compared to the prior year. Postgraduate Home entrants, however, having bounced back from the softened position experienced in 2022/23, again contracted, highlighting an increasingly volatile market. Continued growth in our Degree Apprenticeship provision at levels 4 to 7 and expanding online portfolio led to an overall growth in home tuition fee income of 1.2%.

Research grant and contract income increased by 6% to £137m. Other income grew by 9% to £102m including capital grants, commercial income and continued strong trading activity as a result of investments in accommodation, retail and hospitality across the campuses.

Staff costs rose by 6%, driven by the 2024 pay award, our ongoing commitment to the Living Wage Foundation's guidance, the part-year impact of higher employer National Insurance contributions and additional costs directly linked to increased income – particularly from research and other sources. Operating cash generation (EBITDA)[▲] of £48m is a £9m reduction year on year which is further reflected in our operating surplus, EBIT^{▲▲}, dropping by £14m to £8.2m or 1.2% of income.

Undergraduate fee and fact that research costs are not fully covered by the grant funding received. With the increase in Home Undergraduate fees offset by the full-year impact of higher National Insurance costs, even greater competition in a volatile international student market, and ongoing inflationary pressures, we will need to maintain our focused and coordinated efforts on cost efficiency to maintain a positive EBIT next year.

A comprehensive report on our financial performance, including a reconciliation between an EBITDA of £48m and the £1.3m reported surplus, is presented in the Financial Review section of the Financial Statements.

Total income



Within the University's financial results, interest receivable from our cash balances accounted for £11.4m of our £8.2m EBIT, effectively subsidising our core activities of teaching, research and commercial. This highlights the continued impact of the static Home

▲ EBITDA: Earnings Before Interest (payable), Taxation, Depreciation and Amortisation

▲▲ EBIT: Earnings Before Interest (payable) and Taxation

Physical resources: our beautiful campuses and the built and digital estate

We have completed several key projects in support of our teaching and research activities, staff and student experience and decarbonisation. On top of our continued investment in our IT and Digital capabilities, projects of note completed in the past year included:

MyExeter app

We've successfully retired our legacy student app and launched MyExeter, a fully native, University-developed and owned app. Since its launch in September 2024, it has been downloaded over 54,000 times and has already been transforming how we deliver services to our students. Our new Check-In feature has digitised the attendance process for over 5,000 visa-holding international students, eliminating the need for ten in-person meetings per year, per student. We continuously improve the performance and functionality of MyExeter in line with student feedback and changing needs.

Digital Skills for colleagues

In June 2025, we launched Digital Skills to all University colleagues – over 2,500 have already accessed it. Digital Skills is an online self-assessment quiz that helps identify strengths and areas for development in digital skills. It also suggests personalised resources based on job role, interests and goals and the results feed into a private learning dashboard, where staff can track progress and revisit recommendations anytime. It includes a library of over 500 digital learning resources that have been designed to support staff in developing 15 digital capabilities including digital productivity, digital collaboration, data literacy and digital wellbeing. New content is

added to support the University's changing needs as they arise such as including new AI courses to support the roll out of our new Enabling AI Strategy.

Enabling Artificial Intelligence (AI) Strategy

Our newly launched Enabling AI Strategy sets out our vision to embed AI responsibly and sustainably across education, research and professional services. The accompanying AI Policy details principles for using AI and includes an AI catalogue to quickly identify University-licensed tools, as well as clear links to the Information Classification Scheme.

We are already prioritising AI initiatives that help colleagues work more efficiently and effectively, enabling the reduction of repetitive tasks so colleagues can focus on higher-value work. We will prioritise energy-efficient suppliers, assess sustainability impacts before adopting AI tools and embed ethical and environmental considerations into all our guidance and training for the University community.

Data Strategy

Our Data Strategy was also published this year and recognises data as a strategic institutional asset, where high-quality, well-governed data is foundational to delivering institutional operations, strategy, and transformation, including being able to unlock value from new technologies such as AI.

Built estate

In addition to the major refurbishment of the Innovation Centre, a further £4.3m was invested in upgrading and improving our learning spaces across our campuses, including

technology, equipment, furniture and fittings, to support our student and staff experience, and over £2m in network and Wi-Fi upgrades. Overall, we upgraded 10 buildings in our estate to provide the latest WiFi and networking services to keep our students and staff well connected.

Camborne School of Mines

Work has completed at our Camborne School of Mines (CSM), on our Critical Minerals Hub and our pioneering Geotracer Facility. Both projects are part-funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, of which Cornwall Council is a lead authority responsible for monitoring the project. These new facilities open up entirely new areas of development and innovation for the region, providing state-of-the-art and green mineral processing and analytical equipment and expertise, as well as facilities to trace river and marine pollution, land contamination and groundwater sources.

Innovation Centre One Kathleen Booth Building

We have reconfigured existing space to create flexible, modern offices and meeting spaces, enabling accommodation of an expanding team and increasing opportunities for research projects in Data Science and Artificial Intelligence as well as growth in our postgraduate taught programmes in these areas.

The Sarah Turvill Multifaith Centre

We officially opened our newest building on the Streatham Campus, which promotes inclusion and respect for diverse faiths and beliefs, while fostering a sense of community, encouraging connections and inter-faith collaborations. The building provides space for quiet reflection,

prayer and contemplation for all, including a Muslim prayer space with accompanying washing facilities for prayer preparation. The building also houses a Changing Places facility, an accessible toilet which enables dignity and inclusion. The building has achieved a Passivhaus Certification, recognising its exceptional construction quality and energy efficiency.

Rooftop PV solar panels

We have added PV solar panels on our Physics, Richards building and Holland Hall roof spaces with further installations planned in the next year. Once complete, this should increase total solar generation on the University's Exeter campuses to 4.1 gigawatt-hours (GWh) per year, equivalent to the power used by 1,500 households, saving 840 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions per year. This supports our goal to reach net zero and lead meaningful action against the climate emergency.

Thornlea, Creative Industries refurbishment

This work supports the growth of Creative Industries, enables the launch of new programmes, builds our capacity to deliver large-scale industry-facing research, to launch commercial education programmes and to provide space and equipment for our students to develop creative digital skills.

Study and learning spaces

As part of our cycle of ongoing refurbishment, we have upgraded various spaces such as the Highton Library on the St Luke's Campus and a number of spaces at our Penryn Campus, including a new flexible IT suite, a new Moot Court space, as well as new furniture and layouts in some seminar rooms.



Access and Participation

Our work in championing equal opportunities and improving life outcomes for young people was recognised in the UK Social Mobility Awards in London where we were named University of the Year.

Fair access

We invested £3.8m in supporting disadvantaged and underrepresented students to enter higher education; an increase on the previous year.

The affordability of higher education (HE) and regional disparities in educational attainment continue to present challenges for learners from under-represented backgrounds. Against this backdrop, it was encouraging that we exceeded access targets for entrants from the most deprived areas of the country. This follows sustained work with schools and colleges in deprived neighbourhoods and a focus on supporting students from low income households through our fair access schemes.

We continued to experience a decline in the proportion of students from areas of low progression to higher education, although this is within the context of a 40% increase in the number of entrants from these areas over the last six years. In a challenging economic

environment for HE with some universities reducing work in schools, we made a renewed commitment to support local learners, providing guidance and educational opportunities for students from more than 100 local schools. This included student-delivered literacy and maths tutoring, subject conferences and initiatives like the Devon Healthcare Hub, which supports aspiring medics. We also expanded our Bridges to HE programme, which we operate with several regional Further Education (FE) Colleges, and launched Community Exe, a new community partnership programme, working to provide enhanced educational and pastoral opportunities for teenage boys.

Despite a sector decrease in mature applicants, we came close to achieving our target for mature entrants following sustained work with FE partners to grow our award-winning Mature Access Pathway which provides dedicated support and mentorship. Our Degree Apprenticeships also continued to recruit strongly amongst mature students and those from other widening participation backgrounds, offering the opportunity to gain a degree while in employment.

We continued to increase the proportion of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic students

studying with us and were proud to become the first university to affiliate with the Black Leadership Group – established to promote racial equality in FE and HE sector. Our fair access scheme, Exeter Scholars, provides places for 850 students each year who meet multiple widening participation eligibility criteria. This free programme for South West-based and national students builds knowledge, confidence and study skills to support progression into higher education. Evaluation shows positive impacts in knowledge, confidence and propensity to apply for and achieve university places. In addition to our Exeter Scholars summer schools, we hosted residential with partners such as IntoUniversity, SEREN and the Elephant Group providing transformative educational experiences for around 600 students.

Financial support

With the maintenance loan now only covering around half of student costs, the financial situation remains extremely challenging for students, particularly affecting decision making for those from the poorest households. We spent £5.9m in financial support with the majority disbursed through our Access to Exeter Bursary, automatically awarded to students with a household income of £30,000 and below. We will widen eligibility for this award in 2025/26.





Work continued through a cross-university Funding and Affordability Group involving our student unions to make everyday study as affordable as possible, including subsidised food options, discounted groceries, free events, recycling schemes, budgeting advice and debt management support. This may have contributed to a welcome fall in the number of students experiencing extreme financial difficulties and applying for hardship.

We changed the support we provide to care leavers and estranged students, replacing a discretionary award with an upfront bursary, making it easier to budget. A new guarantor scheme helped students without parental support to secure rented accommodation in the private sector. Other initiatives continued, including our offer holder visit day bursary for students eligible for free school meals and accommodation bursary to support with first year housing costs.

Disabled student support

All students with a declared disability are encouraged to contact Wellbeing Services before arrival to ensure their needs are assessed and appropriate support is in place. Demand for disability support services continued to grow, with a notable increase in students disclosing mental health conditions to Wellbeing Services. Pre-arrival support requests rose by 30% in 2024/25 compared

to the previous year. Demand for DSA-funded Non-Medical Helper (NMH) support remains high, reflecting a rise in the complexity of student need – we now see more students with multiple types of support recommended.

Following guidance from the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) in June 2024, the AccessAbility team has implemented targeted improvements. A key development was to shift from requiring medical evidence when assessing disability-related needs to accepting broader supporting evidence. This aligns with the EHRC's emphasis on institutional flexibility and student-centred approaches. To reduce barriers to accessing our support services, students now complete a streamlined online questionnaire covering health and personal needs, which automatically routes them to the appropriate team. This has significantly improved the speed, quality and relevance of initial support.

There has also been a significant increase in students referred by academic colleagues (enabled by improved reporting tools) and this, alongside the greater connection between teams, is welcomed for disabled student support.

We continue to build strong partnerships with external agencies, including the provision of

a bespoke on-campus University Community Mental Health Team (UCMHT) alongside the Devon Partnership NHS Trust. Regular liaison meetings and shared care protocols facilitate effective communication and coordination between the University and NHS services. These collaborations ensure students receive timely, coordinated and appropriate care when needed.

Research and evaluation

Evaluating our access and participation interventions to understand what works, is not only good practice, but a regulatory requirement. We spent £0.5m on research and evaluation, a small increase on the previous year. Evaluation and research findings were shared with sector colleagues through a variety of platforms to support sector efforts to widen participation.

Colleagues shared learnings on subjects such as engaging boys with outreach, peer mentoring, academic support, regional social mobility and working with mature learners. Research is enhanced by our Centre for Social Mobility which brings together academics in access and participation with practitioners to develop research-informed practice and applied research. A focus during 2024/25 was improving understanding about the regional factors impacting on social mobility and the challenges facing home schooled students in accessing higher education.

Student Voice



This year has been one of change and turbulence, for our students, and ourselves here at the Falmouth and Exeter Students' Union (SU), with changes to our democratic structure, our representative sabbatical roles, a new CEO, and the start of a new strategic direction.

These changes have produced more collaborative partnership working, greater engagement in democratic structures, over a 28% turnout in our officer elections, and exciting new strategic leadership. Our Curriculum for Change (C4C) student focus groups have been a pivotal engagement piece for the SU and the university. These spaces have created meaningful opportunities for students to engage and feed into strategic projects. We hope this co-creation will continue next year, and throughout the implementation process of C4C.

Our student representatives have been incredibly engaged this year. We had nearly 130 academic reps across our Cornwall campuses, who have all been doing brilliant work to advocate for their cohorts. Our newly launched 'Find my Rep' tool, has increased the visibility of our reps. We've also seen increased engagement in issues that lie outside of the academic sphere, such as public transport and graduation. We've had some engaged reps contribute heavily to our graduation planning committee, shaping a lot of the day based on their cohort's feedback. It's been a collaborative effort between our representatives and the university. This term we've started a pilot of international student advisory boards. Using the funding from the International Student Experience strategy group we have completed two advisory boards

focused on international student support and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. Students have highlighted issues around signing up for bank accounts and phones, needing more support in adjusting to British academic writing style, and transitioning into the Cornish culture. We have since made an action plan along with the international team at Exeter and will start improving the areas highlighted as stress points for international students.

Nearly 4,000 students are members of a society or sports club, with many putting on events multiple times a week building belonging and community at university. Our teams also compete at a national level, with Fal Surf coming second at the BUCS (British Universities and Colleges Sport) National Surfing Championships held annually at Fistral Beach in Newquay, and our Hip Hop society taking second place in the national 'Go Hard or Go Home' Competition. Our Student Project Fund empowers and enables students to set up events that foster community, a brilliant example this year would be the German Language Café, which an international student set up to meet more German speakers and introduce beginners to the language.

As part of our Black History Month celebrations, the African Caribbean Society worked with the Engagement team on a campaign to tell the stories of some of the

students in our Black student community. The result was a beautiful publication, Solace, shot by Falmouth University photographer Elle that featured images and personal responses from over 30 students from Falmouth University and the University of Exeter.

We are an SU that is committed to equity, diversity, and inclusion – our Gender Expression Fund, where students apply to buy gender-affirming items or pay for travel to medical appointments, continues to be an important and impactful initiative for our community of trans and non-binary students.

In the wake of the Supreme Court ruling, combined with an increase in disinformation, a lot of our LGBTQ+ community are feeling unsafe and distressed. An executive proposal was passed this year to provide more tangible support and advocacy for our trans students, and we continue to work with our trans community, and Fal Trans Collective, to be a truly inclusive and welcoming space for all our students.

We have continued to take an approach to mitigate the worst effects of student poverty and cost of living rises on our students. We've created a food pantry, and expanded it to all three of our campuses.

This year alone, a tonne of food has been shared with students, including cupboard staples, free for all students to take should they need it.

We've collaborated with students and FX Plus to create and distribute food bags to all flats on campus, giving students the ingredients, skills, and recipes to create a nutritious meal for their flat, feeding over 3,000 students. Our Free Soup Fridays continue to be a success with students, with nearly 1,000 students attending this year.

We're looking forward to these initiatives continuing, reaching more students, and building our community.



Connie Chilcott
Falmouth and Exeter
SU President Exeter, 2024/25



This year our whole Guild team has worked to support and empower students in countless ways. From advice supporting students during exam season to activities training committees to campus engagement offering free Give it a Go events where students can make friends, we aim to help students wherever and whenever they need it.

We track the engagement of students with the Guild and this academic year we have recorded 288,169 interactions with 18,693 unique students which is nine times more per person than the whole of last year (September to August) showing how our efforts to widen our student engagement are delivering.

Representation is the most important function of any students' union, and the Guild is no different. This year we launched our representation review and have spent the last year piloting new approaches. These have included new systems for local representation in departments, subject specific student representation roles (such as our student sustainability coordinators) and a flexible programme of paid student changemaking projects. We ran our biggest ever survey, Your Say, Your Way, with close to 5,000 responses on key questions about the Exeter student experience. We also greatly expanded our survey superheroes programme, where we pay students to do monthly surveys on different topics, recent examples include:

- Thinking About the Future: exploring how students perceive the future of higher education and beyond
- Accessibility: exploring support for disabled students

- AI and Data Privacy: AI is already changing the world, and higher education is no exception, so we wanted to be clear on students' views on the subject.

These are just a few examples of the great work our insights team has done this year, you can find full data on our website – next year we aim to share more data with the University to support their decision making.

Employability is an area where we have been expanding our work alongside the University. There is a huge pressure on current students to secure graduate roles and deliver value from the large debt they have to take on for university and at the same time huge uncertainty in the job markets from political, economic and technological disruption. As a result, it's crucial to better support students in gaining employable skills and finding careers after university.

Another of our surveys looked into Career Zone – it showed that students who engaged with the service rated it fairly highly but almost all had not taken part in any way. When asked why, many cited a lack of knowledge or feeling that they needed to already be on a career path to take part. We have been really excited to see a focus on employability and experiential learning in Curriculum for Change and focused one of our student focus groups on this subject.

Employability is a big priority for next year's president, Seb. His goal will be to continue expanding student voice in this area and using the Student Experience Partnership Board to shape the University's approach. He is particularly focused on helping those from widening participation backgrounds to access opportunities and helping students apply skills from part-time jobs, extracurricular activities and other roles to the job market.

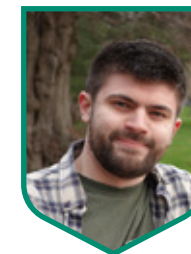
It has been great to see the University put a focus on assessment and feedback given continuous student feedback on this area. On Curriculum for Change (C4C) we have been engaging students on this topic, including through faculty student focus groups on each aspect of C4C as well as informal engagement with different student groups.

One of the highlights of this year for me has been acting as co-student lead for Exeter's University Mental Health Charter award application. We chose to host the assessor visit days and the assessors loved the opportunity to immerse themselves in student life. In general, we got very positive feedback on our panels and campus.

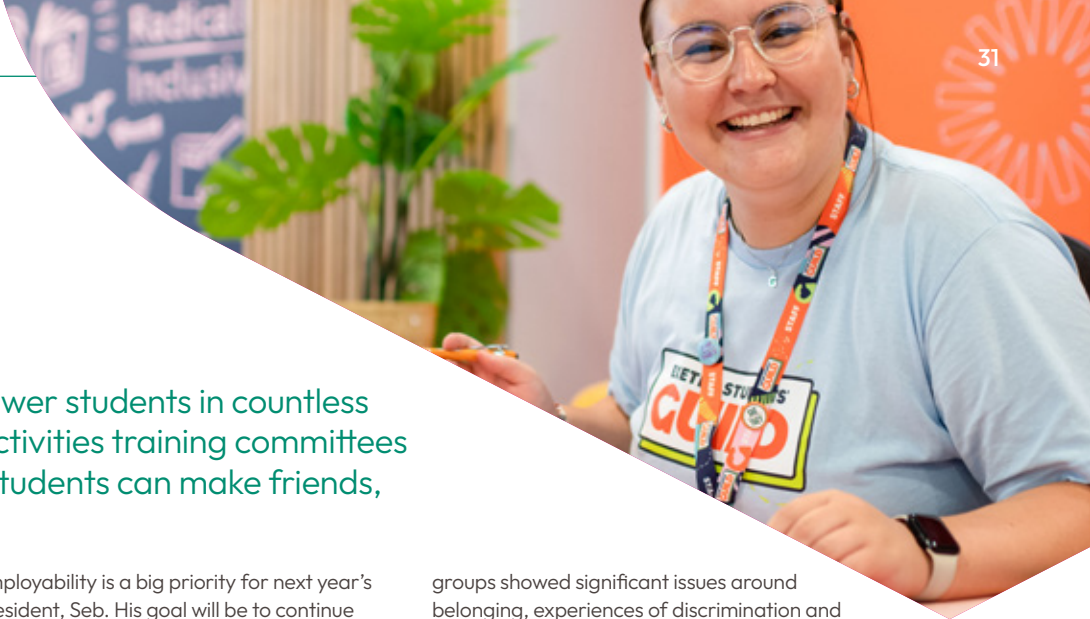
Our student research had already highlighted some key areas where improvement is needed, such as inclusive mental health and support for marginalised students. Our surveys and focus

groups showed significant issues around belonging, experiences of discrimination and cultural barriers to accessing wellbeing services. One of the great things about the Mental Health Charter is that as well as giving an award it gives recommendations and support to help universities improve. Exeter should absolutely embrace this and have a clear path for improvement with support for marginalised students as one key area.

I am really happy to see both new and returning officers and introduce our new team: Seb, Francis, Rose, Gemma and Kira. They are all incredible people, and I am certain they will do amazing things in their new roles.



Alex Martin, Exeter
Students' Guild President, 2024/25



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

In the face of climate change, ecological crisis, inequality and poverty, building a sustainable future requires bold action. As a world-leading university in climate and environmental research, we are committed to embedding sustainability into every aspect of our work. From our teaching and operations to our partnerships and outreach, we are striving to accelerate progress towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This year, we are proud to have been nominated, with QS Quacquarelli Symonds Global, for the 2025 PIEoneer Sustainability International Impact Award for our Future17 SDG Challenge Programme. This recognition celebrates innovative international partnerships that are reducing global and local impacts.

We were also honoured to be named runner-up for the Times and Sunday Times Sustainable University of the Year 2026, a recognition that reflects our growing success in embedding sustainability across all aspects of university life.

Some of the steps we are taking towards a more sustainable future include:

- embedding sustainability across our curriculum in every discipline
- driving progress towards our net zero and nature positive goals for campuses and operations

- developing living labs to trial and scale sustainable solutions
- partnering globally on world-leading climate and environmental research
- supporting our local communities through social and environmental outreach initiatives

Overleaf, we have highlighted some of the innovative work underway across the University towards the SDGs.

THE 2025 Rankings

The THE Impact Rankings are the first, and only, global performance tables that assess higher education institutions against all 17 SDGs. Since 2021 the number of universities submitting to the rankings has increased significantly. This highlights the collaborative efforts happening globally and gives context to the rankings we have achieved.

YEAR	Number of universities submitting	Number of countries represented	Exeter's global position
2025	2,526	130	28th
2024	2,152	125	10th
2023	1,705	115	18th
2022	1,406	106	42nd
2021	1,118	94	63rd

48th
GLOBALLY

4th
UK

1 NO
POVERTY



The Wellcome Centre for Cultures and Environments of Health is leading the DeStress Project, an innovative interdisciplinary programme exploring the powerful connections between poverty and mental health. By working closely with patients and healthcare providers, the project is uncovering new ways to understand lived experiences and improve the support available to those most affected.

2 ZERO
HUNGER



The UK Sustainable King Prawn Project led by our experts in partnership with the University of Reading and Rothamsted Research, is pioneering a new approach to aquaculture. The project is exploring how to develop a sustainable, land-based king prawn farming sector, designed around circular economy principles and powered by renewable energy technologies, creating a more environmentally friendly future for seafood production.

3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



We achieved the University Mental Health Charter Award in 2025 and are committed to participating in the Charter Programme. The Charter aims to support and encourage universities to achieve a whole-university approach to mental health and wellbeing. Achieving the principles outlined in the University Mental Health Charter framework will lead to improved mental health and wellbeing outcomes for staff and students, and a range of individual and organisational-level outcomes.



40th
GLOBALLY

20th
UK

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



A programme supported by us to boost green skills needed for a future green economy in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly has received an additional £1.61m in funding. The Future is Green targets high-growth carbon reduction sectors, offering online and in-person training in clean energy, sustainable leadership and circular economy skills. Led by Cornwall College Group with partners across the region, we will deliver training worth over £334,000 to drive the transition to a low-carbon economy.

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



We have joined the Climate Scaling Collaborative EarthScale, a £5m initiative to accelerate climate science startups. Funded by the Research England Development Fund and led by Imperial College London, the programme unites Exeter, Cranfield, Derby, Leeds and Nottingham to help deep-tech innovators scale solutions for climate mitigation and adaptation. The project builds on our Green Futures Solutions, which supports businesses in achieving net zero and harnessing opportunities in the green economy.

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



Our Department of Geography is reducing carbon emissions from international field courses while improving inclusivity and access. All courses are optional and included in tuition fees, covering travel, accommodation and meals to reduce financial barriers. No-fly trips provide alternatives for those unable or unwilling to fly, while also supporting audits of accessibility and participation. These measures ensure students benefit from transformative fieldwork experiences without compromising equity or sustainability.



We continue to connect staff, students and local communities with nature through projects in the Lower Hooper Valley. Activities include tree planting, biodiversity monitoring and citizen science events such as the Big Garden Birdwatch and Butterfly Count. We also welcomed 300 Exeter College students to carry out environmental surveys, celebrating new access improvements while enhancing awareness and stewardship of our Streatham Campus's natural environment.

Launched in January 2025, the £1.8m Digitally Enabled Circular Healthcare Innovation (DECHI) programme is pioneering sustainable healthcare solutions. Led by us alongside Sheffield and Cambridge, and funded by EPSRC, the three-year project explores how digital technologies can accelerate circular innovation in the MedTech sector.

With industry partners, it will investigate data analytics, modelling, sterilisation, asset tracking and sensorisation to build more sustainable and resilient healthcare systems.

In partnership with Peers for the Planet, we coordinated the Parliamentarians' Guide to Climate Change, launched in the House of Commons in 2025. Written by leading climate experts, the guide provides policymakers with clear, accessible insights on climate science, net zero, biodiversity, tipping points, adaptation and the economics of climate change. It calls for urgent cross-party collaboration to address the climate and environmental crises.

The BlueAdapt Project, led by the Basque Centre for Climate Change (BC3) with our European Centre for Environment and Human Health, is investigating how climate change and pollution affect pathogens and antimicrobial resistance in coastal waters. Funded by Horizon Europe and UKRI, the project explores human exposure risks and pathogen evolution, generating evidence to inform policies and innovations that protect health and help Europe adapt to environmental change.

48th
GLOBALLY

10th
UK

JOINT
35th
GLOBALLY

7th
UK



In an industry first, EDF Renewables UK and Nature Positive announced a long-term academic partnership with our Environment and Sustainability Institute (ESI) to study the ecological effects of solar farms at Longfield Solar Farm.

This partnership – the first in what EDF Renewables UK expects to be a long-term research programme – will examine the effects large-scale solar farms can have on soil health, fauna, wildlife habitats and carbon flux under and adjacent to arrays.



The World Reimagined is a ground-breaking art installation project which aims to redefine how we understand the Transatlantic Trade in Enslaved Africans and its lasting impact. We hosted two globes from this initiative, formally launched with events at the Penryn and Streatham campuses.

The Streatham Campus based globe, 'Uncertain Voyage': A Complex Triangle, was created by Nadia Akingbule and our Penryn Campus based globe, 'A Dark Cloud', was created by artist Caroline Daly.



We played a leading role at COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, helping shape urgent global climate action. With warming still on track to exceed 1.5°C, our experts delivered the Global Carbon Budget – a vital annual assessment of carbon emissions and natural sinks. The report underpins international climate negotiations, ensuring governments have the evidence needed to reduce emissions and strengthen accountability.

Environmental Impact

Our Strategy 2030 underpins our commitment to creating a Greener, Healthier and Fairer future for all. Last year's annual report marked a time of reflection, representing a pivotal moment between our 2019 baseline and future ambitions.

This year marks a significant progression in our response to delivering on Greener commitments and the climate emergency, with the launch of our new Climate Strategy*.

We are proud to be home to more of the world's most influential climate scientists than any other university, representing leaders in global research from the annual Global Carbon Budget to the influential Global Tipping Points reports. We have leveraged this expertise during a two-year review, in the form of a Task and Finish Group. Chaired by Professor Peter Cox CBE, our experts came together to help shape the Climate Strategy, followed by broad consultation across our community and partners.

Our new Climate Strategy places direct emissions reduction at its heart and, using the latest climate science, realigns our net zero target to 2050 across all scopes. This reaffirms our commitment to climate leadership, sets out the rationale behind our targets and timelines and drives us forward in the journey toward scientifically robust solutions.

Our Climate Strategy sets a clear, evidence-based pathway forward. To help deliver on this, we continue to educate, equip and empower our community and partners, recognising that success depends on collective action from us all.

Our new targets, which were developed using the principles of the Science Based Targets Initiative framework, are:

- Near-term target: To reduce emissions by 26% by 2030 from 2023/24 for all scope 1, 2 and 3 categories, with the exception of international student out-of-term travel.
- Long-term target: To reduce absolute emissions across all scopes, including international student out-of-term travel, by at least 90% by 2050 and use insetting (investing in emission reduction projects within our own supply chain) to achieve the balance to net zero.

Decarbonisation of the estate (Infrastructure Decarbonisation Masterplan) – scope 1 and 2 emissions

- Working with local partners on a city-wide low carbon district heating scheme
- Plans for £14.1M (£8.6M grant funded) Heat Network Delivery Programme, shifting 24% of our heat supply to low carbon
- Acceptance of £8.6M Salix PSDS Grant to improve our buildings for connection to the low carbon heating network
- Planning permission received for 1MW wind turbine at Penryn
- Continued roll-out of roof-top PV programme and lighting replacement programme
- Replacement of Harrison building oil fired heating with gas prior to the district heating scheme
- The University has 81 vehicles, of which 35 are electric (43%) and 1 is hybrid



Engaging our staff and students

- Sustainability Action Plans adopted by all three faculties and Professional Services.
- Co-created and delivered UPP Foundation Student Sustainability Fund as one of three national university partners. Students were invited to submit sustainability project proposals and one team at each university was selected to receive £1000 to deliver their project. The funded project at Exeter went on to be named as overall national winner.
- Supported 54 students to complete on-campus sustainability projects as part of the University's Green Consultants programme that provides students with sustainability skills and experience.
- Successfully launched The Sustainability Projects Fund (SPF) supporting small to medium-sized projects aimed at helping the University meet its sustainability commitments.
- Established a Sustainability Culture Change Task and Finish Group to develop a programme to help embed sustainability across research, education and operations at an institutional and individual level.
- Strengthened collaboration with student representatives from Exeter and Falmouth SU and the Students' Guild, recruited six student interns and listened to staff and student feedback to ensure the delivery of sustainability education is co-created with students and staff, and to address the recommendations from the Responsible Futures audit.
- Engaging and connecting people with nature by celebrating the access improvements in the Lower Hooper Valley, running events involving staff, students and the local community including tree planting, tree care and biodiversity monitoring such as the Big Garden Birdwatch and the Big Butterfly Count.



*See [exeter.ac.uk/about/sustainability/whatwearedoing](https://www.exeter.ac.uk/about/sustainability/whatwearedoing) to read our Climate Strategy

Reducing our scope 3 emissions

- Introduced Responsible Procurement Policy, Social Value Policy and Supply Chain Charter.
- Utilisation of net positive tool, developing an action plan for supplier engagement.
- Expanding our Sustainable Food Policy, with more plant-based and locally sourced options and engaging suppliers to cut embedded emissions in catering.
- Delivering our Sustainable Transport Strategy and Circular Economy and Sustainable Resource Management Strategy.
- Implementation of sustainable transport initiatives including Dr Bike, additional Real Time Information displays at bus stops, subsidised travel for staff between our Exeter campuses and the train station (230% more passengers than in 23/24), car sharing platform and infrastructure improvements including showers, drying lockers and cycle racks.
- Embedding sustainable travel choices through our new business travel policy.
- Established a circular economy community of practice bringing together colleagues across the University to help drive change.
- In 2024/25, the University diverted 224 tonnes of waste from standard waste streams through a variety of initiatives and partnerships.
- Increase in re-use comes from effective contractor selection for construction waste management, re-using 175 tonnes of construction waste in 2024/25.
- Gift It Reuse It rehomed over 8,000 items in its first year. The scheme aims to reduce waste generated by students by giving them designated places to donate things at the end of the year, which next year's students can then take for free.
- A new initiative in 2024/25 of the donation of 0.5 tonnes of food, that would have gone to waste was diverted to Exeter Food Bank; the first time the University has undertaken this.
- Further development of the TRACE (Tracking Research Activity Carbon Emissions) app having been awarded funding by the Wellcome Trust to work towards producing an open-source and widely adaptable tool.



Data reporting improvements

- Data automation has been implemented with a new suite of Power BI dashboards to allow transparent and easy access.
- Further development will continue through the year as we look at new tools and AI.



Future plans

- Developing new Sustainability Strategy to replace the existing Environment and Climate Emergency Policy Statement. This will be an overarching Sustainability Strategy based on material impacts covering the full breadth of sustainability.
- Continued implementation of the Infrastructure Decarbonisation Masterplan progressing plans to connect to a district heat network and increase onsite generation of electricity.
- Launch of new Sustainable Design and Construction Standard.
- Launch of Climate Literacy training for staff. We have established an internal group of course experts to develop this training.
- Embedding sustainability into the curriculum through our Curriculum for Change programme.



Our progress

We report our carbon emissions in line with the Greenhouse Gas Protocol.

The University is committed to reducing its emissions by 90% across all scopes by 2050, with an interim target of a 26% reduction by 2030, in line with the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi). We report our emissions aligned to the Greenhouse Gas Protocol (GHG) – Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard, and the EAUC’s Standardised Carbon Emissions Framework (SCEF).

Location-based emissions are calculated using the average emission intensity of the power grid and does not account for procurement decisions. In contrast, market-based emissions represent the emissions associated with the electricity that we purchase and takes into account our electricity contracts. We report both our location-based and market-based emissions in line with the GHG Protocol and use our market-based emissions to report progress against our target.

Selected scope 1 and 2 GHG emissions data for the year ended 31 July 2025 is being subject to independent limited assurance procedures by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC) and the results of that assurance can be found on our website. It is intended that the assurance process will continue, with additional metrics being brought in as they become audit-ready.

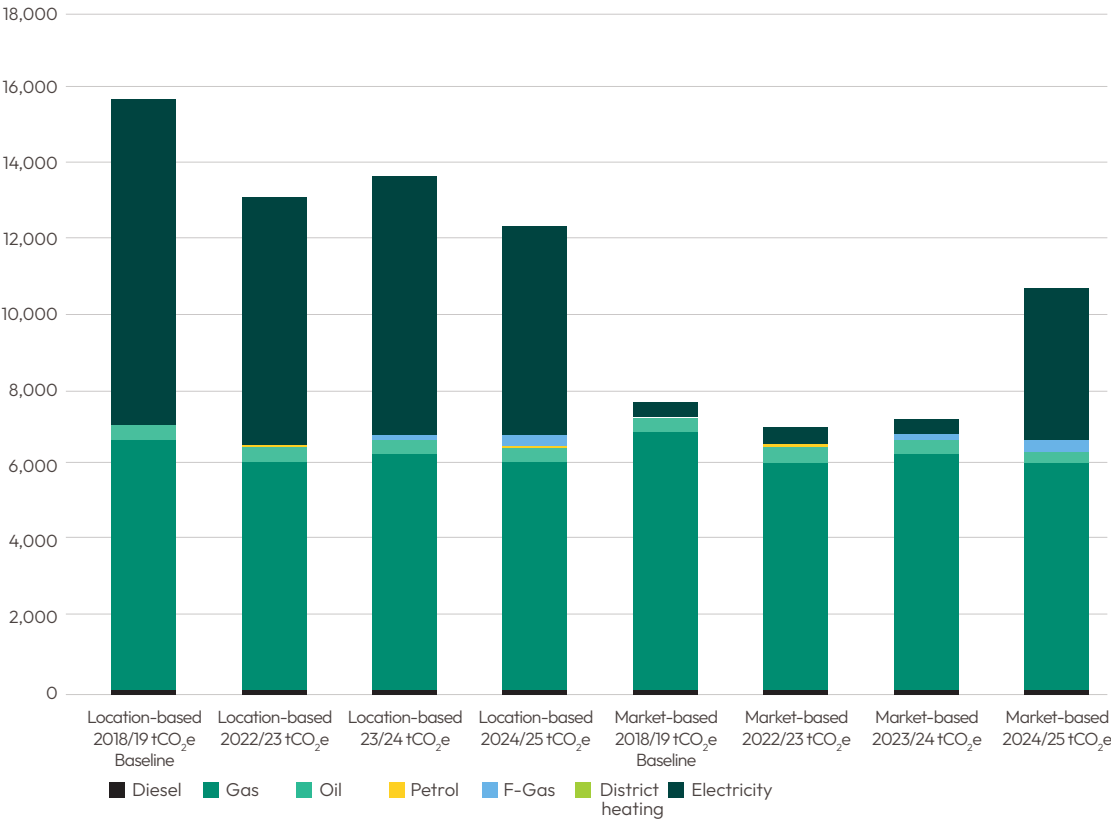
The full carbon footprint is reported in the Sustainability Report for 2024/25, published in Spring 2026.

In 2024/25, the University’s scope 1* emissions were 6,329 tCO₂e, representing a 3% reduction compared to the 2023/24 baseline of 6,506 tCO₂e. This decrease reflects ongoing efforts to improve operational efficiency.

*At the current time scope 1 calculated emissions do not include FGas, whilst an accurate methodology is sought.

Scope 2 emissions present a more complex picture due to changes in electricity tariffs and carbon factors. Market-based scope 2 emissions increased significantly to 3,677 tCO₂e, compared to 463 tCO₂e in 2023/24. This rise was due to a fixed six-month period during which the University moved away from a zero-carbon electricity tariff while tariff decisions were under review, taking into account cost and environmental impact. From April onwards, Exeter returned to a zero-carbon tariff. At the Penryn Campus, there has been a transition away from a zero-carbon tariff, and future decisions on whether to return to a zero-carbon tariff remain under consideration.

Total Scope 1 and 2 Emissions



Scope 1 and 2 Market-based Emissions ↗	Scope 1 and 2 Location-based Emissions ↘	Heating Emissions ↘	Electricity Consumption ↘
Our Scope 1 and 2 emissions have increased by 44% compared to 2023/24 due to the 6-month break in the zero-carbon tariff.	Our location-based emissions have decreased by 9% compared to 2023/24. This improvement is primarily due to a decrease in UK grid emission factors, which lowered the emissions associated with purchased electricity.	Our heating emissions have been reduced by 141 tonnes compared to 2023/24. As the first stage of our heat decarbonisation programme, we have installed three commercial-sized Air Sourced Heat Pumps on the Streatham Campus providing heating to buildings and our	Energy consumption for the year has seen a 2% reduction compared to 2023/24, indicating progress in energy efficiency despite operational growth. We currently generate over 1,000 MWh annually from our roof-mounted PV and have plans to increase this to over 2,200 MWh.



Ethical Investments

The University's Endowment ended the year with a value of £54.2m, arising from the generous support of alumni and supporters over many years. These funds are managed in line with our Investment Policy by our Fund Managers Rathbones Greenbank. An Investment and Treasury Working Group was convened and met during the year with representatives of staff, both academic and professional services, and students from the Students' Guild and Falmouth and Exeter Students' Union to debate and review both policies. Within the Investment policy, explicit exclusions are kept to a minimum, recognising the limitations of exclusion on impacting change, with negative screens for fossil fuel extraction and tobacco production maintained. The review reinforced that we will continue to seek out optimal returns while prioritising investment in entities that exhibit their commitment to environmental, social and governance (ESG) matters.

The portfolios have reduced their carbon intensity between 2019 and 2025 at an annualised rate of 12.3% using the Weighted Average Carbon Intensity (WACI) model. The portfolios' most carbon intensive holdings continue to demonstrate strong year-on-year reductions in carbon intensity. For example,

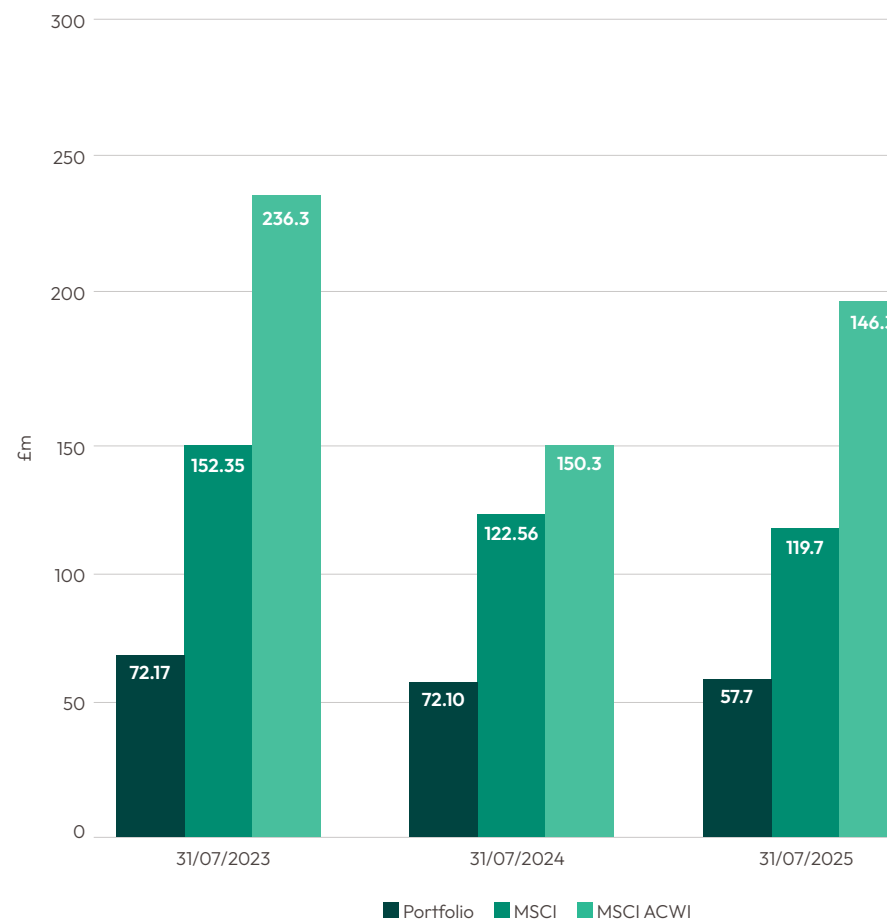
the two most carbon intensive holdings, Republic Services and SSE, have achieved a 19% and 13% decrease year-on-year.

During the year, the Treasury Policy was expanded to include an aim to invest at least 30% of the University's cash, beyond immediate and minimum liquidity requirements, with ESG-oriented banks, defined as having an MSCI ESG rating of AAA/AA (classified as Leader) and a Sustainalytics ESG Risk score below 20 (classified as Low risk). As at 31 July 2025, this metric was exceeded.

Oversight of both investment and ESG activities of our fund managers is exercised by an advisory Investment and Endowment Group, chaired by the Chief Financial Officer, which includes representation from both our student unions, as well as co-opted expertise of alumni and an independent Council member.

For more information on the Endowment portfolio see the relevant section of the Financial Statements.

University of Exeter
Weighted Average Carbon Intensity (tCO₂e / £m revenue)



Risk

We have a Risk Management Policy along with supporting processes that set out how we manage risk across the institution.

- A Corporate Risk Register is used for identifying and managing risks that are more strategic in nature and therefore would usually have a higher impact across multiple divisions and departments if they were to occur. These risks may threaten the achievement of strategic aims.
- The Divisional and Faculty risk registers form the Operational Risk Register, which links more directly with day-to-day activities.

Risk registers are maintained and recorded via a bespoke online system that allows risk and associated mitigation action owners to maintain data on a live basis. Risk, control and action data submitted is scrutinised to ensure proportionality and accuracy.

The Compliance Committee reviews the Risk Reports termly and reports its findings to the University Executive Board. Audit and Risk Committee receive a full report each term and in turn report their findings on the effectiveness of risk management at the University to Council.

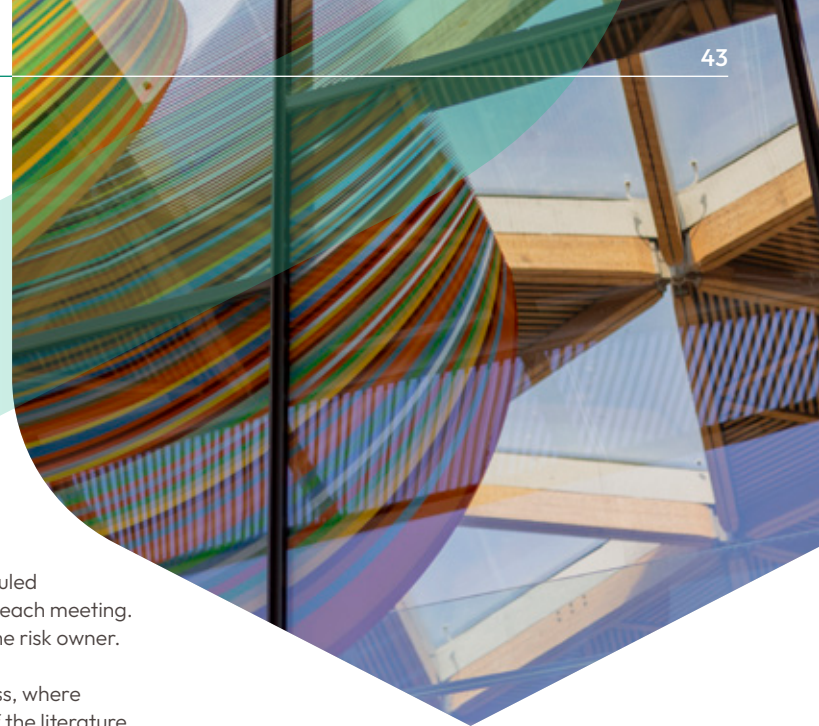
There are a number of risks on our Corporate Risk Register including matters relating to information security, information governance, financial sustainability, lending covenant compliance, global employment law compliance, delivery of net zero carbon commitment and AI usage (maximising ambition). The Risk Register forms part of the University control framework, and as such any agreed risk mitigations and actions are in place and monitored.

We have appointed PWC as our internal auditor. Audit plans are created by using a range of risk information, including the University Risk Register. Any risks identified in an audit have an action plan agreed and actions are monitored by the Compliance Committee and Audit and Risk Committee until complete.

The Audit and Risk Committee has a scheduled programme of Risk Deep Dives in place at each meeting. Selected risks are explored in detail, with the risk owner.

We also conduct a horizon scanning process, where each term a small team conducts a scan of the literature relevant to our operations, to identify if any matters need to be explored further and added to the risk register. This complements our foresight work which explores future direction of travel scenarios and the potential impact on our corporate strategy.

Our management of risk extends beyond the reporting cycles; our risk system is live and leaders across the organisation are well practiced in identifying, assessing and managing risks between risk reporting cycles. Together with our horizon scanning process, proactive risk management enables us to respond effectively to any changes, be that across our sector, financial, political or geopolitical matters, to enable us to effectively manage our operations.





Creating the Possible

Financial Statements
to 31 July 2025



University
of Exeter

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Management Team, Council Members and Advisors

Chancellor

Sir Michael Barber KB

Council Members

Members served during the year ended 31 July 2025

Officers:

Pro-Chancellors

Quentin Woodley, Pro-Chancellor and Chair of Council, BSc (Hons), FCA, AMAPPT

Sir Richard Atkins, Pro-Chancellor and Deputy Chair of Council (term of office ended 31 July 2025)

Sally Cabrini, Pro-Chancellor and Senior Independent Governor, BA, FCIPD

Professor Lisa Roberts, President and Vice-Chancellor

Professor Dan Charman, Senior-Vice President and Provost

Professor Tim Quine, Vice-President and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education and Student Experience)

Independent Members appointed by Council:

Members that served during the year ended 31 July 2025

Damaris Anderson-Supple, BA (Hons)

Rebecca Boomer-Clark, BA (Hons), PGCE (appointed from 1 August 2024)

Nicholas Cheffings, LLB (Hons) (term of office ended 31 July 2025)

Andrew Greenway, BA (term of office ended 31 July 2025)

Dr Karime Hassan, BA (Hons), MSc

Salam Katbi, BA, MA

Sarah Matthews-DeMers, BA (Hons), FCA

Alison Reed, BA, FCA (term of office ended 31 July 2025)

Professor Malcolm Skingle, BSc, CBE, FMedSci, PhD

Tim Weller, BSc (Hons), FCA

Glenn Woodcock, BSc, FRSA

Pro-Chancellors appointed from 1 August 2025

Professor Malcolm Skingle, Pro-Chancellor and Deputy Chair of Council

Independent Members appointed from 1 August 2025

Lauren Aste, BA, MA, JD

Nigel Cain, MBA, CDir, FIoD, CISSP-ISSMP

Gareth Mostyn, BA, FCA

Standing Attendee:

Professor Adrian Harris, MBBS DCH FRCS Ed (A&E) FRCEM DIMC Ed DSEM Ed

(standing attendee during the year ended 31 July 2025, subsequently appointed as an Independent member on 1 August 2025)

Members appointed by the Senate:

Members that served during the year ended 31 July 2025

Dr Sarah Hodge, BSc PhD SFHEA (appointed from 1 August 2024)

Professor Karen Knapp, BSc (Hons) PhD SFHEA

Professor Sue Prince, LLB PhD

Members appointed from 1 August 2025

Professor Musarrat Maisha Reza, BSc, PhD, SFHEA

Member of Staff other than Academic Staff:

Members that served during the year ended 31 July 2025

Elaine Cordy, BA MBA (appointed from 1 August 2024)

Student Members:

Connie Chilcott (President Exeter, Falmouth and Exeter Students' Union (re-elected for a further term of office)

Alex Martin (Guild President, Exeter Students' Guild) (appointed 1 August 2024)

University Executive Board

President and Vice-Chancellor

Professor Lisa Roberts, BSc (Hons) PhD FRSB FRSA

Senior Vice-President and Provost

Professor Dan Charman, BSc PhD

Vice-Presidents and Deputy Vice-Chancellors

Professor Richard Follett, FRHistS, Global Engagement
Professor Tim Quine, BSc PhD, (Education and Student Experience)

Professor Martin Siegert, FRSE FRSA FRGS FGS, (Cornwall)

Professor Krasimira Tsaneva-Atanasova, MSc PhD FIMA, (Research and Impact)

Stuart Brocklehurst, DL MA FRSA FRMetS FBICS CITP CCMi CMgr, (Business Engagement and Innovation)

Professor Rajani Naidoo, BA(Law) MA PhD, (People and Culture)

Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Executive Deans

Professor Alex Gerbasi, BA, MA, PhD, (ESE)

Professor Sallie Lamb, FMedSci, (HLS)

Professor Gareth Stansfield, FRSA FAcSS OBE BA MA PhD, (HASS)

Senior Vice-President and Registrar & Secretary

Mike Shore-Nye, BA (Hons)

Executive Divisional Director of Human Resources

Imelda Rogers, FCIPD

Executive Divisional Director of External Engagement and Global

Alicia O'Grady, LLB MA

Chief Financial Officer and Executive Divisional Director of Finance, Infrastructure and Commercial Services

Dave Stacey, MA (Cantab) FCA FRSA

Deputy Registrar and Executive Divisional Director of Education and Academic Services

Linda Peka, BSc (Hons) FCPFA (until 13 December 2024)

Professional Advisors

Bankers

National Westminster Bank PLC
59 High Street
Exeter
EX4 3DL

Barclays Bank PLC
Exeter
EX1 1LX

HSBC UK Bank PLC
Level 35, 8 Canada Square
Canary Wharf
London
E14 5HQ

Investment Managers

Rathbones Greenbank Investments
8 Finsbury Circus
London
EC2M 7AZ

External Auditor

KPMG LLP, (UK)
66 Queen Square
Bristol
BS1 4BE

Internal Auditor

PriceWaterhouse Cooper LLP
1 Embankment Place
London
WC2N 6RH

Members of the Council



Top Row (L-R): Quentin Woodley, Sir Richard Atkins, Sally Cabrini, Professor Lisa Roberts, Professor Dan Charman, Professor Tim Quine, Damaris Anderson-Supple

Middle Row (L-R): Nicholas Cheffings, Andrew Greenway, Karime Hassan, Salam Katbi, Sarah Matthews-DeMers, Alison Reed, Professor Malcolm Skingle, Rebecca Boomer-Clark

Bottom Row (L-R): Tim Weller, Glenn Woodcock, Dr Sarah Hodge, Professor Karen Knapp, Professor Sue Prince, Elaine Cordy, Alex Martin, Connie Chilcott, Mike Shore-Nye

Management Team, Council Members and Advisors

Attendance at Council Meetings 2024/25

Members	30.10.24**	31.10.24	10.12.24*	10.12.24	26.2.25*	27.2.25	28.5.25***	29.5.25	10.7.25
Quentin Woodley (Chair)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sir Richard Atkins	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sally Cabrini	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Professor Lisa Roberts	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Professor Dan Charman	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Professor Tim Quine	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Damaris Anderson-Supple	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rebecca Boomer-Clark	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓
Nicholas Cheffings	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓
Andrew Greenway	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Karime Hassan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
Salam Katbi	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓
Sarah Matthews-DeMers	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓
Alison Reed	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Professor Malcolm Skingle	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tim Weller	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Glenn Woodcock	✓	✓	-	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	-
Dr Sarah Hodge	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Professor Sue Prince	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓
Professor Karen Knapp	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	✓	✓
Elaine Cordy	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Alex Martin	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Connie Chilcott	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Independent Standing Attendee</i>									
Professor Adrian Harris	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-		
<i>Senior UEB Officers in attendance</i>									
Mike Shore-Nye (Secretary to Council)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dave Stacey	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Imelda Rogers	✓	✓	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

* Council Strategic Briefing /Away Days **Council Strategic Away Day and Faculty Away Day *** Council Strategic Away Day, Faculty Away Day, and Joint Meeting of Senate and Council

Financial Review for the year ended 31 July 2025

HIGHLIGHTS

Performance

Total income: **£681m** (665m/+2%)
 Operating cash generation (EBITDA) **£48.1m** (£56.7m/-15%)
 Operating surplus (EBIT) **£8.2m** (£22.5m/-64%)
 Staff cost ratio: **57%** (55%)

Investment

Capital expenditure: **£43m** (£41m)
 Capital grants: **£5m** (£4m)

Liquidity and Debt

Total debt: **£210m** (£210m)
 Total cash and cash deposits: **£211m** (£200m)
 Net debt: **£1m** net cash (£10m net debt)

Financial Strength

Net current assets ratio: **1.6** (1.7)
 Net assets: **£640m** (£635m), up 1%

Comparative data for the prior year 2024/25 shown in brackets throughout this review

Scope of the Financial Statements

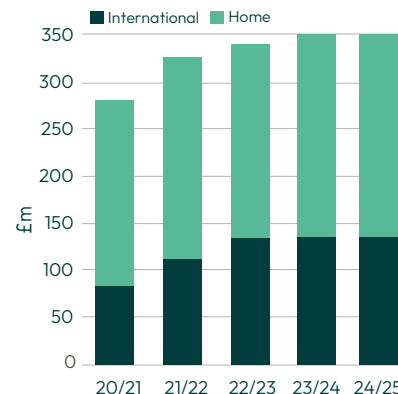
These financial statements cover the University of Exeter, its subsidiary undertakings and joint ventures. They have been prepared in accordance with UK GAAP, in compliance with the *Financial Reporting Standard 102*, issued by the UK Financial Reporting Council, as interpreted by the *Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting for further and higher education*, issued by Universities UK. The financial statements are also compliant with the *Accounts Direction*, stipulating specific additional disclosures, issued by our regulator, the Office for Students.

Performance

We are pleased to report a year of continued financial stability with operating cash generation (EBITDA) of £48m and an increase in cash of £11m to end the year with balances of £211m. This surplus of income over expenditure, despite the challenging environment, is the result of significant hard work across the University following another challenging international recruitment round and continued economic pressures. Total income increased by 2% to £681m through growth in research grants and contracts income (+£8m, 6%), capital grants (+£3m) and donations (+£4m) bolstered by strong commercial income performance.

Tuition fee income maintained the historic high of £350m achieved in the prior year. The University saw continued strong interest from Home Undergraduate (UG Home) and Postgraduate students, but this was offset by contractions in Undergraduate and Postgraduate International. These contractions were compounded by increased levels of scholarships, resulting in international fee income seeing a 2% year on year reduction to £135m, representing 38% of teaching income and 20% of total University income.

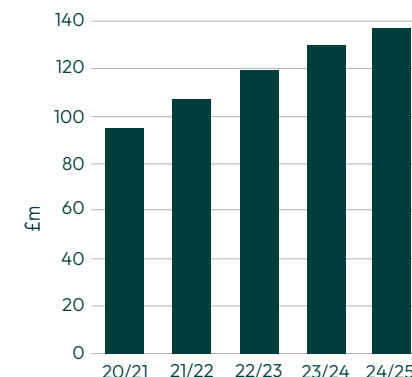
Tuition Fee Income



Building on the record value of research grants and contracts awards secured in the prior year, research income recognised in the year grew by 6% to £137m. A further year of high quality applications was rewarded with £141m of awards being secured which, building on the 8 previous years of greater than £100m in awards, provides a strong foundation for future research income.

Capital grants and donations bolstered by commercial income supported a tough trading environment and a year-on-year reduction in interest receivable as interest rates reduced. On-campus retail and catering activities were busier this year but faced challenging trading conditions, as witnessed across the catering and hospitality industry. Nevertheless, we continued to offer a wide range of options for our students and maintained our commitment to providing a quality hot meal at a very reasonable price.

Research Grants Contracts Income



Interest receivable has been a material benefit for the past few years, with over £11m generated from cash balances in 2024/25, down from £14m in the prior year. As expected, the average Bank of England base rate was lower than the prior year and is forecast to continue to decline over the coming 2 years. The University is expected to face further funding challenges. For example, the full-year cost of additional employer's national insurance contributions is forecast to be greater than the benefit of the increased UG Home fee in 2025/26. We also expect the cost of the proposed International Student Levy to be greater than the impact of the further UG Home fee inflation announced in the Post-16 education and skills white paper for the next two years at least.

Our long-term target is to deliver a sustainable, positive operating margin, defined as Earnings before Interest (payable) and Tax (EBIT) adjusted for non-recurrent exceptional items, and in 2024/25 we reported £8.2m, 1.2%. This is £14m lower than 2023/24 but slightly higher than our plans for the year, reflecting exceptional attention paid to cost

Financial Review for the year ended 31 July 2025

management by our budget holders and staff. Within this, the staff cost ratio, a good indicator of efficiency and financial risk in that most of our staff costs are relatively fixed, increased by 1.2ppt to 56.4%. The increase is a result of full implementation of the UCEA agreed pay award, the continued adoption of the Living Wage Foundation living wage and the part-year effect of the national insurance increase against slowing income growth. Having recognised the need to take corrective action early in 2023/24, a staff voluntary severance scheme, The Exeter Release Scheme (TERS), was launched in April 2024 and concluded in August 2024, c180 colleagues took this opportunity with a full year impact of c£8.5m lower staff costs. With the acknowledgement of the impact of continued international student recruitment challenges, a further round of voluntary severance, TERS 2, was launched in April 2025. This scheme concluded in August 2025 with c270 colleagues taking the opportunity presented by TERS; the full year impact will be c£11.4m lower staff costs. For colleagues who signed their agreement on or before 31 July 2025, a provision for severance costs of £9.5m was made and the majority of colleagues left at the end of August 2025.

Investment

Capital expenditure in the year was £43m, a small increase on the prior year. In light of the continuing challenging student recruitment environment, all capital investments have been rigorously re-evaluated to ensure they continue to be appropriate and align completely with Strategy 2030. Tangible fixed assets are carried on our balance sheet at deemed cost, which is likely to understate their current value. Net assets, excluding pension provisions, have increased modestly by £1.3m to £643m.

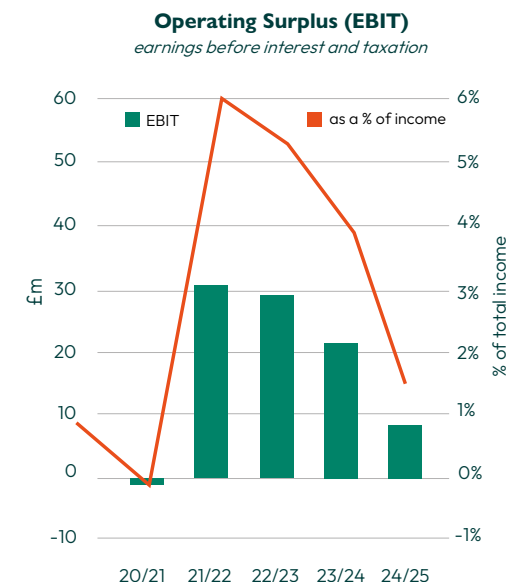
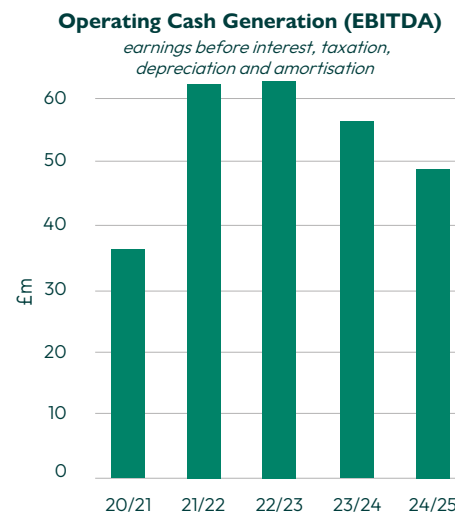
Liquidity and Debt

Cash balances stand at £211m, an increase of £11m over the year, and represent 128 liquidity days. In addition to these cash balances, the University holds a £75m revolving credit facility with HSBC through to November 2031. The facility remains undrawn. Gross long-term debt remains at £210m and we were compliant with all lending and USS pension debt monitoring covenants. The improved cash position results in a net cash position at the year-end of £1m, compared to a net debt position of £10m last year.

Pensions

Pension liabilities arise from the University of Exeter Retirement Benefit Scheme (ERBS) which started the year with a £6.6m deficit to £2.9m on an FRS102 basis. The scheme's triennial valuation as at 5 April 2024 was completed in the 2024/25 year and resulted in an improved position with the Technical Provisions deficit reducing by £15.3m to £9.9m and the funding level increasing by 6ppt to 91%. The scheme is expected to achieve a funding level of 99% by the next valuation (5 April 2027) including a reduction in deficit repayments previously scheduled. On an estimated solvency basis, under which the next valuation will be made, the deficit has reduced from £68.7m to £28.2m, a funding level of 77%, with an estimated improvement to >85% by the next valuation.

The Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) remains in surplus with the next valuation due as at 31 March 2026 and as such, there are no further transactions, except for employer contributions for staff in the year.



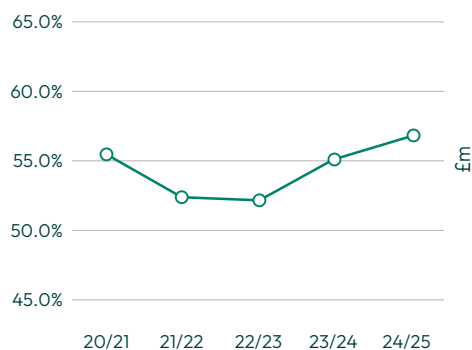
Reconciliation of EBITDA to EBIT to Deficit for the Year

	2024/25 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Operating Cash Generation (EBITDA)	48,041	56,736
less depreciation	(71,487)	(63,084)
add student rental income from service concessions	31,654	28,878
Operating Surplus (EBIT)	8,208	22,530
less interest payable on debt	(5,814)	(9,979)
less pension accounting credits/(charges)	-	177,732
less impairment	(113)	(1,600)
add/(less) FX Plus Ltd share of surplus/(deficit)	1,009	789
add capital grants received	4,890	5,767
add unrealised (loss)/gains on investments	(852)	2,455
add surplus on endowments and donations	6,821	1,552
less exceptional one-off (charges)/receipts:	(12,801)	(12,711)
Surplus/(deficit) for the year (FRS102 basis)	1,348	186,535

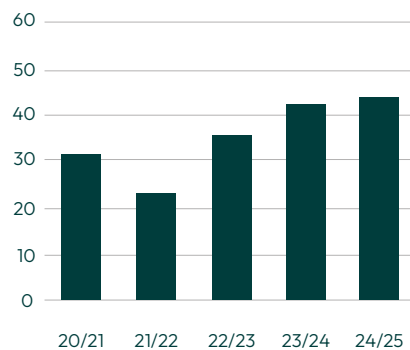
Financial Review for the year ended 31 July 2025

Staff Cost Ratio

staff costs (ex pension provisions) as a % of total income



Capital Expenditure



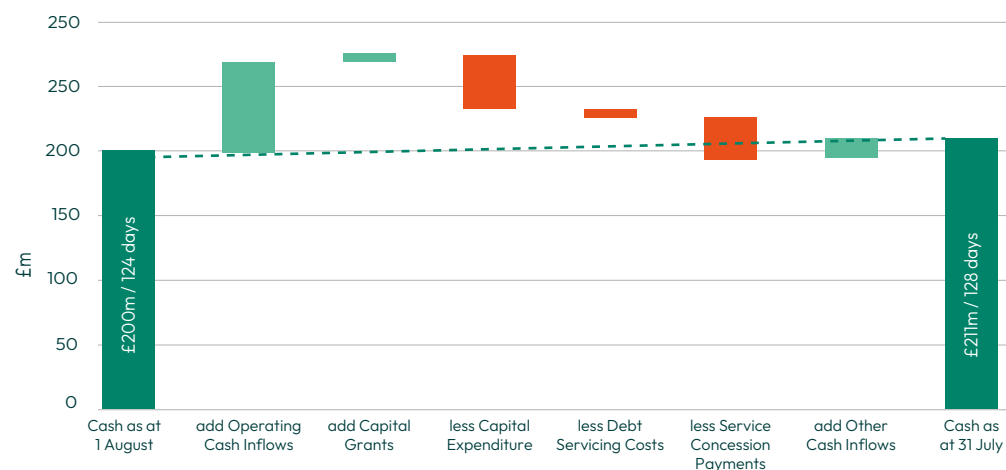
Endowments

The endowment portfolios delivered a positive return over the year (+0.8% before fees, +0.4% after fees), a long way behind the return for a comparable risk profile of the ARC charity steady growth index, however, a very strong rally in the final quarter of the year has seen the return rise to 7.4%, after fees, in the 6 months to 30 September 2025.

Over the year to 31 July 2025, markets were influenced by central bank policy and the trajectory of interest rates in response to inflation, which remained elevated but gradually moderated over the period. Market sentiment was further shaped by trade policy and geopolitical uncertainty, particularly following President Trump's second term beginning in January 2025, when he announced global tariffs in early April that far exceeded market and economic expectations. This backdrop drove heightened volatility and amplified the concentration of equity markets, with performance disproportionately driven by large US technology companies with exposure to artificial intelligence. Conflicts and government's response to increase defence spending also saw investments in aerospace and defence companies perform very strongly during this period.

Cash balances and Cash Flows 2024/25

1 August 2024 to 31 July 2025



Financial Review for the year ended 31 July 2025

Future Outlook

The changing landscape of international student recruitment continues to be a cause for concern; the expected reduction in the post-study work visa to 18 months coupled with ongoing macroeconomic conditions in key international markets have led to a reduction in acceptances and registrations against both last year and plans. Student registrations are in line with recruitment forecasts and returning student numbers are ahead of plans, while student debt remains at historically low levels, both reasonable indicators of student satisfaction and engagement. Early modelling of the increase to UG Home fee rates against the expected impact of an international fee levy indicate a lag of 2 years before any net benefit of the index linked fee increase is realised.

Following another strong year of research grants and contracts awards, research is expected to drive significant levels of activity into 2025/26 and beyond. Continued investment in supporting research remains a key tenet of the University's long-term strategy, however the level of cost recovery, while in line with the peer group's 70%, the time lag between policy change and impact, and the reducing capacity for cross subsidy from international tuition fees will restrict the scope for continued growth.

Strategic investments in systems and processes aimed at improving the efficiency and effectiveness of both student facing and back-office functions, coupled with strong budget holder behaviour and trading activity support the pressure on the cost base. Continued investment in renewable energy production, building management systems, and staff and student behaviour is helping to limit the impact of utility costs. Managers within the University have a solid track record of achieving budgets and necessary mitigations to achieve our prior year results and we have every faith in their continued ability to deliver.

The recently opened Wellbeing centre and The Sarah Turvill Multi-Faith centre are proving to be excellent examples of student-centred investments making a real difference to the student experience. Wrapped around these buildings are teams focused on support for students as well as hardship funding and delivering affordable hot main meals from our catering outlets.

Long term debt is on a low fixed interest rate, and the stabilisation of the Bank of England base rate provides the opportunity for our treasury team to achieve valuable returns from our healthy cash balances.

Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis which the Council consider to be appropriate following the results reported for 2024/25, the continuing strong research performance, the level of teaching income forecast for the forthcoming year and the proven track record of effective delivery by budget holders.

Teaching income in 2025/26 is expected to be slightly ahead of 2024/25 with high conversion rates for UG Home students offsetting the year-on-year reduction in international entrants, leading indicators suggested. Research awards of £141m have exceeded £125m for the fifth successive year and the ninth successive year above £100m. These represent the order book for current and future research grant and contract income and will convert to income over the coming years.

University managers are fully engaged in the drive to develop more efficient models of teaching and recognise their role in improving the cost recovery of research and managing their budgets effectively, as evidenced by this year's achievement.

Cash balances grew year-on-year, on which low-risk interest receipts are being generated.

There will be no change to USS contribution rates in the year while the next valuation is being completed.

The University has managed two voluntary severance schemes over the past two years while maintaining good relations with staff and trade unions. The implementation of both the 2025/26 UCEA pay-award and the remuneration recommendations of the Living Wage Foundation will continue to underpin the effectiveness of staff and union relationships.

A £75m revolving credit facility provides additional liquidity, should the need arise.

The University has prepared cash flow forecasts, involving consideration of downside scenarios including but not limited to lower student entrants or a decline in research grants and contracts, for the going concern period, being 12 months from the date of approval of these financial statements. The University is confident that it will be able to meet all its obligations and commitments over the going concern period, operating within our lenders' and pensions' debt monitoring covenants. Consequently, Council is confident that the University and the Group will have sufficient funds to continue to meet their liabilities as they fall due for at least 12 months from the date of approval of the financial statements and therefore have prepared the financial statements on a going concern basis.

Dave Stacey

Chief Financial Officer and Director of Finance,
Infrastructure and Commercial Services

Corporate Governance and Statement of Internal Control

Legal Status of the University

The University is an incorporated body with charitable status. It is an exempt charity, meaning it is exempt from registration with the Charity Commission. The Office for Students (OfS), the regulator for higher education in England, also acts as the regulator for English higher education charities. The University is a registered higher education provider and is recorded on the OfS register of providers, currently without any additional conditions. The University's and consolidated financial statements can be obtained at its registered address: Northcote House, The Queen's Drive, Exeter, EX4 4QJ.

Governance

The articles of governance for the University are contained within its Royal Charter, Statutes and Ordinances. Under the terms of the Royal Charter, the University is required to have a supreme governing body, the Council, and a senior academic body, the Senate. Management responsibility is devolved under a scheme of delegation by Council to the President and Vice-Chancellor, who is supported by the University's Executive Board (UEB), details of which are given in the section on management.

Council

Council, as the governing body, is responsible for the finance, property, investments and general business of the University, and for setting the general strategic direction of the institution. It is also responsible for seeking assurance that the University is compliant with relevant regulation and legislation. The Council is chaired by one of the Pro-Chancellors and has a full membership of at least 21 and no more than 23, a majority of whom are from outside the University (independent members). The membership includes representatives of staff and students. Council met on eight occasions during 2024/25, which included strategic away days, strategic briefing sessions, Faculty Away Days and the annual joint meeting of Senate and Council. The responsibilities of Council are more fully described below.

Senate

Senate, as the senior academic body, is given devolved responsibility by the Council, for student matters, academic quality and standards, and plays a key role in the development and approval of the University's education and research strategies. There are 72 members of the Senate, including members elected by the University's academic faculties and student representatives. There were three formal meetings of the Senate during 2024/25 and an annual joint meeting of Senate and the Council.

Although Senate meets regularly each academic year, much of its detailed work is delegated to committees, principally Education Board and Postgraduate Research Board. Further information about Council and Senate Committees can be found at: www.exeter.ac.uk/about/organisation/governance/committees

Management

The principal academic and administrative officer of the University is the President and Vice-Chancellor who has general responsibility to Council and Senate for maintaining and promoting the efficiency and good order of the University. The President and Vice-Chancellor has been nominated the accountable officer under the Terms and Conditions of Funding with the Office for Students.

As Chief Executive of the University, the President and Vice-Chancellor exercises considerable influence on the development of institutional strategy, the identification and planning of new developments and the shaping of the institutional ethos. Senior managers all contribute in various ways to this aspect of the work, but the ultimate responsibility rests with the President and Vice-Chancellor.

The University's Executive Board (UEB) is comprised of the senior management team of the University. Led by the President and Vice-Chancellor, it includes the Senior Vice-President and Provost, the Senior Vice-President and Registrar & Secretary, four Vice-Presidents and Deputy Vice-Chancellors, one Deputy Vice-Chancellor, three Pro Vice-Chancellors and Executive Deans, the Deputy Registrar and Executive Divisional Director of Human Resources, the Chief Financial Officer and Executive Divisional Director of Finance, Infrastructure and Commercial Services, the Executive Divisional Director of External Engagement and Global. The Divisional Director of Education and Academic Services is a standing attendee of UEB. Details of UEB membership is given at the front of these Financial Statements.

Corporate Governance and Statement of Internal Control

Responsibilities of Council

In alignment with the Committee of University Chair's (CUC) Code of Governance (September 2020), Council has agreed to adopt the following statement of Primary Responsibilities:

1. To set and agree the mission, strategic vision and values of the institution with the Executive.
2. To agree long-term academic and business plans and key performance indicators and ensure that these meet the interests of stakeholders, especially staff, students and alumni.
3. To ensure that processes are in place to monitor and evaluate the performance and effectiveness of the institution against the strategy, plans and approved key performance indicators, which should be, where possible and appropriate, benchmarked against other comparable institutions.
4. To delegate authority to the President and Vice-Chancellor for the academic, corporate, financial, estate and human resource management of the institution, and to establish and keep under regular review the policies, procedures and limits within such management functions as shall be undertaken by and under the authority of the President and Vice-Chancellor.
5. To ensure the establishment and monitoring of systems of control and accountability, including financial and operational controls, risk assessment, value for money arrangements and procedures for handling internal grievances and managing conflicts of interest.
6. To establish processes to monitor and evaluate the performance and effectiveness of the governing body itself.
7. To conduct its business in accordance with best practice in HE corporate governance and with the principles of public life drawn up by the Committee on Standards in Public Life.
8. To safeguard the good name and values of the institution.
9. To appoint the President and Vice-Chancellor as Chief Executive and to put in place suitable arrangements for monitoring their performance.
10. To appoint a Secretary to the governing body and to ensure that, if the person appointed has managerial responsibilities in the institution, there is an appropriate separation in the lines of accountability.
11. To be the employing authority for all staff in the institution and to be accountable for ensuring that an appropriate human resources strategy is established.
12. To be the principal financial and business authority of the institution, to ensure that proper books of account are kept, to approve the annual budget and financial statements, and to have overall accountability for the institution's assets, property and estate.
13. To be the institution's legal authority and, as such, to ensure systems are in place for meeting all the institution's legal obligations, including those arising from contracts and other legal commitments made in the institution's name. This includes accountability for health, safety and security and for equality, diversity and inclusion.
14. To receive assurance that adequate provision has been made for the general welfare of students.
15. To act as trustee for any property, legacy, endowment, bequest or gift in support of the work and welfare of the institution.
16. To ensure that the institution's constitution is always followed, and that appropriate advice is available to enable this to happen.
17. To promote a culture which supports inclusivity and diversity across the institution.
18. To maintain and protect the principles of academic freedom and freedom of speech legislation.
19. To ensure that all students and staff have opportunities to engage with the governance and management of the institution.
20. To receive and test assurances that academic governance overseen by Senate is adequate and effective.

Corporate Governance and Statement of Internal Control

Responsibilities of Council in the preparation of the Financial Statements

Council is responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the Financial Statements in accordance with the requirements of the Office for Students' Terms and conditions of funding for higher education institutions and Research England's Terms and conditions of Research England grant and applicable law and regulations.

They are required to prepare group and parent University financial statements in accordance with UK accounting standards and applicable law (UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland. The Terms and Conditions of Funding further require the financial statements to be prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts Direction dated 25 October 2019 issued by the Office for Students ('the Accounts Direction') and the 2019 Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting for Further and Higher Education.

Council is required to prepare financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the group and parent University and of their income and expenditure, gains and losses and changes in reserves for that period. In preparing each of the group and parent University Financial Statements, members of Council are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently.
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards and the 2019 Statement of Recommended Practice– Accounting for Further and Higher Education have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- assess the group and parent University's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern.
- and use the going concern basis of accounting unless they either intend to liquidate the group or the parent University or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Council is responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the parent University's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the parent University. It is responsible for such internal control as it determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and has general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to it to safeguard the assets of the group and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

Council is also responsible for ensuring that:

- funds from whatever source administered by the Group or the University for specific purposes have been properly applied to those purposes and managed in accordance with relevant legislation;
- funds provided by the Office for Students, UK Research and Innovation (including Research England), the Education and Skills Funding Agency and the Department for Education have been applied in accordance with the relevant terms and conditions attached to them;
- ensuring that there are appropriate financial and management controls in place to safeguard public funds and funds from other sources; and
- securing the economical, efficient and effective management of the University's resources and expenditure.

Council is responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the University's website. Legislation in the UK governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Council have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. Key activities on how the University has delivered its charitable purposes for the public benefit are highlighted throughout the front section of the annual report.

The arrangements described above were in place during the period covered by this annual report, including up to the point of the annual report approval in December 2025.

Corporate Governance and Statement of Internal Control

Statement of Internal Control

Council has responsibility for ensuring the maintenance of a sound system of internal control that supports the achievement of the University's policies, aims and objectives, while safeguarding public and other funds and assets for which it is responsible. The system of internal control is designed to manage rather than eliminate the risk of non-achievement of policies, aims and objectives; it can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness.

The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify the principal risks to the achievement of the University's policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the nature and extent of those risks and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. This process has been in place for the year ended 31 July 2025 and up to the date of approval of the Financial Statements.

As the governing body, Council must assure itself of the effectiveness of the University's systems of internal control. It meets at regular intervals to consider the plans and strategic direction of the institution and receives the minutes of Audit and Risk Committee and verbal reports from the Chair of Audit and Risk Committee concerning internal control. The review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control is also informed by the work of the executive managers within the University, who have responsibility for the development, maintenance and continual review of the internal control framework.

The Audit and Risk Committee receives regular reports from internal audit, which include an independent opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the University's system of internal control, together with recommendations for improvement. The programme of internal audit work during the year has focused on our most significant risk areas and has been designed to evidence the achievement of value for money with regard to efficiency, economy and effectiveness. The Council has appointed Price Waterhouse Coopers LLP (PWC) to provide internal audit services to the University. The Audit and Risk Committee approves the strategic internal audit plan and receives internal audit reports from PWC at its regular meetings during the year. Where appropriate, individual audit reports are received by other committees for information. Council receives regular reports on the progress of the audit plan from the Chair of Audit and Risk Committee. The internal auditors provide an annual report, which includes their opinion on internal control, risk and the adequacy and effectiveness of our arrangements for economy, efficiency and effectiveness of reasonable assurance/moderate assurance, the second highest possible rating. The internal auditors performed 13 audits over the year, all with management responses. Of these 13 audits, 2 were advisory reviews, 7 were deemed 'low risk', 4 'medium risk' with no 'high risk'. The Audit and Risk Committee track progress on completing agreed audit actions throughout the year.

In addition to the annual assurance report received from Internal Audit, the Audit and Risk Committee and Council receive benchmarking and sector specific reports from both Internal and External Auditors to assist them in discharging their responsibility to monitor the University's performance in delivering value for money.

The University also has a Compliance Committee (which is chaired by the Senior Vice-President and Registrar & Secretary). As a UEB sub-committee, Compliance Committee is responsible on behalf of UEB for the oversight of key compliance functions. The Compliance Committee oversees a Compliance Framework which details the university compliance requirements and the committee receives assurance reports confirming that adequate compliance provisions are in place.

The University's policy towards fraud, malpractice and corruption is one of zero tolerance. The University's anti bribery and fraud policies set this out in detail, whilst the Financial Regulations set out the arrangements for reporting and responding to fraud. The anti-bribery and fraud policies are reviewed periodically and the Financial Regulations annually and are approved by the Council. The main emphasis of the fraud policy is on fraud prevention, achieved through risk assessment, process design informed by awareness of fraud risk, and by keeping staff alert to risks. There is regular reporting of fraud and irregularities at the Audit and Risk Committee.

Governors and senior managers are required to ensure that their behaviour is demonstrably selfless and open and that they champion the University's policies on bribery, in particular, conflicts of interest, hospitality, travel, and gifts. These are set out in the Financial Regulations and associated policies. The Chair of Council signs a Letter of Representation on behalf of the governing body which includes such assurances. This would include instances of bribery. These arrangements provide an ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the significant risks faced by the University. The system is designed to manage, rather than eliminate, the risk of failure to achieve business objectives and can only provide a reasonable and not absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss.

The University maintains an appropriate financial regulatory framework which ensures that resources are used with due regard to propriety, regularity and value for money, in the context of the achievement of the University's strategic plan.

The University manages risk through a Corporate Risk Register which sets out key corporate level, strategic risks. In addition, Faculties and Professional Services use Operational Risk Registers, which record any localised risks which may impact on meeting objectives.

Senior Leaders in the Faculties, Professional Services and nominated Corporate risk owners are responsible for identifying, assessing, controlling and reporting on the management of risk. A risk report is compiled each term and scrutinised through a defined governance pathway. Each Committee within the Governance structure is responsible for ensuring that the correct risks have been identified, scored (using defined scoring methodology) and that appropriate steps are being taken to control or reduce the impact of the risk.

The University's Compliance Committee is responsible for undertaking the first assessment of the risk report, ensuring that both the corporate risks and any thematic operational risks are considered. The committee considers any changes to the regulatory or operating landscape and ensures that the risk register adequately reflects the current perceived risks and reports to UEB.

Corporate Governance and Statement of Internal Control

The President and Vice-Chancellor is the OfS Accountable Officer and has overall responsibility for the management of risk. She is advised and supported in this by the University Executive Board (UEB). UEB fully reviews the University's key corporate risks, both established and emerging, and directs actions and escalation to and from Faculties, Services and risk owners.

The University has also adopted an horizon scanning and foresight methodology to help identify risks at an early stage. This is being included in the UEB Risk Reports to help support UEB to continue to identify risks at an early stage and is included in respective risk reports presented to Audit and Risk Committee and Council.

Following the University management review, the termly risk report is submitted to Audit and Risk Committee. Council has ultimate responsibility for assuring the effectiveness of the University's risk management arrangements and is provided with Risk Reports on a bi-annual basis.

The Audit and Risk embedded a risk "deep dive" programme in the Academic Year 2024/25. Supplementary to the internal audit programme, the series of deep dives enables the Committee to identify specific risks for consideration and to hear directly from relevant risk owners to provide further assurance on effectiveness of risk management and controls in place.

Environmental Sustainability is formally reported on an annual basis to Council, which provides a regular mechanism to review and consider climate related risks and opportunities following ongoing consideration by the Climate and Environmental Crisis (CEC) Board. The Climate and Environmental Crisis (CEC) Board is the University's senior governance group responsible for setting policy and priorities, maintaining oversight and approving the resource and delivery programmes for the Environment and Climate Emergency response across the University. Jointly chaired by the Senior Vice-President and Provost, and Senior Vice-President and Registrar & Secretary, the CEC Board meets termly and provides a policy and decision-making forum to ensure delivery and continual improvement of activities and operations across the University. The reputational and ethical risks surrounding the University's commitment to deliver meaningful action against the climate emergency and ecological crisis have been mitigated by developing the new Climate Strategy in consultation with the University community and implementing a strong engagement and communications plan which has been reviewed and endorsed by Council.

Higher Education Code of Governance

Council has adopted the Committee of University Chairs Higher Education Code of Governance, issued in September 2020. In accordance with the Code, the Council adopted a revised and updated Statement of Primary Responsibilities in October 2023 based on the Code's model statement and is adapted to reflect the powers and responsibilities derived from University Statutes.

In accordance with the Code, Council undertook a review of its effectiveness in October 2021 and produced an action plan in response to the recommendations raised. In April 2021 an internal audit was performed on University governance.

In the Academic Year 2023/24 a Council Assurance Review was undertaken to examine the current assurance processes and identify the most effective mechanisms for providing Council with oversight, assurance and appropriate levels of scrutiny in relation to institutional strategies and policies, major strategic initiatives and management of key risks.

The next external Council effectiveness review is scheduled to be undertaken in the forthcoming Academic Year 2025/26.

The Corporate Governance Statement and Responsibilities of the Council of the University are set out on pages 55 to 57 and were approved by Council on 9 December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Quentin Woodley

Pro-Chancellor and Chair of Council

Professor Lisa Roberts

President and Vice-Chancellor

Report from the Chair of Audit and Risk Committee

The Committee continues to work to the Office for Students' guidance, as set out in the Terms and Conditions of Funding and its other regulatory documents, and as elaborated in the CUC's Handbook for Members of Audit Committees in Higher Education Institutions, the CUC Higher Education Code of Governance and CUC HE Audit Committees Code of Practice.

In accordance with its schedule of business, the Audit and Risk Committee held 4 meetings in the Academic Year 2024/25. The attendance of the membership of the Audit and Risk Committee at meetings is detailed below:

	Eligible to attend	Actually attended
Tim Weller (Chair) FCA	4	4
Alison Reed* FCA	4	4
Karime Hassan	4	4
Sarah Matthews-DeMers FCA	4	4
Senior UEB officers in attendance		
Dan Charman	4	4
Mike Shore-Nye	4	3
Dave Stacey	4	4

*Alison Reed stepped down as a member of Audit and Risk Committee on 31st July 2025 and was succeeded by Gareth Mostyn on 1st August 2025.

In 2024/25, the membership of the Audit and Risk committee comprised of four Independent members of Council. Senior UEB officers from the University have a standing invitation to attend, including: the Senior Vice-President and Registrar & Secretary; the Senior Vice-President and Provost; and the Chief Financial Officer and Executive Divisional Director of Finance, Infrastructure and Commercial Services. The internal and external auditors are also invited to each meeting of the Committee. In accordance with the CUC Audit Committee Code of Practice, other senior staff with relevant experience and expertise are invited to attend Committee meetings as standing attendees following prior consultation with the President and Vice-Chancellor and Chair of Council. An invitation is also extended to individual staff to attend as required for particular agenda items in consultation with the Chair of Audit and Risk Committee. The Director of Governance Services acts as Secretary to the Committee.

In 2024/25, the Terms of Reference for the Audit and Risk Committee were reviewed and refined to ensure alignment with the CUC HE Code of Practice for Audit Committees, the recent changes to the UK Corporate Governance Framework, and updates to the associated Finance Reporting Council guidance for Audit Committees.

The Committee oversees a programme of work enabling it to give an opinion to Council on the adequacy and effectiveness of the arrangements for internal controls such as risk management, control and governance; economy, efficiency and effectiveness (value for money); and the management and quality assurance of data submitted to HESA, Office for Students and other funding bodies. It also assesses the adequacy and effectiveness of the risk management arrangements in place across the University, including the role of the University Executive Board as the body responsible to Council for the effective management and monitoring of risk.

The Committee agreed the internal audit plan of work for 2024/25 with PwC, the University's appointed internal auditors, and during the year reviewed a series of internal audit reports and continued to ensure a strong focus on the completion of outstanding audit recommendations. The contract for the University's Internal Audit Service was scheduled to expire in July 2025 and a tender process was undertaken to appoint an Internal Auditor for the next 4 years in compliance with the CUC code. Following a competitive tender process in accordance with procurement framework agreements, Audit and Risk Committee endorsed a recommendation to approve the continuation of PwC as the internal audit provider. This was formally approved by Council in accordance with the University's Statutes (Section 10 – Powers of Council, para 21).

Throughout the 2024/25 academic year, the Audit and Risk Committee held discussions on key corporate risks, with input on sector wide horizon scanning and lessons learned provided by the appointed external auditors (KPMG LLP) and the internal auditors (PwC).

The Committee embedded a risk 'deep dive' programme as a regular agenda item in the Academic Year 2024/25. Supplementary to the internal audit programme, the series of deep dives invites the selected risk owners to present to the Audit and Risk Committee to provide assurance on effectiveness of risk management and controls in place.

Tim Weller
Chair of Audit and Risk Committee

Report from the Chair of Governance and Nominations Committee

The Governance and Nominations Committee is responsible for making recommendations to Council in relation to the following positions:

- The nomination of the Chancellor
- The nomination of the Pro-Chancellors under Class I of Council membership
- The nomination of the Chair of Council
- Nominations for the places under Class II of Council membership
- Nominations to Council committees, ad hoc groups and joint committees with Senate
- The establishment and disbanding of Council committees
- Nominations to Trusts associated with the University

Governance and Nominations Committee is also responsible for reviewing arrangements for the training and development needs of the governing body and for succession planning. The Committee's recommendations are informed, in part, by a skills matrix, which details the relevant skills of Council's current membership and skills sought in new appointments.

The Governance and Nominations Committee actively promotes equality and diversity in all its deliberations and appointments.

The Committee met three times in the academic year 2024/25:

- 28 November 2024
- 7 February 2025
- 29 May 2025

The attendance of the membership of the Nominations Committee at meetings in 2024/25 was as follows:

	Eligible to attend	Actually attended
Quentin Woodley, Pro-Chancellor and Chair of Council (Chair)	3	3
Sally Cabrini, Pro Chancellor and Senior Independent Governor	3	3
Sir Richard Atkins, Pro-Chancellor and Deputy Chair of Council**	3	3
Salam Katbi, Independent Member of Council	3	2
Lisa Roberts, President and Vice-Chancellor	3	3
Professor Dan Charman, Senior Vice-President and Provost	3	3
In Attendance*		
Mike Shore-Nye, Senior Vice-President and Registrar & Secretary	3	3

*Bettina Rigg stepped down as a member of Governance and Nominations Committee on 1st August 2024 and there are no longer any external co-opted members on the committee.

**Sir Richard Atkins stepped down as Pro-Chancellor and Deputy Chair of Chair on 31st July 2025 and has been succeeded by Lauren Aste who joined as a member of Governance and Nominations Committee on 1st August 2025.

The Committee made the following recommendations to Council which were subsequently approved:

Council

The re-appointment of Quentin Woodley as an Independent Council Member (Class I), Pro-Chancellor and Chair of Council for a second term of office from 1 August 2025 – 31 July 2028.

The appointment of Professor Malcolm Skingle as an Independent Council Member (Class I), Pro-Chancellor and Deputy Chair of Council, for a second term of office from 1 August 2025 – 31 July 2028.

The appointment of Gareth Mostyn as an Independent Council Member (Class II) for a first term of office from 1 August 2025 – 31 July 2028.

The appointment of Lauren Aste as an Independent Council Member (Class II) for a first term of office from 1 August 2025 – 31 July 2028.

The appointment of Nigel Cain as an Independent Council Member (Class II) for a first term of office from 1 August 2025 – 31 July 2028.

Audit and Risk Committee

The appointment of Gareth Mostyn as a member of Audit and Risk Committee from 1st August 2025.

Academic Governance, Education and Student Experience Committee

The appointment of Rebecca Boomer-Clark as Chair of the Academic Governance, Education and Student Experience Committee from 1st August 2025.

The appointment of Sally Cabrini as a member of the Academic Governance, Education and Student Experience Committee from 1st August 2025.

The appointment of Karen Knapp as a member of the Academic Governance, Education and Student Experience Committee from 1st August 2025.

Council Standing Committee

The appointment of Professor Malcolm Skingle as a member of the Council Standing Committee from 1st August 2025.

Finance and Investment Committee

The appointment of Gareth Mostyn as a member of the Finance and Investment Committee and Investment and Endowment Committee (a sub-committee of Finance and Investment Committee) from 1st August 2025.

The appointment of Nigel Cain as a member of the Finance and Investment Committee from 1st August 2025.

Governance and Nominations Committee

The appointment of Lauren Aste as a member of Governance and Nominations Committee from 1st August 2025.

Governance and Nominations agreed that it will no longer nominate the Chair of the Joint Committee for Consultation and Negotiation (JCCN) and that it would no longer be chaired by an Independent Member of Council. In future the Chair will be agreed between the University and recognised trade unions in accordance with its collective agreement.

Governance and Nominations Committee also agreed that there would no longer be any Independent Council Member representation on the following Committees and groups:

- Joint Committee for Consultation and Negotiation
- Health and Safety Committee
- Accommodation Strategic Group Meetings

Trustees

Governance and Nominations Committee also made the following recommendations for appointment to the following Trustees, which were subsequently approved by Council:

Exeter Retirement Benefit Scheme (ERBS Trustee Ltd):

The appointment of Steve Balmont as the Chair and Trustee of the Exeter Retirement Benefit Scheme for an additional 1-year term of office from (1 August 2025 – 31 July 2026).

Ted Wragg Multi Academy Trust:

The appointment of Shades Chaudhary (Assistant Director, Culture and Inclusion) for a first term of office on the Ted Wragg Multi Academy Trust Board of Trustees.

St Luke's College Foundation Trustee Board:

The appointment of Dr Tom Begbie (Director of Faculty Operations, Faculty of Health and Life Sciences) as a University nominated trustee on St Luke's College Foundation Trustee Board for a five-year term-of office, from 1 June 2025 – 31 May 2030.

Quentin Woodley

Chair of Governance and Nominations Committee

Council Committees

The work of Council is supported by a number of additional committees which enable early input, review and discussion of papers prepared for Council and to ensure an informed and impactful discussion at Council. The schedule of Business of the Council Committees is development in alignment with the long-term forward plan for Council and these Committees primarily consider reports scheduled to be considered by Council.

The Secretary to Council Committees is the Director of Governance Services.

Additional attendees may be invited to attend for specific agenda items by exception at the request of UEB leads and in prior consultation and agreement with the Chair.

Academic Governance, Education and Student Experience Committee

Academic Governance, Education and Student Experience Committee provides independent oversight, scrutiny and assurance of the maintenance and continuous enhancement of academic quality and standards in relation to the University's educational provision, including student outcomes and student experience.

It monitors and receives assurance on behalf of Council regarding the University's compliance with OfS Conditions of Registration relating to Access and Participation; Quality, Reliable Standards, Positive Student Outcomes and Student Protections.

The Committee met 5 times in the academic year 2024/25:

- 15 October 2024
- 28 November 2024
- 27 March 2025
- 9 May 2025
- 1 July 2025

The attendance of the membership of the Academic Governance, Education and Student Experience Committee at meetings in 2024/25 was as follows:

	Eligible to attend	Actually attended
Richard Atkins (Chair) (Pro-Chancellor and Deputy Chair of Council)*	5	5
Professor Tim Quine (Vice-President and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Education and Student Experience)	5	5
Rebecca Boomer-Clark (Independent Member of Council)	5	5
Nicholas Cheffings (Independent Member of Council)**	5	3
Professor Sue Prince (Senate Council Representative)***	5	3
Alex Martin (Guild President, Exeter Students' Guild)	5	5
Connie Chilcott (President Exeter, Falmouth and Exeter Students' Union)	5	3
In Attendance		
Linda Peka (Deputy Registrar and Executive Divisional Director of Education and Academic Services)****	2	1
Clare Wydell (Divisional Director of Education and Academic Services)	3	1

*Sir Richard Atkins stepped down as Pro-Chancellor and Deputy Chair of Chair on 31st July 2025 and has been succeeded as the Chair of the Academic Governance, Education and Student Experience Committee by Rebecca Boomer-Clark from 1st August 2025.

**Nicholas Cheffings (Independent Member of Council) stepped down from Council and the Academic Governance, Education and Student Experience Committee on 31st July 2025 and has been succeeded on the Academic Governance, Education and Student Experience Committee by Sally Cabrini.

***Professor Sue Prince stepped down from Council on 31st July 2025. She has been succeeded on the Academic Governance, Education and Student Experience Committee by Professor Karen Knapp.

****Linda Peka (Deputy Registrar and Executive Divisional Director of Education and Academic Services) retired from the University on 13th December 2024

Council Standing Committee

Under delegated authority prescribed in the Council Standing Orders, and at the discretion of the Chair and/or request of Council, meetings of the Council Standing Committee may be scheduled to deal with urgent issues which cannot wait until the next meeting of Council.

The membership of the Council Standing Committee includes:

- Quentin Woodley (Pro-Chancellor and Chair of Council) (Chair)
- Sir Richard Atkins (Pro-Chancellor and Deputy Chair of Council)*
- Sally Cabrini (Pro-Chancellor and Senior Independent Governor)
- Lisa Roberts (President and Vice-Chancellor)
- Standing Attendee: Mike Shore-Nye (Senior Vice-President and Registrar & Secretary)

*Sir Richard Atkins stepped down as Pro-Chancellor and Deputy Chair of Council on 31st July 2025 and has been succeeded by Professor Malcolm Skingle as the Pro-Chancellor and Deputy Chair of Council and member of Council Standing Committee from 1st August 2025.

The Chair of the Council Standing Committee may also invite one additional Independent Member of Council to attend which will be dependent on the nature of the business being considered.

Further to Council endorsement of an Outline Business Case in October 2024 and approval of the Full Business Case in February 2025 to establish a Joint Education Institute with Zhejiang University of Technology (ZJUT, China), two meetings of the Council Standing Committee were held on 2 April and 8 April 2025 with the prior agreement of Council. These meetings were held to receive assurance on the legal documentation (including Co-operation Agreement, JEI Charter, and Programme Fee Agreement) and approve this prior to final submission of the application to the Chinese Ministry of Education.

Finance and Investment Committee

In alignment with the Council Scheme of Delegation in the Delegation Framework, the Finance and Investment Committee provides independent oversight regarding major estates, infrastructure and capital projects and strategic business cases and provides assurance to Council regarding overall alignment with delivery of Strategy 2030.

The Finance and Investment Committee also provides enhanced assurance on the University’s long-term financial sustainability through reviewing institutional annual budgets, monitoring high-level delivery of financial performance and longer-term financial plans.

- The Committee met 6 times in the academic year 2024/25:
- 11 October 2024
 - 22 November 2024
 - 19 February 2025
 - 13 May 2025
 - 20 June 2025
 - 1 July 2025

The attendance of the membership of the Finance and Investment Committee at meetings in 2024/25 was as follows:

	Eligible to attend	Actually attended
Quentin Woodley (Chair) (Pro-Chancellor and Chair of Council) FCA, AMAPPT	6	6
Professor Lisa Roberts (President and Vice-Chancellor)	6	6
Professor Dan Charman (Senior Vice-Provost and Provost)	6	5
Andrew Greenway* (Independent Member of Council)	6	6
Alison Reed** (Independent Member of Council) FCA	6	6
Professor Malcolm Skingle (Independent Member of Council)	6	5
Glenn Woodcock (Independent Member of Council)	6	4
In Attendance		
Mike Shore-Nye (Senior Vice-President and Registrar & Secretary)	6	6
Dave Stacey (Chief Financial Officer and Executive Divisional Director of Finance, Infrastructure and Commercial Services) FCA	6	5

*Andrew Greenway stepped down as a member of Finance and Investment Committee on 31st July 2025 and was succeeded by Nigel Cain on 1st August 2025.

**Alison Reed stepped down as a member of Finance and Investment Committee on 31st July 2025 and was succeeded by Gareth Mostyn on 1st August 2025.

Research and Innovation Committee

The Research and Innovation Committee is responsible for monitoring the University’s Research, Business Engagement and Innovation activities and seeks assurance on behalf of Council on institutional progress against key elements of Strategy 2030 related to Research and Innovation.

- The Committee met 2 times in the academic year 2024/25:
- 28 November 2024
 - 11 April 2025

The attendance of the membership of the Research and Innovation Committee at meetings in 2024/25 was as follows:

	Eligible to attend	Actually attended
Professor Malcolm Skingle (Chair) (Independent Member of Council)	2	2
Karime Hassan (Independent Member of Council)	2	2
Damaris Anderson-Supple (Independent Member of Council)	2	2
In Attendance		
Professor Adrian Harris (Council Standing Attendee)	1	1
Professor Krasimira Tsaneva-Atanasova (Vice-President and Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research and Impact)	2	2
Stuart Brocklehurst (Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Business Engagement and Innovation)	2	2

Annual Report of Remuneration Committee

The Remuneration Committee is responsible for setting the remuneration of the President and Vice-Chancellor and other members of the University Executive Board.

The membership of the Committee is comprised solely of independent members of Council. The Committee is chaired by a Pro-Chancellor and the Chair of Council is also a member. The President and Vice-Chancellor is not a member of the Committee.

The attendance of the membership of the Remuneration Committee at meetings 2024/25 was as follows:

	Eligible to attend	Actually attended
Sally Cabrini (Chair) (Pro-Chancellor and Senior Independent Governor)	2	2
Malcolm Skingle (Independent member of Council)	2	2
Quentin Woodley (Pro Chancellor and Chair of Council)	2	2
Damaris Anderson-Supple (Independent member of Council)	2	2

No member of staff is present for the discussion of their own remuneration or when the Committee makes decisions on the reward of members of the University Executive Board.

The Committee met twice in the academic year 2024/25:

- 21 October 2024
- 10 July 2025

During the year, the Committee:

- Agreed its schedule of work for 2024/25.
- Reviewed and updated its Terms of Reference.
- Reviewed the external work undertaken by members of the University Executive Board, in accordance with the Committee's External Work Policy.
- Reviewed the achievement of institutional targets and personal objectives for the 2024/25 financial year. Taking account of these assessments, the Committee made decisions on the level of performance related reward which should be paid under the Executive Performance Reward Scheme to recognise the achievement of personal and institutional objectives in 2024/25. Following the Committee's review of executive reward arrangements during the 2023/24 financial year, the Executive Performance Reward Scheme has now been withdrawn.
- Implemented revised arrangements for executive reward, discussed and agreed by the Committee during the 2023/24 financial year, to ensure that the objectives set out in the Committee's terms of reference and Executive Reward Policy are fully achieved. The revised arrangements are set out in the Executive Reward Policy.
- Reviewed the information provided in the Annual Reports/Financial Statements of Russell Group Universities to meet the requirements of the Office for Students.
- Reviewed the salaries of members of the University Executive Board (UEB), taking account of updated market data, affordability, performance, equality and parity, and the Committee's Executive Reward Policy. The Committee agreed that there should be no increases to the salaries of members of the University Executive Board, over and above the 1.4% increase agreed for staff covered by the national higher education pay negotiations. Under the transitional arrangements agreed for members of the University Executive Board who previously participated in the Executive Performance Reward Scheme, the non-pensionable allowance UEB members have been receiving since August 2024 (equivalent to 12% of their 2023/24 salary) was reduced by the same amount as the increase in base salary, so there is no increase in the total remuneration of any member of UEB in 2025/26 compared to 2024/25.

Sally Cabrini

Chair of the Remuneration Committee

Fundraising Standards

In line with the Charities (Protection and Social Investment) Act 2016, the University is required to provide information about fundraising activities for the University and Exeter University Foundation (the Foundation).

The University of Exeter employs a team of professional fundraisers, as well as a number of student telephone fundraisers, to raise new funds through a variety of methods, namely: legacy fundraising, major gift fundraising from individuals, fundraising from charitable trusts, foundations, corporates and other organisations and low level fundraising requests made via telephone, email, mail, social media or crowdfunding. The University takes a long-term approach to fundraising, taking time to develop relationships with potential donors and then carefully stewarding existing donors. The University seeks to engage all alumni, whether they choose to donate or not, and is keen to maintain mutually beneficial relationships with all its stakeholders.

The University is careful to ensure that its approach to fundraising protects vulnerable people and other members of the public from unreasonable intrusion, persistent approaches or from placing undue pressure on a person to give money or other property.

- The University provides regular opportunities for all alumni and other individuals being solicited to opt out of all or some of a variety of fundraising approaches. These preferences are accurately recorded on the central database and are reflected in data selections for specific appeals.
- The University of Exeter does not actively fundraise from individuals over the age of 80 where age is known or suspected. Donors over the age of 80 are informed of the impact of their existing donations by post and phone, but are not asked to increase their donations.
- All contactable alumni, regardless of age, receive generic communications from the University, updating them about the University's activities and progress, including the impact of previous donations. These communications may include details of how to support the University.
- The University does not solicit donations from each individual more than once per year over the telephone or more than four times per year through direct mail.

All fundraising staff are trained to ensure that no undue pressure is placed on potential donors. The University takes a life-long approach to relationships with alumni and others and does not want to impede those relationships by pressuring individuals to make donations.

Activities carried out by fundraisers are monitored through standard University procedures surrounding Performance Development Reviews. All fundraising activity is recorded on a central database.

The University is registered with the Fundraising Regulator which is the independent regulator of charitable fundraising in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. More details about the Fundraising Regulator and the Code of Fundraising Practice can be found online: www.fundraisingregulator.org.uk

The University received no complaints about its fundraising activities for the year to 31 July 2025.

Independent Auditor's Report to Council of University of Exeter

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of University of Exeter ("the University") for the year ended 31 July 2025 which comprise the Consolidated and University Statement of Comprehensive Income, Consolidated and University Statement of Changes in Reserves, Consolidated and University Statement of Financial Position, Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows and related notes, including the Statement of Principal Accounting Policies.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Group's and of the University's affairs as at 31 July 2025, and of the Group's and of the University's income and expenditure, gains and losses and changes in reserves, and of the Group's cash flows, for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with UK accounting standards, including FRS 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland*.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) ("ISAs (UK)") and applicable law. Our responsibilities are described below. We have fulfilled our ethical responsibilities under, and are independent of the Group in accordance with, UK ethical requirements including the FRC Ethical Standard. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is a sufficient and appropriate basis for our opinion.

Going concern

The Council has prepared the financial statements on the going concern basis as it does not intend to liquidate the Group or the University or to cease their operations, and as it has concluded that the Group and the University's financial position means that this is realistic. It has also concluded that there are no material uncertainties that could have cast significant doubt over their ability to continue as a going concern for at least a year from the date of approval of the financial statements ("the going concern period").

In our evaluation of the Council's conclusions, we considered the inherent risks to the Group's business model and analysed how those risks might affect the Group and the University's financial resources or ability to continue operations over the going concern period.

Our conclusions based on this work:

- we consider that the Council's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate; and
- we have not identified, and concur with the Council's assessment that there is not, a material uncertainty related to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Group or the University's ability to continue as a going concern for the going concern period.

However, as we cannot predict all future events or conditions and as subsequent events may result in outcomes that are inconsistent with judgements that were reasonable at the time they were made, the above conclusions are not a guarantee that the Group or the University will continue in operation.

Fraud and breaches of laws and regulations – ability to detect

Identifying and responding to risks of material misstatement due to fraud

To identify risks of material misstatement due to fraud ("fraud risks") we assessed events or conditions that could indicate an incentive or pressure to commit fraud or provide an opportunity to commit fraud. Our risk assessment procedures included:

- Enquiring of management, the Audit & Risk Committee, internal audit and inspection of policy documentation as to the Group's high-level policies and procedures to prevent and detect fraud, including the internal audit function, and the Group's channel for "whistleblowing", as well as whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud.
- Reading Board and Audit & Risk Committee minutes.
- Using analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships.

We communicated identified fraud risks throughout the audit team and remained alert to any indications of fraud throughout the audit.

As required by auditing standards, and taking into account possible pressures to meet loan covenants and our overall knowledge of the control environment, we perform procedures to address the risk of management override of controls, in particular the risk that research income is not recognised in accordance with the relevant with grant terms and conditions and the risk that Group management may be in a position to make inappropriate accounting entries.

We did not identify any additional fraud risks.

In determining the audit procedures we took into account the results of our evaluation and testing of the operating effectiveness of some of the Groupwide fraud risk management controls.

We also performed procedures including:

- Identifying and testing journal entries based on risk criteria and comparing the identified entries to supporting documentation. These included unusual postings to cash and research revenue accounts.
- Verifying research income recognised is appropriate based on the underlying grant agreement and corresponding research expenditure.

Independent Auditor's Report to Council of University of Exeter

Identifying and responding to risks of material misstatement related to laws and regulations

We identified areas of laws and regulations that could reasonably be expected to have a material effect on the financial statements from our general commercial and sector experience, and through discussion with the directors and other management (as required by auditing standards) and discussed with the directors and other management the policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations.

We communicated identified laws and regulations throughout our team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit.

The potential effect of these laws and regulations on the financial statements varies considerably.

Firstly, the Group is subject to laws and regulations that directly affect the financial statements including financial reporting legislation (including related higher education legislation), taxation legislation, pensions legislation and higher education financial reporting related regulation and we assessed the extent of compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our procedures on the related financial statement items

Secondly, the Group is subject to many other laws and regulations where the consequences of non-compliance could have a material effect on amounts or disclosures in the financial statements, for instance through the imposition of fines or litigation or the loss of the Group's license to operate. We identified health and safety, data protection laws, employment law, and compliance with regulatory requirements of the Office for Students as those most likely to have such an effect, recognising the nature of the Group's activities. Auditing standards limit the required audit procedures to identify non-compliance with these laws and regulations to enquiry of the directors and other management and inspection of regulatory and

legal correspondence, if any. Therefore, if a breach of operational regulations is not disclosed to us or evident from relevant correspondence, an audit will not detect that breach.

We have reported separately on the University's use of funds in the section of our audit report dealing with other legal and regulatory requirements.

Context of the ability of the audit to detect fraud or breaches of law or regulation

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it.

In addition, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of fraud, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. Our audit procedures are designed to detect material misstatement. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance or fraud and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

Other information

The Council is responsible for the other information, which comprises the information included in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether, based on our financial statements audit work, the information therein is materially misstated or inconsistent with the financial statements or our audit knowledge. Based solely on that work, we have not identified material misstatements in the other information.

Council's responsibilities

As explained more fully in its statement set out on page 57, the Council is responsible for: the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view; such internal control as it determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; assessing the Group and University's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern; and using the going concern basis of accounting unless it either intends to liquidate the Group or the University or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue our opinion in an auditor's report. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but does not guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

A fuller description of our responsibilities is provided on the FRC's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities.

Independent Auditor's Report to Council of University of Exeter

REPORT ON OTHER LEGAL AND REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

We are required to report on the following matters by the Accounts Direction dated 25 October 2019 issued by the Office for Students ("the Accounts Direction").

In our opinion, in all material respects:

- funds from whatever source administered by the Group or the University for specific purposes have been properly applied to those purposes and managed in accordance with relevant legislation;
- funds provided by the Office for Students, UK Research and Innovation (including Research England), the Education and Skills Funding Agency and the Department for Education have been applied in accordance with the relevant terms and conditions; and
- the financial statements meet the requirements of the Accounts Direction.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We are required by the Accounts Direction to report to you where the University has an access and participation plan that has been approved by the Office for Students' director of fair access and participation and the results of our audit work indicate that the Group's and the University's expenditure on access and participation activities for the financial year disclosed in Note 32 has been materially misstated.

We are also required by the Accounts Direction to report to you where the results of our audit work indicate that the Group's and the University's grant and fee income, as disclosed in Note 32 to the financial statements has been materially misstated.

We have nothing to report in these respects.

THE PURPOSE OF OUR AUDIT WORK AND TO WHOM WE OWE OUR RESPONSIBILITIES

This report is made solely to the Council in accordance with Section 10 of the Articles of Government. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Council those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the University and the Council for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Rees Batley
for and on behalf of KPMG LLP, Statutory Auditor
Chartered Accountants
 66 Queen Square
 Bristol
 BS1 4BE

12 December 2025

Principal Accounting Policies

Basis of Preparation

The University and Consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS102) and the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP): Accounting for Further and Higher Education (2019 edition). They have also been prepared in accordance with Accounts Direction issued by the Office for Students (OfS), the Terms and Conditions of funding for higher education institutions issued by the Office for Students and the Terms and Conditions of Research England Grant. The Financial Statements are prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention except for the revaluation of heritage assets, investment property, endowment assets and pensions.

The University is a public benefit entity and therefore has applied the relevant public benefit entity requirements of FRS102.

Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis which the Council consider to be appropriate for the following reasons:

The University has prepared cash flow forecasts, including consideration of downside scenarios, for the going concern period, being 12 months from the date of approval of these financial statements. The University is confident that it will be able to meet all its obligations and commitments over the going concern period, operating within our lenders' and pensions' debt monitoring covenants. Consequently, the Council is confident that the Group and parent University will have sufficient funds to continue to meet their liabilities as they fall due for at least 12 months from the date of approval of the financial statements and therefore have prepared the financial statements on a going concern basis. See the last section of Financial Review for more details.

Basis of consolidation

The results of the University's subsidiary undertakings and undertakings in which it has a controlling interest for the financial year, have been consolidated in the Financial Statements. Details of these subsidiaries are provided in Note 15.

Jointly controlled entities are accounted for using the equity method. The University's share of income and expenditure in joint venture entities is recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income for the group, and its share of assets and liabilities in joint venture entities are recognised in the consolidated Statement of Financial Position. Details of these joint ventures are provided in Note 16.

The consolidated Financial Statements do not include the income and expenditure of the University of Exeter Students' Guild and the Students' Union in Penryn, as the University does not operate dominant or significant influence over their activities.

Recognition of Income

Recurrent grants and Tuition fee

Recurrent grants from funding bodies represent the funding allocations, which are attributable to the current financial year and are credited directly to the income and expenditure account.

Tuition fees represent all fees chargeable to students or their sponsors, received and receivable, which are attributable to the current accounting period net of discounts. The cost of any fees waived by the University is deducted from tuition fee income. Bursaries and scholarships are accounted for gross as expenditure and not deducted from income.

Grant funding

Grant funding including funding council grant, research grants from government sources and grants (including research grants) from non-government sources are recognised when the University is entitled to the income and performance related conditions have been met. If no performance conditions exist, income is recognised on entitlement. Income received in advance of performance related conditions being met is recognised as deferred income within creditors on the Statement of Financial Position and released to income as the conditions are met.

Capital grants are recognised within income when the University is entitled to the funds, subject to any performance related conditions being met.

Donations and endowments

There are four main types of donations and endowments identified within reserves:

1. Restricted donations – the donor has specified that the donation must be used for a particular objective.
2. Unrestricted permanent endowments – the donor has specified that the fund is to be permanently invested to generate an income stream for the general benefit of the University.
3. Restricted permanent endowments – the donor has specified that the fund is to be permanently invested to generate an income stream to be applied to a particular objective.
4. Restricted expendable endowments – the donor has specified a particular objective other than the purchase or construction of tangible fixed assets, and the University has the power to use generated income as well as the capital.

Donations and endowments with donor-imposed restrictions are recognised in income when the University is entitled to the funds. Income is retained within the restricted reserve until such time that it is utilised in line with the restrictions, at which point the income is released to general reserves through a reserve transfer. Donations without restrictions are recognised in income when the University is entitled to the funds.

Gifts in kind are included in donations using a reasonable estimate of their gross value or the amount realised.

Other income

All income from short-term deposits is credited to the income and expenditure account in the period in which it is earned.

Investment income is included in full in the income and expenditure account. Income from endowment assets held for restricted purposes imposed by the donor or funder is recognised in line with the conditions attached to the University's right to the investment income.

The University acts as an agent in the collection and payment of hardship funds and training bursaries from the funding bodies. Related receipts from the Department for Education and Teaching Regulation Agency (DETRA) and subsequent disbursement to students are excluded from the income and expenditure account. Details of transactions in the year are provided in Note 31.

Income within the University's subsidiary companies represents the fair value of consideration receivable, excluding Value Added Tax, in the ordinary course of that Company's business for goods and services provided. In respect of long-term contracts and contracts for ongoing services, income represents the value of work done in the year, including estimates of amounts not invoiced. Income in respect of long-term contracts for ongoing services is recognised by reference to the stage of completion.

Principal Accounting Policies

Accounting for retirement benefits

The two principal pension schemes for University staff are the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) and the University of Exeter Retirement Savings Scheme (ERSS). A third scheme, the University of Exeter Retirement Benefit Scheme (ERBS) closed to future accrual in November 2016.

The USS is a multi-employer hybrid scheme, offering a mix of defined benefits as well as defined contribution benefits. The assets of the scheme are held in a separate trustee-administered fund. Because of the mutual nature of the scheme, the assets are not attributed to individual institutions and a scheme-wide contribution rate is set. The institution is therefore exposed to actuarial risks associated with other institutions' employees and is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the scheme on a consistent and reasonable basis. As required by Section 28 of FRS 102 "Employee benefits", the institution therefore accounts for the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. As a result, the amount charged to the profit and loss account represents the contributions payable to the scheme and the deficit recovery contributions payable under the scheme's Recovery Plan. Where a scheme valuation determines that the scheme is in deficit on a technical provisions basis (as was the case following the 2020 valuation), the trustee of the scheme must agree a Recovery Plan that determines how each employer within the scheme will fund an overall deficit. The institution recognises a liability for the contributions payable that arise from such an agreement (to the extent that they relate to a deficit) with related expenses being recognised through the income statement. Further disclosures relating to the deficit recovery liability can be found in Note 28.

ERSS is a defined contribution scheme, which opened in December 2016. The University pays fixed contributions to the fund that are recognised within staff costs.

ERBS, a defined benefit scheme, was closed to future accrual in November 2016. The Group's net obligation in respect of defined benefit pension plans is calculated annually by estimating the amount of future benefit that employees have earned in return for their service in the current and prior periods. That future benefit is then discounted, to determine its present value, and compared to the fair value of scheme's assets valued at bid price. Movement in the scheme's net value is recognised through staff costs in income and expenditure account. Further information on pension schemes and post-retirement benefits are disclosed in Note 28.

Employment benefits

Short term employment benefits such as salaries and compensated absences are recognised as an expense in the year in which the employees render service to the University. Any unused benefits, such as holiday entitlements, are accrued and measured as the additional amount the University expects to pay as a result of the unused entitlement.

Finance leases

Leases in which the University assumes substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of the leased asset are classified as finance leases. Leased assets acquired by way of finance lease and the corresponding lease liabilities are initially recognised at an amount equal to the lower of their fair value and the present value of the minimum lease payments at inception of the lease.

Minimum lease payments are apportioned between the finance charge and the reduction of the outstanding liability. The finance charge is allocated to each period during the lease term so as to produce a constant periodic rate of interest on the remaining balance of the liability.

Service Concession Arrangements

Fixed assets held under service concession arrangements are recognised on the Statement of Financial Position at the present value of the minimum lease payments when the assets are brought into use, with a corresponding financial liability. Payments under the service concession arrangement are allocated between service costs, finance charges and financial liability repayments to reduce the financial liability to nil over the life of the arrangement.

Operating leases

Costs in respect of operating leases are charged on a straight-line basis over the lease term. Any lease premiums or incentives are spread over the minimum lease term.

Foreign currencies

Transactions denominated in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of the transactions. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies at the Statement of Financial Position date are translated into sterling at the foreign exchange rate ruling at that date. Resulting exchange differences arising on translation are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

Taxation

The University is an exempt charity within the meaning of Part 3 of the Charities Act 2011. It is therefore a charity within the meaning of Paragraph 1 of Schedule 6 to the Finance Act 2010 and it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the University is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by section 478-488 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 (CTA 2010) or section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied to exclusively charitable purposes.

The University receives no similar exemption in respect of Value Added Tax (VAT). Irrecoverable VAT on inputs is included in the costs of goods and services purchased. Any irrecoverable VAT allocated to fixed assets is included in their cost. The University's subsidiary companies are subject to Corporation Tax and VAT in the same way as any other commercial organisation.

Tangible and intangible assets

Non-current tangible and intangible assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation/ amortisation and accumulated impairment losses. Land and buildings that had been revalued to fair value on or prior to the date of transition to the SORP 2015, are measured on the basis of deemed cost, being the revalued amount at the date of that revaluation.

Where parts of a fixed asset have different useful lives, they are accounted for as separate items of fixed assets, in line with component accounting.

Capitalisation

Tangible and intangible assets are capitalised where they are capable of being used for a period that exceeds one year and satisfying the following criteria:

- Individually have a cost greater than £25,000; or
- Collectively have a cost equal to or greater than £25,000 where the assets are functionally interdependent or are purchased together and intended to be used as a group under common management control; or
- Irrespective of their individual cost, form part of the initial equipping of a new building.

Principal Accounting Policies

The University has a five-year rolling long-term maintenance plan, which forms the basis of the on-going maintenance of the estate. Expenditure on long term maintenance which does not either enhance an asset beyond its original condition or increase its expected economic life, and expenditure on all routine corrective maintenance, is charged to the income and expenditure account as incurred. Major replacement and refurbishment work is capitalised if the work creates or enhances an existing asset or improves or substantially overhauls an asset. Finance costs directly attributable to the construction of land and buildings are capitalised as part of the cost of those assets.

Intangible assets held by the University relate to software.

Heritage assets

Heritage assets are capitalised and recognised at the cost or value of the acquisition where such cost or valuation is reasonably obtainable. Where reliable estimates of cost or value are not available on a cost-benefit basis, these assets are omitted from the Financial Statements. Heritage assets are not depreciated as their long economic life and high residual value mean that any depreciation would not be material.

Heritage assets are valued at fair value by independent valuation agents every 3 years with a physical inspection occurring every 5 years.

Any costs of maintaining and displaying the collection are reported in the Statement of Comprehensive Income in the year when they are incurred.

Investment Property

Investment property is land and buildings held for rental income or capital appreciation rather than for use in delivering services. Rental property held primarily for the provision of social benefits (e.g. student residences) are accounted for as tangible fixed assets rather than Investment Property, in accordance with FRS 102.

Investment properties are measured initially at cost and subsequently at fair value with movements recognised in the Surplus or Deficit. Properties are not depreciated but are revalued or reviewed annually according to market conditions as at 31 July each year.

Investments

Non-current investments are held on the Statement of Financial Position at amortised cost less impairment. Current asset investments are included in the Statement of Financial Position at fair value. Increases/decreases in value arising on the revaluation of fixed asset investments are recognised in the Surplus or Deficit.

In the Financial Statements of the University the investments in subsidiary undertakings are included in the Statement of Financial Position at cost.

Stock

Stock is shown at the lower of cost and net realisable value and is measured using a first in first out formula. Where necessary, provision is made for obsolete, slow-moving and defective stocks. Stocks of consumables held for administration purposes and in faculties are not valued.

Depreciation / Amortisation

Depreciation is charged in the year of acquisition, and no depreciation is charged in the year of disposal, with the exception of research equipment which is depreciated monthly on a straight-line basis. All depreciation is calculated on a straight-line basis as follows:

Land	Not depreciated
Freehold buildings	Over their expected remaining useful lives, subject to a maximum of 60 years
Leasehold buildings	Over the shorter of the lease term and the expected useful lives, subject to a maximum of 60 years
Assets under construction	Not depreciated
Assets held for sale	Not depreciated
Infrastructure	Over their expected remaining useful lives, subject to a maximum of 60 years
Computer equipment and IT infrastructure	Over its expected useful life between 4 to 8 years
Intangible Assets / Software	Over its expected useful life between 3 to 5 years
Other Equipment	Over its expected useful life between 3 to 8 years

Building works that are greater than £150,000 are analysed into the following components:

Component	Life
Building shell	40-60 years
Mechanical and engineering services	10-30 years
Fit out	20-25 years

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash includes cash in hand, deposits repayable on demand and overdrafts. Deposits are repayable on demand if they are in practice available within 24 hours without penalty.

Cash equivalents are short term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value.

The current investment assets held by the University are deposits with banks and building societies with maturity between three and twelve months at the date of acquisition. These are held at cost.

The Statement of Cash Flows included in the financial statements is for the group. We have taken advantage of an exemption not to show the Statement of Cash flows for the University, permitted under the SORP Section 3.3.

Principal Accounting Policies

Financial Instruments

A financial instrument is a contract that gives rise to a financial asset in one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument in another. Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the University becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

The provisions of both section 11 and 12 of FRS102 are applied in full. Basic financial instruments are held at amortised cost using the effective interest method or cost and are subject to an annual impairment review.

Complex financial instruments are held at fair value, with changes in the fair value taken directly to the Statement of Comprehensive Income, except where hedge accounting is applied.

Provisions, contingent liabilities and contingent assets

Provisions are recognised in the Financial Statements when:

- a) the University has a present obligation (legal or constructive) as a result of a past event;
- b) it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation; and
- c) reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

The amount recognised as a provision is determined by discounting the expected future cash flows at a pre-tax rate that reflects risks specific to the liability.

A contingent liability arises from a past event that gives the University a possible obligation whose existence will only be confirmed by the occurrence or otherwise of uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the University. Contingent liabilities also arise in circumstances where a provision would otherwise be made but either it is not probable that an outflow of resources will be required, or the amount of the obligation cannot be measured reliably.

A contingent asset arises where an event has taken place that gives the University a possible asset whose existence will only be confirmed by the occurrence or otherwise of uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the University.

Contingent assets and liabilities are not recognised in the Statement of Financial Position but are disclosed in the notes when required.

Reserves

Reserves are classified as restricted or unrestricted. Restricted endowment reserves include balances which, through endowment to the University, are held as a permanently restricted fund which the University must hold in perpetuity.

Other restricted reserves include balances where the donor has designated a specific purpose and therefore the University is restricted in the use of these funds.

Key Estimates and Judgements

Key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the University's Financial Statements required management to make judgement, estimates and assumptions that affects the application of accounting policies and reported amounts of assets and liabilities, income and expenses. These judgements, estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The resulting accounting estimates will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results.

The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are addressed below.

Provisions for liabilities and Contingent Liabilities

The Group recognises provisions where a present legal or constructive obligation exists due to a past event, settlement is probable, and a reliable estimate can be made (see Note 29).

Contingent Liabilities: The University has financial guarantees and commitments with third parties. As the likelihood of the trigger event is remote, these liabilities have not been quantified, and management believes that no provision is required. Further information is provided in note 27.

Pension and Post-Employment Benefit Obligations

The Group operates both defined contribution and defined benefit pension schemes. The Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) and the University of Exeter Retirement Benefits Scheme (ERBS) are defined benefit plans, with assets held in separate trustee-administered funds.

ERBS

The scheme is closed to new and existing members from 30 November 2016. Obligations are valued annually by independent actuaries using the projected unit method.

Description	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Present value of obligation	90,565	102,392
Fair value of plan assets	(87,703)	(95,745)
Net defined benefit liability	2,862	6,647

Key actuarial assumptions are detailed in Note 28(iii). A 0.5% increase in the discount rate would reduce the obligation by approximately 7%. Contributions of £4,135k (2024: £3,460k) were made during the year. Deficit recovery payments are charged to the income statement, with liabilities recognised accordingly (see Note 28).

Significant Judgements in Applying Accounting Policies

Classification of Leases

Judgement is applied to determine whether a contract contains a lease and whether it conveys control over the asset. This includes assessing:

- The right to direct the asset's use
- Access to substantially all economic benefits

Relevant lease agreements are disclosed in Notes 12 and 14.

Revenue Recognition – Principal vs Agent

To determine whether the Group acts as principal or agent, management considered:

- Controls over goods or services prior to transferred to customer
- Nature of performance obligations

The Group acts as an agent in arrangements with the Department for Education and Teaching Regulation Agency (DETRA), and related grants are excluded from the Income and Expenditure account.

Related Party Relationships

Judgement is exercised in identifying related parties under FRS 102 Section 33. This includes evaluating common control, significant influence by key management personnel, and close family relationships.

Consolidated and University Statement of Comprehensive Income

Year ended 31 July 2025

		GROUP		UNIVERSITY	
	Notes	Year Ended 31 July 2025 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2024 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2025 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2024 £'000
INCOME					
Tuition fees and education contracts	1	350,525	350,571	350,525	350,571
Funding body grants	2	70,605	72,811	70,605	72,811
Research grants and contracts	3	136,855	129,155	136,855	129,155
Other income	4	102,065	93,818	102,065	93,819
Investment income	5	11,444	13,485	11,449	13,485
Endowments and donations	6	9,376	5,188	9,208	6,781
Total income		680,870	665,028	680,707	666,622
EXPENDITURE					
Staff costs	7	396,560	373,992	396,560	373,992
Staff costs – movement on USS pension provision	7	-	(177,732)	-	(177,732)
Operating expenses	8	201,807	206,759	201,779	206,736
Depreciation and amortisation	9	74,636	65,955	74,636	65,955
Impairment charge	9	113	1,600	113	1,600
Interest and other finance costs	10	5,814	9,979	5,814	9,979
Total expenditure		678,930	480,553	678,902	480,530
Surplus before other gains/(losses) and share of operating surplus in joint ventures		1,940	184,475	1,805	186,092
(Loss)/gain on investments	15	(852)	3	(852)	3
Share of operating surplus in joint venture	16	260	2,057	-	-
Surplus for the year		1,348	186,535	953	186,095
Revaluation gain on heritage assets	13	3,193	-	3,193	-
Actuarial gain/(loss) in respect of pension schemes	28	541	(1,957)	541	(1,957)
Total comprehensive income		5,082	184,578	4,687	184,138
Represented by:					
Endowment comprehensive loss for the year	23	2,523	2,987	2,247	2,991
Restricted comprehensive (expenditure)/income for the year		(27)	14	(28)	14
Unrestricted comprehensive (expenditure)/income for the year	24	(365)	181,576	(742)	181,132
Revaluation reserve comprehensive gain for the year	25	2,951	1	3,210	1
		5,082	184,578	4,687	184,138

All items of income and expenditure relate to continuing activities. The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Consolidated and University Statement of Changes in Reserves

Year ended 31 July 2025

GROUP	Endowment Reserve £'000	Restricted Income and Expenditure £'000	Unrestricted Income and Expenditure £'000	Revaluation Reserve £'000	Total £'000
Balance at 1 August 2023	48,677	107	379,397	21,888	450,069
Surplus from the Statement of Comprehensive Income	2,987	14	183,533	1	186,535
Other comprehensive loss	-	-	(1,957)	-	(1,957)
Transfer between reserves	-	-	260	(260)	-
Total comprehensive income / (loss)	2,987	14	181,836	(259)	184,578
Balance at 1 August 2024	51,664	121	561,233	21,629	634,647
Surplus/(deficit) from the Statement of Comprehensive Income	2,247	3,518	(4,434)	17	1,348
Other comprehensive income	-	-	541	3,193	3,734
Transfer between reserves	276	(3,545)	3,528	(259)	-
Total comprehensive income / (loss)	2,523	(27)	(365)	2,951	5,082
Balance at 31 July 2025	54,187	94	560,868	24,580	639,729

UNIVERSITY	Endowment Reserve £'000	Restricted Income and Expenditure £'000	Unrestricted Income and Expenditure £'000	Revaluation Reserve £'000	Total £'000
Balance at 1 August 2023	48,594	107	374,515	9,213	432,429
Surplus from Statement of Comprehensive Income	2,992	14	183,089	1	186,096
Other comprehensive loss	-	-	(1,957)	-	(1,957)
Total comprehensive income	2,991	14	181,132	1	184,138
Balance at 1 August 2024	51,586	121	555,647	9,214	616,568
Surplus/(deficit) from the Statement of Comprehensive Income	2,246	3,518	(4,828)	17	953
Other comprehensive income	-	-	541	3,193	3,734
Transfers between reserves	-	(3,545)	3,545	-	-
Total comprehensive income/(loss)	2,246	(27)	(742)	3,210	4,687
Balance at 31 July 2025	53,832	94	554,905	12,424	621,255

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Consolidated and University Statement of Financial Position

Year ended 31 July 2025

	Notes	GROUP		UNIVERSITY	
		Year Ended 31 July 2025 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2024 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2025 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2024 £'000
Non-current assets					
Intangible assets	11	8,116	7,093	8,116	7,093
Tangible fixed assets	12	716,817	716,566	716,817	716,566
Heritage assets	13	12,471	9,287	12,471	9,287
Investments	15	51,801	51,984	51,951	52,134
Investment in joint venture	16	19,355	18,121	-	-
		808,560	803,051	789,355	785,080
Current assets					
Stock		944	899	944	899
Receivables	17	100,907	97,507	102,116	97,577
Investments	18	5,686	46,658	5,686	46,658
Cash and cash equivalents		205,052	153,794	204,561	153,600
		312,589	298,858	313,307	298,734
Less: Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	19	(197,703)	(178,909)	(197,690)	(178,893)
Net current assets		114,886	119,949	115,617	119,841
Total assets less current liabilities		923,446	923,000	904,972	904,921
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	20	(279,646)	(280,497)	(279,646)	(280,497)
Provisions					
Pension provisions	28	(2,862)	(6,647)	(2,862)	(6,647)
Other provisions	29	(1,209)	(1,209)	(1,209)	(1,209)
Total net assets		639,729	634,647	621,255	616,568
Restricted Reserves					
Endowment reserve	23	54,187	51,664	53,832	51,586
Income and expenditure reserve		94	121	94	121
Unrestricted Reserves					
Income and expenditure reserve	24	560,868	561,233	554,905	555,647
Revaluation reserve	25	24,580	21,629	12,424	9,214
Total Reserves		639,729	634,647	621,255	616,568

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements. The Financial Statements on pages 48 to 112 were approved by Council on 9 December 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:

Professor Lisa Roberts
President and Vice-Chancellor

Quentin Woodley
Pro-Chancellor and Chair of Council

Dave Stacey
Chief Financial Officer and Director of Finance, Infrastructure and Commercial Services

Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended 31 July 2025

	Notes	Year Ended 31 July 2025 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2024 £'000
Cash flow from operating activities			
Surplus for the year		1,348	186,535
Adjustment for non-cash items			
Depreciation and impairment	12	72,188	65,050
Amortisation of intangibles	11	2,561	2,401
Loss/(gain) on investments	15	852	(3)
Increase in stock		(46)	(38)
Increase in debtors		(4,124)	(922)
Increase in creditors		17,088	19,961
Decrease in provisions	29	(3,244)	(181,763)
Share of operating surplus in joint ventures		(260)	(2,057)
Adjustment for investing and financing activities			
Investment income	5	(11,444)	(13,485)
Loan interest and other finance costs	10	5,814	9,979
New endowments	6	(5,553)	(4,130)
Loss on the disposal of fixed assets	11,12	30	221
Capital grant receipts	2	(8,640)	(6,285)
Net cash inflow from operating activities		66,570	75,464
Cash flow from investing activities			
Proceeds on disposal of non-current asset investments		173	169
Investment income received		11,052	13,101
Capital grants received	2	8,640	6,285
Recall of/(payment into) short-term investments	18	40,972	(11,103)
Disposal/(acquisition) of non-current asset investments		134	(4,083)
Payments made to acquire fixed assets	12,13	(9,989)	(8,409)
Payments made to acquire intangible assets	11	(3,584)	(3,938)
Payment made to acquire assets under construction	12	(29,562)	(28,817)
Loans made to other parties	17	(1,100)	-
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from investing activities		16,736	(36,795)
Cash flow from financing activities			
Loan interest and other finance costs	10	(5,814)	(9,979)
New endowments	23	5,553	4,130
Capital element of finance lease		(31,787)	(29,011)
Net cash outflow from financing activities		(32,048)	(34,860)
Increase in cash and cash equivalents		51,258	3,809
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year		153,794	149,984
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year		205,052	153,794

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements

NOTE 1 TUITION FEES AND EDUCATION CONTRACTS

	GROUP		UNIVERSITY	
	Year Ended 31 July 2025 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2024 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2025 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2024 £'000
Home and EU students*	204,538	200,201	204,538	200,201
International students	134,895	137,586	134,895	137,586
Research Training Support Grant	4,243	6,380	4,243	6,379
Non-credit bearing course fees and other tuition fees	6,849	6,404	6,849	6,404
	350,525	350,571	350,525	350,570

* From 2021/22 new students admitted from the EU are classed as international students, whereas EU students who were admitted in prior years but continued their studies during 2024/25 remain classified as 'home and EU' students, as these students qualify for UK home fee status.

NOTE 2 FUNDING BODY GRANTS

	GROUP		UNIVERSITY	
	Year Ended 31 July 2025 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2024 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2025 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2024 £'000
Recurrent Grant				
Office for Students – Teaching grant	20,199	20,836	20,199	20,836
UKRI – Research grant	37,123	36,519	37,123	36,519
Specific Grants				
Office for Students – Capital grants	-	50	-	50
UKRI – Capital grants	4,890	4,418	4,890	4,418
Other Capital grants	-	1,300	-	1,300
Higher Education Innovation Fund	6,003	6,725	6,003	6,725
Other grants	2,390	2,963	2,390	2,963
	70,605	72,811	70,605	72,811

The Office for Students (OfS) is the independent regulator of higher education in England. One of its functions is to distribute funding in respect of teaching activities. UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) oversees higher education research and knowledge exchange and provides grant funding in support of these areas.

Notes to the Financial Statements

NOTE 3 RESEARCH GRANTS AND CONTRACTS

	GROUP		UNIVERSITY	
	Year Ended 31 July 2025 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2024 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2025 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2024 £'000
Research Councils	61,250	54,788	61,250	54,788
UK Research Charities	14,301	15,003	14,301	15,003
UK Central Government, local authorities and health authorities	34,849	28,321	34,849	28,321
UK Industry and commerce	9,711	9,045	9,711	9,045
European Union government	5,929	10,047	5,929	10,047
European Union industry / other bodies	2,024	2,035	2,024	2,035
Other	8,791	9,916	8,791	9,916
Total Research Income	136,855	129,155	136,855	129,155

NOTE 4 OTHER INCOME

	GROUP		UNIVERSITY	
	Year Ended 31 July 2025 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2024 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2025 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2024 £'000
Residences, catering and conferences	60,852	57,387	60,852	57,387
Other revenue grants	6,966	6,158	6,966	6,158
Other services rendered	2,342	1,768	2,342	1,768
Income from health authorities and trusts	9,107	7,564	9,107	7,564
Sports and swimming pool income	2,520	2,306	2,520	2,306
Summer schools, fair & degree day income	8	131	8	131
ERASMUS income	27	30	27	30
Rental income & room hire	1,023	1,053	1,023	1,053
Externally charged staff time	1,786	1,808	1,786	1,808
Supplies and services to external customers	8,856	10,329	8,856	10,329
Other income	8,578	5,284	8,578	5,285
	102,065	93,818	102,065	93,819

Included within residences, catering, and conferences £31.6m (2024: £28.9m) related to rental income from student residences that are operated under a service concession arrangement, which is further explained in Note 14.

Notes to the Financial Statements

NOTE 5 INVESTMENT INCOME

	Notes	GROUP		UNIVERSITY	
		Year Ended 31 July 2025 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2024 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2025 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2024 £'000
Investment income on expendable endowments	23	739	619	739	619
Investment income on permanent endowments	23	740	685	740	685
Other investment income		9,917	12,126	9,917	12,126
Other interest receivable		48	55	53	55
		11,444	13,485	11,449	13,485

NOTE 6 ENDOWMENTS AND DONATIONS

	Notes	GROUP		UNIVERSITY	
		Year Ended 31 July 2025 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2024 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2025 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2024 £'000
New expendable endowments	23	5,533	4,041	5,533	4,041
New permanent endowments	23	20	89	20	89
Restricted donations		3,518	1,020	3,518	1,020
Unrestricted donations		305	37	137	1,631
		9,376	5,187	9,208	6,781

NOTE 7 STAFF COSTS

Average staff numbers (including senior post holders) employed by the University during the year and expressed as full-time equivalents are presented in the table below:

	Year Ended 31 July 2025 Number	Year Ended 31 July 2024 Number
Academic	2,093	2,091
Research	949	917
Professional Services	3,317	3,339
	6,359	6,347

Staff cost

Group	Notes	Year Ended 31 July 2025 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2024 £'000
Salaries		311,422	296,235
Employer Taxes		35,739	30,994
Pension contributions	28	39,361	37,961
Direct staff costs		386,522	365,190
Redundancy and severance payments		10,038	8,802
Movement on USS pension provision		-	(177,732)
		396,560	196,260

Notes to the Financial Statements

NOTE 7 STAFF COSTS (continued)

President and Vice-Chancellor’s Salary

University Context and institutional Performance 2024/25

The reward of the President and Vice-Chancellor reflects the level of responsibility and skills required to lead a complex institution, with income of £680m, 30,000 students and over 7,000 staff and a wide network of stakeholders and partners nationally and globally in a challenging and globally competitive environment. The President and Vice-Chancellor leads the development and delivery of the institution’s Strategy 2030 to ensure the continued growth and success of the University. Information on the University’s achievements is set out in details in the section “Highlights of the year” at the beginning of this report.

Decisions on the reward of the President and Vice-Chancellor are made by the University’s Remuneration Committee (which is composed solely of independent members of the University’s Governing Body) taking account of a number of factors including:

- the breadth and level of leadership responsibility and accountability.
- market data for the remuneration of Vice-Chancellors at competitor institutions.
- the University’s Executive Reward Policy.
- the achievement of strategic goals.
- the institution’s national and international rankings
- performance against strategic performance metrics.

In 2024/25 the University achieved important progress across a wide range of activity, and highlights of the University’s achievements in 2024/25 are detailed in the “How we performed” section of the Annual Report.

Remuneration Decisions

Taking account of the University’s Executive Reward Policy, the Remuneration Committee agreed to increase Professor Roberts’ salary by 1.2% (compared to the national increase of 2.5% for higher education in 2024/25) to £308,000 from 1 August 2024 to appropriately align her remuneration to relevant comparators in the Russell Group and to recognise her continued strong leadership and achievements through a period of significant challenge.

Separately, following a review of the reward arrangements for all members of the University Executive Board (UEB) in 2024, the Remuneration Committee also agreed changes to the Executive Reward Policy from the beginning of the 2024/25 University year. Previously, part of the remuneration of members of UEB (the Executive Performance Reward Scheme) had been “pay at risk”, with a payment of up to 20% of the guaranteed

element of salary only being made if stretching annual performance targets have been met. The Executive Performance Reward Scheme was withdrawn and transitional arrangements agreed for members of UEB who previously participated in the Executive Performance Reward Scheme, including the President and Vice-Chancellor. Under these transitional arrangements, members of UEB receive a non-pensionable allowance equivalent to 12% of their 2023/24 salary. This allowance will be reduced by the same amount as any increases to base salary for national (JNCHEs) increases or to ensure that their salary is appropriately aligned to the appropriate market rate. As a consequence, members of UEB will not receive an increase in their total remuneration for the foreseeable future. This is a reduction to the previous reward arrangements and delivers significant recurrent savings to the University, reducing the potential cost of UEB pay by 6.26% in 2024/25.

The remuneration received by Professor Roberts in the year ended 31 July 2025 was:

- a base salary of £308,000 per annum.
- a non-pensionable allowance of £36,540.
- The University paid pension contributions to the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) at the same level paid for other members of USS.

Recognising the importance of the President and Vice-Chancellor to the achievement of the University’s strategic aims, the University also meets the cost of private health insurance and other limited accommodation and related taxable expenses.

Pay Ratios

The Office for Students’ methodology for calculating pay ratios includes anyone paid during the financial year, including workers engaged on an occasional basis and both leavers and their replacements,

	2024/25	2023/24	2022-23
	Total (£000)	Total (£000)	Total (£000)
Remuneration of the President and Vice-Chancellor			
Salary	308	305	290
Non-pensionable allowance	37	-	-
Performance related remuneration	-	37	51
Total pay offered	345	342	341
Employer pension contributions	45	53	63
Other taxable benefits (health insurance, accommodation and related expenses)	2	3	1
Other non-taxable benefits	-	-	-
Total Remuneration	392	398	405
Performance related remuneration (waived)	-	37	-
Total	392	361	405

See Remuneration Decisions below for more information about the non-pensionable allowance of £36,540.

Professor Roberts declined to accept the performance related payment of £37,454 to which she was entitled under the Executive Performance Reward Scheme in respect of the 2023/24 financial year. In view of this, and to provide a more complete year-on-year comparison of the President and Vice-Chancellor’s total remuneration, the figures for 2022/23 have been provided alongside the figures for 2023/24 and 2024/25.

Notes to the Financial Statements

irrespective of how long they worked during the year. Total pay includes employer pension contributions/ allowance in lieu of employer pension contributions and taxable benefits. Pay for part-time and hourly paid workers have been pro-rated up to the full-time equivalent. Unlike some other higher education institutions, the University of Exeter has not contracted out services on a significant scale.

Based on the OfS methodology:

- The ratio between the Vice-Chancellor's basic salary in 2024/25 and the median basic salary of all other persons employed by the University in the 2024/25 financial year, including leavers and workers engaged on an occasional basis, is 8.8 (2023/24: 9.0).
- The ratio between the Vice-Chancellor's total reward in 2024/25 and the median total reward of all other persons employed by the University in the 2024/25 financial year, including leavers and workers engaged on an occasional basis, is 9.7 (2023/24: 10.4).

The figures excluding leavers and workers engaged on an occasional basis are:

- The ratio between the Vice-Chancellor's basic salary and the median basic salary of all other persons employed by the University in the 2024/25 financial year is 7.2 (2023/24: 7.3).
- The ratio between the Vice-Chancellor's total reward in 2024/25 and the median total reward of all other persons employed by the University in the 2024/25 financial year is 8.0 (2023/24: 8.4).

Note that the median pay ratios are calculated using the pension rates applicable as at 31 July.

Compensation for loss of office

The total amount of any compensation for loss of office paid by the University for the year ended 31 July 2025 was £10,038k and relates to 427 posts (£8,802k for 268 posts to 31 July 2024). These figures include statutory redundancy and voluntary severance payments.

Key management personnel

Remuneration of key management personnel was £3,848k including employer's pension contribution for 16 posts for the year ended 31 July 2025. (Excluding employer's pension contributions £3,457k). (£3,502k including and £3,045k excluding employer's pension contribution for 16 posts to 31 July 2024).

Higher paid staff

Remuneration of higher paid staff, excluding employer's pension contributions (except where this is part of a salary sacrifice scheme) and partner institutions in respect of its contractual obligations to University staff under separate NHS contracts of employment and which are excluded in the University's Statement of Comprehensive Income is reported in the following table.

In line with the Office for Students Accounts Direction, the 2024/25 and 2023/24 figures do not include staff who joined or left part-way through the year but who would have received salary in these bands in a full year.

This table excludes the President and Vice-Chancellor's remuneration, which is detailed on page 82.

Council Members

The University Council members are the charitable trustees. Due to the nature of the University's operations and the composition of the University Council (with members being drawn from local, public and private sector organisations) it is inevitable that transactions will take place with organisations in which a member of Council may have an interest. All transactions involving organisations in which a member of the Council may have an interest are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the University's procurement procedures and financial regulations. Details of the organisations in which members of Council have an interest are published online at www.exeter.ac.uk/about/organisation/council/whoweare

Independent members do not receive payment, apart from reimbursement of expenses for fulfilling their role as members of the governing body. Reimbursement of expenses amounted to £4,690.54 for 10 trustees (2024: £6,328 for 6 trustees). An additional £12,437.23 was paid directly

by the University for travel, accommodation and subsistence for Council members (2024: £10,007).

Further information on related party transactions is included in Note 30.

	Year Ended 31 July 2025 Headcount	Year Ended 31 July 2025 FTE	Year Ended 31 July 2024 Headcount	Year ended 31 July 2024 FTE
£100,000 - £104,999	60	36.0	73	67.8
£105,000 - £109,999	161	75.7	23	20.2
£110,000 - £114,999	19	14.7	26	21.6
£115,000 - £119,999	10	8.0	20	16.2
£120,000 - £124,999	30	25.5	30	25.0
£125,000 - £129,999	25	19.0	17	13.1
£130,000 - £134,999	25	18.3	27	18.8
£135,000 - £139,999	11	8.1	20	13.5
£140,000 - £144,999	17	11.2	8	8.0
£145,000 - £149,999	19	14.4	6	5.5
£150,000 - £154,999	6	5.5	5	4.2
£155,000 - £159,999	2	1.2	2	1.0
£160,000 - £164,999	3	2.0	2	1.2
£165,000 - £169,999	2	2.0	2	2.0
£170,000 - £174,999	0	0	3	2.8
£175,000 - £179,999	4	3.8	1	1.0
£180,000 - £184,999	1	1.0	2	2.0
£185,000 - £189,999	2	2.0	0	0
£190,000 - £194,999	1	1.0	2	2.0
£195,000 - £199,999	1	1.0	0	0
£200,000 - £204,999	0	0	1	1.0
£205,000 - £209,999	1	1.0	1	1.0
£210,000 - £214,999	1	1.0	0	0
£215,000 - £219,999	0	0	2	1.2
£220,000 - £224,999	1	0.2	0	0
£225,000 - £229,999	0	0	0	0
£230,000 - £234,999	0	0	0	0
£235,000 - £239,999	1	1.0	0	0
£240,000 - £244,999	0	0	0	0
£245,000 - £249,999	0	0	0	0
£250,000 - £254,999	1	1.0	0	0
TOTALS	404	254.6	273	229.1

Notes to the Financial Statements

NOTE 8 OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES

	GROUP		UNIVERSITY	
	Year Ended 31 July 2025 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2024 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2025 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2024 £'000
Residences, catering and conferences	11,235	12,609	11,235	12,609
Rents and rates	2,001	1,614	2,001	1,614
Light, heat, power and water	8,961	11,777	8,961	11,777
Repairs and general maintenance	17,210	12,750	17,210	12,750
Research	29,723	27,465	29,723	27,465
Sport	1,877	1,732	1,877	1,732
Penryn campus costs	8,133	7,906	8,133	7,906
Laboratory equipment and consumables	4,588	4,740	4,588	4,740
IT hardware, software and licences	11,175	9,315	11,175	9,315
Other equipment (including loss on disposal of equipment)	5,411	7,252	5,411	7,252
Books and periodicals	6,827	6,817	6,827	6,817
Agency, seconded staff and staff support costs	6,202	7,044	6,202	7,044
Publicity, publications and student recruitment	15,540	14,052	15,540	14,052
Travel and subsistence	13,259	13,948	13,259	13,948
Scholarships, prizes and student support	29,555	28,848	29,555	28,848
Auditors remuneration	238	230	221	213
Auditors remuneration in respect of non-audit services	13	43	13	33
Other expenses	29,859	38,617	29,848	38,621
	201,807	206,759	201,779	206,736
Included within other operating expenses are:				
Internal audit costs (within other expenses) ¹¹	224	261	224	261
External audit costs (within Auditors remuneration)	238	230	221	213
Operating lease expenses	881	770	881	770

¹¹ Internal and external audit costs are shown net of the Value Added Tax.

Notes to the Financial Statements

NOTE 9 ANALYSIS OF TOTAL EXPENDITURE BY ACTIVITY

GROUP	Staff Costs £'000	Other Operating Expenses £'000	Depreciation and Impairment £'000	Interest Payable £'000	2025 Total £'000	2024 Total £'000
Academic colleges	186,441	46,662	3,254	-	236,357	226,526
Academic services	41,764	24,659	2,993	-	69,416	49,972
Administration and central services	90,434	56,545	6,310	-	153,289	155,239
Premises	10,367	36,095	25,915	5,573	77,950	74,822
Residences, catering and conferences	6,457	8,123	33,128	-	47,708	58,681
Research grants and contracts	61,097	29,723	3,149	-	93,969	88,632
Pensions adjustment	-	-	-	241	241	(173,319)
	396,560	201,807	74,749	5,814	678,930	480,553

NOTE 10 INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCE COSTS

GROUP AND UNIVERSITY	Year Ended 31 July 2025 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2024 £'000
Loan interest	5,551	5,551
Other finance costs	22	15
Net charge on pension schemes	241	4,413
	5,814	9,979

NOTE 11 INTANGIBLE ASSETS

GROUP AND UNIVERSITY	Software £'000	Assets under development £'000	Total £'000
Deemed Cost			
As at 1 August 2024	29,152	690	29,842
Additions	-	3,584	3,584
Disposals	(91)	-	(91)
Transfer from assets under construction	465	(465)	-
Impairment		(113)	(113)
As at 31 July 2025	29,526	3,696	33,222
Depreciation			
As at 1 August 2024	22,749	-	22,749
Charge for the year	2,448	-	2,448
Disposals	(91)	-	(91)
As at 31 July 2025	25,106		25,106
Net Book Value			
At 31 July 2025	4,420	3,696	8,116
At 31 July 2024	6,403	690	7,093

Notes to the Financial Statements

NOTE 12 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

GROUP AND UNIVERSITY	Land and buildings		Service concession arrangement (Note 14) £'000	Equipment £'000	Assets under construction £'000	Total £'000
	Freehold £'000	Long Leasehold £'000				
Deemed Cost						
At 1 August 2024	739,752	117,648	31,654	130,048	26,089	1,045,192
Additions	-	-	32,643	9,989	29,562	72,194
Disposals	-	-	(31,654)	(3,713)	-	(35,367)
Transfers from assets under construction	18,438	2,153	-	14,307	(34,898)	-
Transfers from Investment Property	267	-	-	-	-	267
At 31 July 2025	758,457	119,801	32,643	150,631	20,754	1,082,285
Depreciation						
At 1 August 2024	202,434	31,658	-	92,440	2,094	328,626
Charge for the year	23,808	3,581	31,654	13,145	-	72,188
Disposals	-	-	(31,654)	(3,692)	-	(35,346)
At 31 July 2025	226,242	35,239	-	101,893	2,094	365,468
Net book value						
At 31 July 2025	532,214	84,562	32,643	48,738	18,660	716,817
At 31 July 2024	537,318	85,990	31,654	37,608	23,996	716,566

- a. At 31 July 2025, freehold land and buildings included £87.2m (2024: £87.2m) in respect of freehold land which is not depreciated.
- b. Included in the cost of freehold land and buildings is £1.1m (2024: £1.1m) bank loan interest paid that has been capitalised. This has been calculated at the loan interest rate of 5.88%. These finance costs are directly attributable to the construction of student residences and were capitalised as part of the cost of those assets whilst they were in the course of construction. There has been no capitalisation of interest payable in the current or prior years.
- c. Upon transition to FRS102 tangible fixed assets were valued at deemed cost following a valuation performed by the external Chartered Surveyors, Jones Lang LaSalle, as at 31 July 2014 on the basis of existing use or depreciated replacement cost according to the nature and use of each building. This valuation was prepared in accordance with the valuation standards published by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. No further revaluations of tangible fixed assets will occur, with the exception of investment properties (Note 15) and heritage assets (Note 13).
- d. Long leasehold land and buildings are comprised of the University owned buildings on the Penryn Campus, which were acquired under a 125-year lease (104 years remaining), Engineering Research Centre on the Exeter Science Park site and the Research, Innovation, Learning and Development ("the RILD") buildings on the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital (Wonford) site in Exeter, which was completed in 2013/14. The RILD buildings are held under a finance lease arrangement which has been fully paid in advance.

A finance lease liability and the equivalent prepayment have been included on the Statement of Financial Position in relation to the RILD building on the following basis:

	Note	Year Ended 31 July 2025 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2024 £'000
Debtors: Amounts falling due within one year	17	133	133
Debtors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	17	14,992	15,125
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	19	(133)	(133)
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	20	(14,992)	(15,125)

Of the amounts falling due after more than one year, £133k is due within one to two years, £400k is due within two to five years, and £14,459k is due after more than five years. (2024: £133k; £400k; £14,592k respectively).

Notes to the Financial Statements

NOTE 13 HERITAGE ASSETS

Group and University	Special Collections £'000	Fine Art Collection £'000	Total £'000
Cost/Valuation			
As at 1 August 2024	3,259	6,028	9,287
Additions	-	-	-
Disposals		(9)	(9)
Revaluation	(24)	3,217	3,193
As at 31 July 2025	3,235	9,236	12,471

Library special collection

Special Collections manages unique and distinct collections of archives, manuscripts and rare books. The collections are used extensively in University teaching and research programmes across a range of disciplines and are particularly strong in twentieth-century literary papers by writers associated with the Southwest of England, Arab and Islamic Studies, religious archive, and book collections.

Fine art and furniture collection

The University has a collection ranging from paintings, prints and drawings to sculpture and silverware. The University has a collection of sculpture across Streatham Campus by distinguished artists such as Barbara Hepworth, Paul Mount and Michael Ayrton.

Both the library and fine art collection were professionally valued as at 31 July 2025 by external Fine Art Auctioneers and Valuers, Messrs. Bearnes Hampton and Littlewood, and Bonhams 1793 Limited, on an open market value basis.

Bill Douglas Cinema Museum

The Bill Douglas Cinema Museum holds a collection of books, prints, artefacts and ephemera relating to the history and pre-history of cinema. The initial collection was donated to the Exeter University Foundation in 1994 but since then other collections have also been donated, bringing total number of items to over 86,000. No value is reported in the Group's Statement of Financial Position as no reliable cost or valuation can be attributed to this unique and irreplaceable collection. These assets are managed by the curator and his staff to ensure their cataloguing, safe keeping and preservation and are insured against accidental damage or loss at the University's expense. The museum was opened to the public in 1997 and is free of charge.

NOTE 14 SERVICE CONCESSION ARRANGEMENTS

A service concession arrangement is a contract entered into by the University with a private sector entity to construct, operate and maintain infrastructure assets for a specified period of time. Such agreement requires a private sector entity to provide services on behalf of the University.

The University has three service concession arrangements with University Partnerships Programme Limited (UPP) for the development and operation of student residential accommodation services. These facilities were complete and available at the start of 2024/25 academic year.

Service concession arrangement	Contract starts	Contract length	Number of rooms available	Number of rooms nominated for 2025/25	Minimum lease payment £'000
Birks, Duryard, Lafrowda, St Germaines and Rowe residences	September 2009	42 years	2,569	2,569	20,589
Spreyton and Moberley residences	June 2018	52 years	382	382	3,041
East Park residences	January 2019	52 years	1,182	1,182	9,013

The assets and liabilities relating to these contracts are recognised on the University's Statement of Financial Position to the extent that the University is required to fulfil nomination commitments by 31 January each year for the following academic year. This requires the University to pay for the nominated rooms in the following financial year only. Therefore, assets and liabilities relating to the service concession arrangements are recognised to the extent of the present value of the guaranteed minimum payment, being the rentals for the rooms nominated in each academic year. There is no provision for occupancy guarantee in the contracts. In the normal course of business, student rental income is expected to fund the University's obligation for the minimum lease payment to UPP. At the end of the contract term the buildings will revert to the University. There are no renewal or termination options built into these arrangements.

Service Concession Arrangement assets

The asset value of the service concession in the Statement of Financial Position as at 31 July 2025 is £32.6m (2024: £31.7m).

Service Concession Arrangement liabilities

The total liabilities relating to the service concession included in the Statement of Financial Position as at 31 July 2025 were £32.6m (2024: £31.7m), representing the present value of lease obligations for the following academic year.

A new arrangement for the West Park student residences was entered into in August 2025 with no room nominations for the forthcoming financial year. This agreement will be considered in the 2025/26 financial statements.

Future Commitments

The following table analyses the University's future commitments in relation to service concession arrangements:

	Payable within 1 year £'000
Liability repayments	32,608
Service charge	35
	32,643

Notes to the Financial Statements

NOTE 15 NON-CURRENT INVESTMENTS

	Endowment Funds invested £'000	Investment Property £'000	Subsidiary companies £'000	Other investments £'000	Total 2025 £'000	Total 2024 £'000
GROUP						
At 1 August 2024	49,550	1,869	-	565	51,984	46,682
Paid in	-	-	-	-	-	4,050
Investment income	1,241	-	-	-	1,241	1,419
Fees	(172)	-	-	-	(172)	(169)
Transfer to Tangible Fixed Assets	-	(266)	-	-	(266)	-
Disposed	-	-	-	(134)	(134)	-
Revaluation (loss)/gain	(869)	17	-	-	(852)	2
	200	(249)	-	(134)	(183)	5,302
At 31 July 2025	49,750	1,620	-	431	51,801	51,984
UNIVERSITY						
At 1 August 2024	49,550	1,869	150	565	52,134	46,832
Paid in	-	-	-	-	-	4,050
Investment income	1,241	-	-	-	1,241	1,419
Fees	(172)	-	-	-	(172)	(169)
Transfer to Tangible Fixed Assets	-	(266)	-	-	(266)	-
Disposed	-	-	-	(134)	(134)	-
Revaluation (loss)/gain	(869)	17	-	-	(852)	2
	200	(249)	-	(134)	(183)	5,302
At 31 July 2025	49,750	1,620	150	431	51,951	52,134

Endowment Funds

The University holds an investment portfolio to invest part of its [endowment funds](#), which are managed in line with the [University Investment Policy](#). The investment objective of endowment funds is to achieve an absolute rate of return that is deemed achievable in the market place and sufficient to fulfil the charitable objectives of the donation, taking into account risks and any requirements to preserve capital. For more details on the endowment funds see Note 23.

Investment Property

The University holds investment property where buildings are held to earn external rental income. Where premises are occupied by subsidiary companies, these assets are not included as investment property at a consolidated level and are included within tangible fixed assets instead (Note 12).

Notes to the Financial Statements

NOTE 15 NON-CURRENT INVESTMENTS (continued)

Subsidiary companies

The investments in subsidiary undertakings, as consolidated in the Financial Statements, comprise the following:

		Group Holding	Shareholding	Principal business activity
Exeter ISC Limited	Directly owned	100%	100 Ordinary £1 and 149,900 Redeemable preference £1	Holding company of INTO University of Exeter LLP
ERBS Trustee Limited	Indirectly owned	100%	1 Ordinary £1	Dormant company

All the above companies are registered in England and Wales.

The activities of The Exeter University Foundation ("the Foundation"), a registered charity, are consolidated on the grounds that the University has a controlling influence over its activities. From 2015/16 the University is the sole corporate trustee of the Foundation. The Foundation supports the collections of The Bill Douglas Cinema Museum. It does not actively solicit donations but will accept donations from those who prefer to donate to the Foundation rather than the University. The Foundation shares a year-end of 31 July with the University.

Other investments

Other investments of the University are comprised of the following:

Name	Holding
Attomarker Ltd	765 Ordinary £0.01 shares
BuildSolar Ltd	7,146 Ordinary £0.01 shares
Concrene Ltd	2,350 Ordinary £0.01 shares
Cotton Mouton Diagnostics Ltd	550,531 Ordinary £0.01 shares
DigiLab Solutions	910,000 Ordinary £0.00001 shares
Encortec Ltd	1,850 Ordinary £0.01 shares
FSD Active Ltd	2,105 Ordinary £0.01 shares
Full Scales Dynamics Ltd	1,600 Ordinary £1 shares
Health Behaviour Group	Limited by guarantee
Industrial Tomography Systems Plc	249,564 Ordinary £0.01 shares
Isca Diagnostics Ltd	2,500 Ordinary £1 shares
KMO Fleet	10 Ordinary £1 shares
MAXLLG	200 Ordinary £0.01 shares
Minviro Ltd	54,478 Ordinary £0.00001 shares
MitoRx Therapeutics Ltd	885,700 Ordinary £0.0001 shares
Neuronostics Ltd	243,700 Ordinary £0.0001 shares
One Health Ventures Ltd	500,050 Ordinary £0.01 shares
Quanterra Systems Ltd	13,000 Ordinary £0.01 shares
Senisca Ltd	26,399 Ordinary £0.001 shares
Stream Sensing (Nominee 1)	72 Ordinary £0.01 shares
Trireme Systems Ltd	59,220 Ordinary £1 shares
TTL Holdings Ltd	1,583 Ordinary £1 shares
VM Agritech (former Myco Sciences Ltd)	125 Ordinary £1 shares

These are all minority shareholdings whereby the University does not have significant influence or control over the companies.

The University holds 312,811 Ordinary £10 shares in Exeter Science Park Ltd including a purchase of 245,275 shares in July 2024 for £2,452,750. The shares are held at nil value, reflecting the uncertainty and remoteness of a return on investment. The development of the Science Park is being funded in part from the Heart of the Southwest Local Enterprise Partnership loan facility. For further details on the loan see Note 27.

Notes to the Financial Statements

NOTE 16 INVESTMENT IN JOINT VENTURES

Falmouth Exeter Plus Ltd Group (FX+ Ltd)

FX Plus Ltd is a joint venture company with two members – the University and Falmouth University. It is a company limited by guarantee without share capital. FX Plus Ltd has been established to provide student accommodation, student support and commercial services for the Penryn, Falmouth and Truro campuses, occupied by the University and Falmouth University. FX Plus has exempt charity status owing to the educational objectives of the university partners which it supports.

Tremough Development Vehicle Limited (TDV Ltd) is a wholly owned subsidiary of FX Plus Ltd. It was established to provide the construction of the main campus for the University and Falmouth University.

Cornwall Plus Limited is a wholly owned subsidiary of FX Plus Ltd. It was established to operate non-student letting of residences, non-academic conferences, external events and corporate hospitality. It commenced trading on 1 August 2013.

FX Plus Ltd, TDV Ltd and Cornwall Plus Ltd have financial years that end on 31 July.

INTO University of Exeter LLP

INTO University of Exeter LLP is a limited liability partnership between Exeter ISC Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of the University, and INTO Exeter Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of INTO University Partnerships Limited. Its principal place of business is INTO Building, Stocker Road, Exeter, EX4 4PY. INTO University of Exeter LLP was formed in December 2006 and operates from the University of Exeter's Streatham campus. Its principal activity is the provision of pre-university academic and language courses, primarily to non-EU and non-UK students.

Exeter ISC Limited and INTO University of Exeter LLP have financial years that end on 31 July.

CREWW Executive Board Limited

CREWW Executive Board Limited (CREWW) is a joint venture company with two members – the University and South West Water Limited. CREWW has been established to consider the decisions of The Exeter Centre for Water, Waste and Environmental Resilience, the aim of which is to establish and deliver a joint international centre of excellence in the field of environmental resilience in the waste and water sector, and successfully run an innovative, market leading programme around the centre. CREWW is a non-trading company with £2 Ordinary shares in issue split equally between two members.

Jointly controlled entities

CREWW, FX Plus Ltd and INTO University of Exeter LLP arrangements are jointly controlled entities and are accounted for using the gross equity method, such that 50% of each company's net equity (gross assets less gross liabilities) is included in the consolidated Statement of Financial Position of the University and 50% of their net income is reported in the University's consolidated income and expenditure account.

Both INTO University of Exeter LLP and Exeter ISC Limited have entered into a gift aid arrangement to distribute surpluses arising on their activities to the University and joint venture partners accordingly.

		Year Ended 31 July 2025 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2024 £'000
Share of operating surplus/ (deficit)	FX + INTO	1,009 (749)	789 1,268
		260	2,057
Share of total comprehensive income	FX + INTO	1,009 (749)	789 1,268
		260	2,057
Share of gross assets	FX + INTO	36,757 6,260	37,362 6,859
		43,017	44,221
Share of gross liabilities	FX + INTO	(17,205) (6,457)	(18,818) (7,282)
		(23,662)	26,100
Share of net assets/(liabilities)	FX + INTO	19,552 (197)	18,544 (423)
		19,355	18,121

Notes to the Financial Statements

NOTE 17 TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

	GROUP		UNIVERSITY	
	Year Ended 31 July 2025 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2024 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2025 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2024 £'000
Amounts falling due within one year				
Accrued research grant income	31,689	31,039	31,689	31,039
Prepayments	24,951	22,363	24,951	22,363
Other receivables	27,742	27,334	27,742	27,333
Amounts due from subsidiary companies	-	-	109	71
	84,381	80,736	84,490	80,806
Amounts falling due after one year				
Lease prepayment	16,526	16,771	16,526	16,771
Loan to Group company	-	-	1,100	-
Total	100,907	97,507	102,116	97,577

Amounts due from subsidiaries are repayable on demand with no interest charged, except for £1.1m loan to fund working capital requirements of INTO University of Exeter LLP. Interest on the loan is charged at the rate 2.5% per annum above the Bank of England's Bank Rate.

NOTE 18 CURRENT ASSET INVESTMENTS

	GROUP		UNIVERSITY	
	Year Ended 31 July 2025 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2024 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2025 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2024 £'000
Short-term deposits	5,686	41,241	5,686	41,241
Other short-term investments	-	5,417	-	5,417
	5,686	46,658	5,686	46,658

Short term deposits are held with banks and building societies operating in the UK financial market and authorised by the Financial Conduct Authority with greater than three months but less than twelve months maturity at the Statement of Financial Position date. The interest rates for these deposits are fixed for the duration of the deposit at time of placement.

At 31 July 2025, the weighted average interest rate of these fixed rate deposits was 4.52% (31 July 2024: 5.38%) per annum and the remaining weighted average period for which the interest rate is fixed on these deposits was 239 days (31 July 2024: 156 days).

Other short-term investments include interest bearing notice bank accounts, certificates of deposit, floating rate notes and corporate bonds with greater than three months maturity but less than 12 months at the Statement of Financial Position date.

Notes to the Financial Statements

NOTE 19 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	GROUP		UNIVERSITY	
	Year Ended 31 July 2025 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2024 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2025 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2024 £'000
Other payables	11,957	14,597	11,957	14,596
Obligations under finance leases	867	867	867	867
Trade payables	34,402	29,687	34,402	29,687
Service Concession Arrangement	32,643	31,654	32,643	31,654
Social security and other taxation payable	9,869	9,319	9,869	9,319
Accruals and deferred income	44,858	36,484	44,845	36,462
Research grants received on account	63,107	56,301	63,107	56,308
	197,703	178,909	197,690	178,893

There is a revolving credit facility in place with HSBC for £75m since November 2024. Please refer to our more detailed note under the Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year section below.

NOTE 20 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	GROUP		UNIVERSITY	
	Year Ended 31 July 2025 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2024 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2025 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2024 £'000
Bank loans	209,625	209,610	209,625	209,610
Obligations under finance lease	14,992	15,125	14,992	15,125
Deferred income	55,029	55,762	55,029	55,762
	279,646	280,497	279,646	280,497

Deferred income represents premium receipts from a few service concession arrangements that are released to the Statement of Comprehensive Income over the life of contract. There is no contractual or constructive obligation to repay these receipts.

	Year Ended 31 July 2025 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2024 £'000
Analysis of bank loans Group and University		
Due in five or more years	209,625	209,610
Total secured and unsecured loans	209,625	209,610

Notes to the Financial Statements

NOTE 20 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR (continued)

Included within the total balance above is the following:

Lender	Facility £'000	Interest Rate %	Repayment	Maturity	Year Ended 31 July 2025 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2024 £'000
Northwestern Mutual Life	35,000	2.58	Bullet	2038	34,945	34,941
Pricoa Capital Group	60,000	2.61	Bullet	2043	59,896	59,891
Pricoa Capital Group	61,110	2.68	Bullet	2048	60,941	89,826
The Board of the Pension Protection Fund	28,890	2.68	Bullet	2048	28,890	-
Macquarie Investment Management	25,000	2.68	Bullet	2048	24,953	24,952
					209,625	209,610

In January 2018 the University issued Loan Notes of £210m to three lenders at fixed interest rates. Transaction fees of £482k are being amortised over the duration of the Loan Notes and charged to Other Finance costs.

All borrowings are unsecured but include a negative pledge obligation to each lender, whereby the University has agreed not to grant security over its assets to third parties. On April 9th 2025 loan notes to the value of £28.89m were sold by Pricoa Capital Group to The Board of the Pension Protection Fund.

No drawings were made in the year from the HSBC £75m revolving credit facility (RCF), expiring in November 2031.

NOTE 21 ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET DEBT

Group	At 1 August 2024 £'000	Cash flow in year £'000	Change in creditor £'000	At 31 July 2025 £'000
Cash and cash equivalents	153,794	51,258	-	205,052
Current asset investments	46,658	(40,972)	-	5,686
	200,452	10,286	-	210,738

Bank loan and borrowings

Due within 1 year	-			
Due after 1 year	(209,610)	(15)	-	(209,625)
	(209,610)	(15)	-	(209,625)
	(9,158)	10,271	-	1,113

Notes to the Financial Statements

NOTE 22 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

A financial instrument is a contract that gives rise to a financial asset in one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument in another entity. Financial instruments included within the Statement of Financial Position are presented in the table below:

	GROUP		UNIVERSITY	
	Year Ended 31 July 2025 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2024 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2025 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2024 £'000
Financial instruments				
Financial assets				
<i>Financial assets at fair value through Statement of Comprehensive Income</i>				
Listed investments	49,750	49,550	49,750	49,550
Investment properties	1,620	1,869	1,620	1,869
Investment in joint venture	19,355	18,121	-	-
<i>Financial assets that are equity instruments measured at cost less impairment</i>				
Other investments	431	565	431	565
<i>Financial assets that are debt instruments measured at amortised cost</i>				
Cash and cash equivalents	205,052	153,794	204,561	153,601
Investments	5,686	46,659	5,686	46,659
Other debtors	59,430	58,386	60,639	58,456
Financial liabilities				
<i>Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost</i>				
Loans	209,625	209,610	209,625	209,610
Service concessions	32,643	31,654	32,643	31,654
Finance leases	14,992	15,125	14,992	15,125
Trade payables	34,402	29,687	34,402	29,687
Other creditors	-	-	-	-

Listed investments are the University's endowment funds invested in securities actively traded on the Stock Exchange and regularly valued at open market value and fixed income instruments such as bonds determined using quoted prices.

Investment properties are valued annually by an accredited professional valuer on the basis of the open market value for their existing use or depreciated replacement cost. The assumptions applied in determining fair value are:

- All buildings are materially sound;
- No alterations have been made that the valuers are unaware of.

Investments in joint ventures are accounted for using the gross equity method, such that 50% of each company's net equity (gross assets less gross liabilities) is included in the consolidated Statement of Financial Position of the University and 50% of their net income is reported in the University's consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income.

Notes to the Financial Statements

NOTE 22 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (continued)

Nature and Extent of Risks Arising from Financial Instruments

The University's activities expose it to a variety of financial risks. The Council, alongside its Audit and Risk Committee, oversees the management of these risks by reviewing and agreeing policies and ensuring conformity.

The main risks to the University's activities are presented below.

Credit and Counterparty Risk

Credit and counterparty risk is the risk that a counterparty will not meet their obligations under a financial instrument or customer contract, leading to a financial loss. The University is exposed to credit risk from both its primary and ancillary activities and financial activities, including deposits with banks and financial institutions.

Outstanding receivables are regularly monitored. The maximum exposure to credit risks at the reporting date is the carrying value of each class of financial asset.

The risk applicable to financial activities is minimised through the investment strategy, and more specifically by the defined lending counterparty criteria, which sets out the principles with which potential counterparties' creditworthiness is judged. Such principles take account of counterparty ratings by the three major ratings agencies: Fitch, S&P and Moody's; with the lowest long-term rating of the three being used. Limits are set on the amount that can be invested with each financial institution based on ratings, group structure and duration. Short term deposits and current account balances are typically with banks and financial institutions who are committed lenders to the institution.

The lending counterparty criteria are proposed and approved regularly, incorporating any changes in financial institutions or developments in the wider political, economic, or legal environment.

A range of indicators are used to assess counterparties' creditworthiness, not just credit ratings. Among other indicators that are taken into account are:

- Credit default swaps and spreads;
- Likelihood and strength of parental support;
- Government guarantees and support;
- Market information on corporate developments and market sentiment towards the counterparties and sovereigns.

Liquidity/Refinancing Risk

Liquidity risk arises from the University's management of working capital, the finance charges and principal repayment on its borrowings. It is the risk that the University will encounter difficulty in meeting its financial obligations as they fall due. The University's objective is to ensure it has sufficient available funds for its operations and to fund its capital expenditure. This is achieved by continuous monitoring of forecast and actual cash flows, ensuring it has appropriate levels of cash and borrowing facilities to meet liabilities as they fall due.

Within the treasury management function, a comprehensive cash flow management system is operated to ensure that cash is available as needed. Cash investments are made based on forecasting the cash requirement for operational and capital spending. Short-term money market deposits are made with suitable counterparties, and notice accounts or money market funds are used.

A rolling credit facility of £75m with HSBC, which can be drawn to mitigate the effects of any unexpected cash movements, is offering greater security.

We conduct regular covenant analysis on a forward-looking basis as part of our routine cycle of financial forecasts and budgets.

Market Risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair values of financial instruments will fluctuate because of changes in market prices, including but not limited to changes triggered by fluctuation of interest rates. The financial instruments held by the University that are affected by market risk are principally cash balances, borrowings, and endowment funds.

Private placement borrowings have fixed interest rates applicable for the entire term of borrowings and therefore its exposure to a market risk is minimal.

Endowment funds are invested with an investment manager who ensures diversification and acts within the University's investment policy. The funds are placed on a nominee account opened in the name of the University. Compliance with the investment policy and performance of the investments is monitored regularly.

The University monitors its interest rate exposure on all cash balances. The University seeks to ensure that its stated treasury management policies and objectives will not be compromised by adverse market fluctuations in the value of the principal sums it invests and will accordingly seek to protect itself from the effects of such fluctuations. The overriding principals guiding the investment and deposit of surplus cash is the safeguarding and preservation of the principal investment.

The University seeks to optimise investment returns commensurate with its objectives of security and liquidity.

Foreign Exchange Risk

Bank accounts held are denominated in Sterling, Euros and Dollars. Foreign currency invoices are raised predominantly in Euro or Dollar. By holding Euro and Dollar denominated accounts exchange rate risk exposure is mitigated. Receipts in foreign currency in excess of scheduled respective currency payments are converted in Pound Sterling - the University's functional currency.

Notes to the Financial Statements

NOTE 23 ENDOWMENT RESERVES

Group	Restricted permanent endowments £'000	Unrestricted permanent endowments £'000	Expendable endowments £'000	2025 Total £'000	2024 Total £'000
Balances at 1 August:					
Capital / Original Gift	9,718	2,209	25,754	37,681	35,862
Accumulated income / Unapplied Total return	11,998	1,141	843	13,983	12,732
	21,716	3,350	26,598	51,664	48,594
New endowments	3	17	5,533	5,553	4,130
Investment income	643	97	739	1,479	1,304
Expenditure	(352)	(12)	(3,552)	(3,916)	(4,907)
(Decrease)/increase in market value of investments	(402)	(48)	(419)	(869)	2,455
Transfer from donations	-	-	-	-	9
Transfer from unrestricted reserves	242	-	34	276	79
Total endowment comprehensive (loss)/income for the year	134	54	2,335	2,523	3,070
Balances at 31 July	21,850	3,404	28,933	54,187	51,664

Represented by

Capital / Original Gift	9,963	2,226	27,251	39,440	37,681
Accumulated income / Unapplied Total return	11,887	1,178	1,682	14,747	13,983
	21,850	3,404	28,933	54,187	51,664

University	Restricted permanent endowments £'000	Unrestricted permanent endowments £'000	Expendable endowments £'000	2025 Total £'000	2024 Total £'000
Balances at 1 August:					
Capital / Original Gift	9,718	2,209	25,761	37,688	35,862
Accumulated income / Unapplied Total return	11,998	1,141	758	13,897	12,732
	21,716	3,350	26,519	51,585	48,594
New endowments	3	17	5,533	5,553	4,130
Investment income	643	97	739	1,479	1,304
Expenditure	(352)	(12)	(3,552)	(3,916)	(4,907)
(Decrease)/increase in market value of investments	(402)	(48)	(419)	(869)	2,455
Transfer from donations	-	-	-	-	9
Total endowment comprehensive (loss)/income for the year	(108)	54	2,301	2,247	2,991
Balances at 31 July	21,608	3,404	28,820	53,832	51,585

Represented by

Capital / Original Gift	9,721	2,226	28,666	40,614	37,688
Accumulated income / Unapplied Total return	11,887	1,178	154	13,218	13,897
	21,608	3,404	28,820	53,832	51,585

Notes to the Financial Statements

NOTE 23 ENDOWMENT RESERVES (continued)

	2025 Total £'000	2024 Total £'000
Analysis by asset:		
Under management by Rathbone Greenbank	49,750	49,550
Cash managed by University	3,499	1,433
Cash managed by EU Foundation	355	98
Cash pending receipt	583	583
	54,187	51,664
Analysis by type:		
Institute for Arab and Islamic Studies	14,049	14,217
Exeter Forever Fund	3,641	3,350
Sir Steve Smith Scholars Fund	1,284	1,268
Devon Research Scholarships	1,119	1,107
Special Collections	985	975
Other permanent funds	4,176	4,149
Total Permanent Funds	25,254	25,066
Anglo American Research Programme in Mining Innovations	3,421	3,620
Accelerating Nature and Climate Recovery Fund	2,436	-
Fozzard Medical Students Bursary Fund	2,517	2,515
John Slate Legacy Fund	1,372	-
Ines Barroso Fund	1,168	1,239
Other expendable endowments	18,019	19,224
Total Expendable Funds	28,933	26,598

Permanent funds descriptions

- The Institute for Arab and Islamic Studies (IAIS) Fund provides financial support for academic chairs within the Institute.
- The Exeter Forever Fund is a permanent unrestricted endowment. All legacies donated to the University (except those with specific restrictions) are allocated to the Exeter Forever Fund.
- Sir Steve Smith Scholars Fund supports widening participation scholars across all faculties.
- The University hold funds for research scholarships for specific awards for residents of Devon and Cornwall.
- The Special Collections fund is held to fund future additions to the Heritage Asset investments.
- The remaining permanent funds comprise 78 separate funds that are used for scholarships, prizes and general educational support.

Expendable funds descriptions

- Funding from Anglo American was received to establish the research programme in mining innovation at the Camborne School of Mines. The research programme will combine the study of mining engineering with environmental and social sciences and include interdisciplinary and policy-related work.
- Accelerating Nature and Climate funds were received in support of low carbon and nature-positive action project engaging with multiple industries.
- Fozzard Medical Students Bursary Fund supports scholarship and bursary awards within University of Exeter Medical School.
- John Slate Legacy Fund supports University of Exeter Medical School activities.
- Ines Barroso Fund supports of epidemiology work carried out by Professor Ines Barroso.
- The remaining expendable funds are comprised of 311 separate restricted funds which were donated for a specified purpose, with no obligation to retain capital.

Sufficient resources are held in cash or in investments to enable the charitable fund to be applied in accordance with restrictions.

NOTE 24 UNRESTRICTED RESERVES

	GROUP		UNIVERSITY	
	Year Ended 31 July 2025 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2024 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2025 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2024 £'000
Income and expenditure reserve				
Balances at 1 August	561,233	379,397	555,647	374,515
Surplus/(deficit) from the income and expenditure statement	(4,435)	183,533	(4,829)	183,089
Other comprehensive (expenditure)/income	541	(1,957)	541	(1,957)
Transfers from revaluation reserve	259	260	-	-
Transfer to endowment reserve	(276)	-	-	-
Release of restricted capital funds	3,546	-	3,546	-
Total comprehensive income/(expenditure) for the year	(365)	181,836	(742)	181,132
Balances at 31 July	560,868	561,233	554,905	555,647

NOTE 25 REVALUATION RESERVE

	GROUP				
	Freehold land and buildings £'000	Heritage assets £'000	Non-current investments £'000	2025 Total £'000	2024 Total £'000
Balances at 1 August	12,415	9,096	118	21,629	21,888
Revaluation in year	-	3,234	(24)	3,210	1
Transfers from revaluation to general reserve	(259)	-	-	(259)	-
Total reserve movement for the year	(259)	3,234	(24)	2,951	(259)
Balances at 31 July	12,156	12,330	94	24,580	21,629

	UNIVERSITY				
	Freehold land and buildings £'000	Heritage assets £'000	Non-current investments £'000	2025 Total £'000	2024 Total £'000
Balances at 1 August	-	9,096	118	9,214	9,213
Revaluation in year	-	3,234	(24)	3,210	1
Balances at 31 July	-	12,330	94	12,424	9,214

Notes to the Financial Statements

NOTE 26 CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

Group and University	Year Ended 31 July 2025 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2024 £'000
Commitments contracted at 31 July	16,236	15,065
Authorised but not contracted at 31 July	78,579	102,101
Total	94,815	117,166

Capital commitments will be funded by a mixture of grants, loans, donations, and internal working capital.

NOTE 27 FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

Operating Leases	Year Ended 31 July 2025 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2024 £'000
Expiring within one year	792	809
Expiring between two and five years	1,040	1,234
Expiring in more than five years	1,084	1,196
Total	2,916	3,239

Provisions	Year Ended 31 July 2025 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2024 £'000
Overseas tax uncertainties provision	1,209	1,209

Contingent Liabilities

In addition to the liabilities recognised in these Financial Statements, the University also has financial guarantees and commitments with third parties which are not quantified as the likelihood of them being realised is remote. The two key commitments in place as at 31 July 2025 are:

- The University acts as guarantor, jointly with Falmouth University, on the FX Plus Ltd bank loans.
- The University underwrites the rental income charged to INTO University of Exeter LLP for the use of academic and residential buildings.

NOTE 28 PENSION SCHEMES

Different categories of staff were eligible to join one of five different schemes:

- Universities' Superannuation Scheme (USS)
- University of Exeter Retirement Benefits Scheme (ERBS)
- University of Exeter Retirement Savings Scheme (ERSS)
- National Employer Savings Trust Pension Scheme (NEST)
- National Health Service Pension Scheme (NHSPS)

The two schemes, being USS and ERBS, are both defined-benefit schemes contracted out of the State Second Pension (S2P), the assets of which are held in separate trustee administered funds. The ERBS scheme closed to new entrants and to further benefits to existing members on 30 November 2016.

ERSS is a defined contribution pension arrangement which was opened to all staff on grades B-D on 30 November 2016.

NEST is a money purchase scheme contracted into the State Second Pension (S2P), which covers workers who are not already members into an appropriate pension scheme.

Costs for the schemes, included in the Statement of Comprehensive income, were:

	Year Ended 31 July 2025 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2024 £'000
Pension Contributions		
USS	34,803	33,723
ERSS	3,136	3,031
ERBS scheme expenses	650	754
Other pension schemes	772	453
Pension Contributions in Staff Costs	39,361	37,961
USS provision movements	-	(177,732)
Total in Staff Costs	39,361	(139,771)
Interest Payable: USS	-	4,125
Interest Payable: ERBS	241	288
Statement of Comprehensive Income: Net Pension (Credit)/Cost	39,602	(135,358)
Actuarial (gain)/loss: ERBS	(541)	1,957
Actuarial Gain: FX+	-	-
Statement of Comprehensive Income: Total pension schemes (Credit)/Cost	39,061	(133,401)

Notes to the Financial Statements

NOTE 28 PENSION SCHEMES (continued)

(i) NHS Pension Scheme

The University of Exeter is classified as a “Directions Employer” regarding the NHSPS and as such can offer continued membership of the scheme to some members of staff where they fulfil the required criteria. The NHSPS is a multi-employer defined benefit scheme which is contracted out of the S2P. The notional assets of NHSPS are assessed by the Government Actuary and the benefits are underwritten by the Government.

The NHS Pension Scheme is a defined benefit public service pension scheme, which operates on a pay-as-you-go basis. A new reformed scheme was introduced on 1 April 2015 that calculates pension benefits based on career average earnings. Transitional arrangements permit individuals who on 1 April 2012 were within ten years of normal pension age to continue participating in the old ‘final salary’ NHS Pension Scheme arrangements (the 1995 and 2008 sections).

An HM Treasury pension scheme valuation for funding purposes was carried out as at March 2020. The Scheme Regulations have been changed to allow contribution rates to be set by the Secretary of State for Health, with the consent of HM Treasury, and consideration of the advice of the Scheme Actuary and appropriate employee and employer representatives as deemed appropriate. The employer contribution rate payable from April 2019 was set to 20.6% of the total pensionable salary, in accordance with the conclusion of the Government Actuary’s report on the scheme. A further revision to the employer contribution rates took effect on 1 April 2024, with rates increasing to 23.7%.

(ii) Universities Superannuation Scheme

The institution participates in Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) which is the main scheme covering most academic and academic-related staff. The Scheme is a hybrid pension scheme, providing defined benefits, as well as defined contribution benefits. The assets of the scheme are held in a separate trustee-administered fund.

USS is a multi-employer scheme and is accounted for as set out in the accounting policies.

No reduction of the liability attributable to USS (2024: reduction of £179.3m) is reflected in the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income and no deficit recovery contributions (2024: £5.7m paid) were paid in the year since the scheme remains in surplus.

A deficit recovery plan was put in place as part of the 2020 valuation, which required payment of 6.2% of salaries over the period 1 April 2022 until 31 March 2024, at which point the rate would increase to 6.3%. As set out in table below, no deficit recovery plan was required under the 2023 valuation because the scheme was in surplus on a technical provision basis. The institution was no longer required to make deficit recovery contributions from 1 January 2024 and accordingly released the outstanding provision to the profit and loss account.

Scheme Assets and Liabilities	2023 valuation	2020 valuation
Total scheme assets	£73.1bn	£66.5bn
Total scheme liabilities	£65.7bn	£80.6bn
FRS 102 total scheme surplus/deficit	Surplus £7.4bn	Deficit £14.1bn
FRS 102 total funding level	111%	83%

Deficit recovery contributions due within one year for the institution are £nil (2024: £nil).

The latest available complete actuarial valuation of the Retirement Income Builder is as at 31 March 2023 (the valuation date), which was carried out using the projected unit method.

Since the institution cannot identify its share of USS Retirement Income Builder (defined benefit) assets and liabilities, the following disclosures reflect those relevant for those assets and liabilities as a whole. The 2023 valuation was the seventh valuation for the scheme under the scheme-specific funding regime introduced by the Pensions Act 2004, which requires schemes to have sufficient and appropriate assets to cover their technical provisions (the statutory funding objective). At the valuation date, the value of the assets of the scheme was £73.1bn and the value of the scheme’s technical provisions was £65.7bn indicating a surplus of £7.4bn and a funding ratio of 111%.

Surpluses or deficits which arise at future valuations may impact on the University’s future contribution commitments. A deficit may require additional funding in the form of higher contribution requirements, whereas a surplus could, perhaps, be used to similarly reduce contribution requirements

Key Sources of Estimation Uncertainty

Key estimates and assumptions concerning the future are based on historical experience and various other factors and may pose a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

Determining the surplus/liability for future contributions requires an estimation of the present value of future cash flows which depends on the percentage of contributions which will be attributed to deficit elimination along with future salary inflation and the identification of a suitable discount rate.

Notes to the Financial Statements

NOTE 28 PENSION SCHEMES (continued)

The key financial assumptions used in the 2023 valuation are described below. More detail is set out in the Statement of Funding Principles (uss.co.uk/about-us/valuation-and-funding/statement-of-funding-principles).

Principal Actuarial Assumptions	31 March 2023 valuation - technical provisions
Price inflation – Consumer Prices Index (CPI)	3.0% p.a. (based on a long-term average expected level of CPI, broadly consistent with long-term market expectations)
RPI/CPI gap	1.0% p.a. to 2030, reducing to 0.1% p.a. from 2030
Discount rate (forward rates)	Fixed interest gilt yield curve plus: Pre-retirement: 2.5% p.a. Post retirement: 0.9% p.a.
Pension increase (subject to floor of 0%)	Benefits with no cap: CPI assumption plus 3bps Benefits subject to a “soft cap” of 5% (providing inflationary increases up to 5%, and half of any excess inflation over 5% up to a maximum of 10%): CPI assumption minus 3bps

The main demographic assumption used relates to the mortality assumptions. These assumptions are based on analysis of the scheme’s experience carried out as part of the 2024 actuarial valuation. The mortality assumptions used in these figures are as follows:

	2023 valuation
Mortality base table	101% of S2PMA “light” for males and 95% of S3PFA for females
Future improvements to mortality	CMI_2021 with a smoothing parameter of 7.5, an initial addition of 0.4% p.a., 10% w2020 and w2021 parameters, and a long-term improvement rate of 1.8% p.a. for males and 1.6% p.a. for females

The current life expectancies on retirement at age 65 are:	2025	2024
Males currently aged 65 (years)	23.8	23.7
Females currently aged 65 (years)	25.5	25.4
Males currently aged 45 (years)	25.7	25.6
Females currently aged 45 (years)	27.2	27.2

(iii) University of Exeter Retirement Benefit Scheme (ERBS)

The University operated a final salary defined benefit pension scheme that certain employees of the University could participate in, called the University of Exeter Retirement Benefit Scheme. The Scheme is closed to future accrual in November 2016. A replacement defined contribution scheme, the University of Exeter Retirement Savings Scheme (ERSS) was effective from 1 December 2016.

The funding policy of the scheme is to hold assets which are at least equal to the technical provisions calculated at each triennial valuation. The last triennial actuarial valuation of the ERBS scheme was performed as at 5 April 2024 by a professionally qualified actuary. The valuation shows that the scheme deficit was £9.9 million, representing a funding level of 91%, compared to a deficit of £25.2m and funding level of 85% at the 2021 valuation. The Trustee and the University have agreed to revise the recovery plan agreed following the previous valuation. The Trustee has agreed that the University will reduce its rate of recovery plan contributions from 1 May, in light of the improved funding position. From that date, the University will pay recovery plan contributions at the rate of c. £3.2M a year, with the amount increasing each year at the rate of 0.5% above RPI, until 30 June 2027 (with the monthly contribution due in June 2027 reduced by £87,500). If the assumptions are borne out in practice, these contributions will be sufficient to eliminate the deficit relative to the technical provisions above. In addition, it has been agreed that the additional contributions foregone (broadly equivalent to £1M p.a. plus indexation) will remain payable in the event that funding position has not improved as expected at the time of the next valuation.

The financial assumptions used to calculate scheme liabilities under FRS 102 as at 31 July 2025 are:

	2025	2024
Discount rate	5.7%	4.9%
Inflation assumption (RPI)	3.1%	3.3%
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.7%	2.8%
Pension payment increase for ERBS members – pre 01/08/10	2.7%	2.8%
Pension payment increase for ERBS members – post 01/08/10	1.8%	1.9%

Notes to the Financial Statements

NOTE 28 PENSION SCHEMES (continued)

The most significant non-financial assumption is the assumed level of longevity. The table below shows the life expectancy assumptions used:

	2025 valuation	2024 valuation
Base mortality table	S3PMA / S3PFA 'Middle'	S3PMA / S3PFA 'Middle'
Scaling factor applied to base mortality rates	Deferred members: 115% (male) and 110% (female) Pensioner Members: 105% (male) and 100% (female)	Deferred members: 115% (male) and 110% (female) Pensioner Members: 105% (male) and 100% (female)
Mortality projection basis	CMI (Core) 2023 projection model with long term improvement rate of 1% p.a.	CMI (Core) 2023 projection model with long term improvement rate of 1% p.a.

The mortality rates are based on publicly available mortality tables for the UK.

Years from date of retirement:	2025	2024
Males currently aged 65 years	20.3	20.3
Females currently aged 65 years	23.2	23.2
Males currently aged 45 years	20.6	20.5
Females currently aged 45 years	23.7	23.6

Scheme assets and expected rate of return for ERBS

The assets in the scheme and the expected rates of return together with the reconciliation of funded status to the Statement of Financial Position were as follows:

		2025 £'000		2024 £'000
Equities	15.4%	13,513	15.2%	14,537
Government Bonds	74.8%	65,609	77.0%	73,684
Cash / Other	9.8%	8,581	7.8%	7,524
Total		87,703		95,745
Present value of scheme liabilities		(90,565)		(102,392)
Pension (liability)/asset		(2,862)		(6,647)

	Year Ended 31 July 2025 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2024 £'000
Actual return on Scheme Assets		
Actuarial (loss)/gain on assets	541	(1,957)
Interest income	4,636	4,660
	5,177	2,703

	Year Ended 31 July 2025 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2024 £'000
Analysis of the amount charged to the Statement of Comprehensive Income		
Scheme expenses	(650)	(754)
Interest income on assets	4,636	4,660
Interest cost on defined benefit obligations	(4,877)	(4,948)
Total charge to Surplus/(Deficit) on Statement of Comprehensive Income	(891)	(1,042)

Analysis of movements

	Year Ended 31 July 2025 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2024 £'000
Movement in the scheme surplus/(deficit)		
Opening surplus/(deficit)	(6,647)	(7,108)
Contributions paid	4,135	3,460
Scheme expenses	(650)	(754)
Interest income on assets	4,636	4,660
Interest cost on defined benefit obligations	(4,877)	(4,948)
Actuarial (loss)/gain	541	(1,957)
(Deficit)/surplus on scheme at the end of the year	(2,862)	(6,647)

	Year Ended 31 July 2025 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2024 £'000
Movement in the fair value of scheme assets		
Opening fair value of assets	95,745	94,671
Interest income	4,636	4,660
Actuarial (loss)/gain on assets	(10,428)	(639)
Employers' contributions	4,135	3,460
Scheme expenses	(650)	(754)
Actual benefit payments	(5,735)	(5,653)
Fair value of assets at the end of the year	87,703	95,745

ERBS assets do not include any of the University's own financial instruments, or any property occupied by the University.

Notes to the Financial Statements

NOTE 28 PENSION SCHEMES (continued)

Movement in the present value of ERBS Defined Benefit Obligations	Year Ended 31 July 2025 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2024 £'000
Opening Defined Benefit Obligations	102,392	101,779
Interest cost	4,877	4,948
Actuarial (gain)/loss	(10,969)	1,318
Actual benefit payments	(5,735)	(5,653)
Closing Defined Benefit Obligations	90,565	102,392

Note on Section 37 Ruling

In June 2023, a High Court judgment in the case of Virgin Media Limited vs NTL Pension Trustees II Limited provided a ruling that may lead to additional pension obligations for some contracted-out defined benefit pension schemes. No adjustments were made in respect of this issue in previous disclosures, as we were not aware of any aspect of the Scheme Rules that were open to challenge or whether the Scheme Trustees had investigated the issue.

On 5 June 2025, the Government announced that it will introduce legislation to facilitate retrospective actuarial confirmation for affected schemes. While the details and timings are still to be confirmed, it is hoped that this will allow many schemes to resolve this issue and supports continuing the current approach of not making any adjustments which we propose to continue with this year.

NOTE 29 PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES

	Provision for USS pension liability £'000	Defined Benefit Obligations on ERBS pension £'000	Total pensions provision £'000	Other provisions £'000	Total provisions 31 July 2025 £'000	Total provisions 31 July 2024 £'000
At 1 August 2024	-	6,647	6,647	1,209	7,856	187,662
Deficit repayments		(3,485)	(3,485)	-	(3,485)	(8,445)
Actuarial (gain)/loss	-	(541)	(541)	-	(541)	1,957
2023/24 movement		-	-	-	-	(177,731)
Interest on pension liability		241	241	-	241	4,413
At 31 July 2025	-	2,862	2,862	1,209	4,071	7,856

Pension provisions

The provision for the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) liability arose from the contractual obligation with the USS to make payments in accordance with the 2020 deficit recovery plan. The deficit recovery plan ended in December 2023, resulting in the unwinding of the provision during 2023/24. Further details are included in Note 28(ii).

The provision for the Exeter Retirement Benefit Scheme (ERBS) is based on the actuarial valuation of this defined benefit scheme. Further details are included in Note 28(iii).

Other Provisions

A provision has been included in respect of a potential liability for overseas taxation. This will either unwind or crystallise as more details are known.

Notes to the Financial Statements

NOTE 30 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The University has taken advantage of the exemption not to disclose transactions with subsidiaries that are wholly owned. Included in the table below are transactions with related parties of the University not covered by the exemption.

Related parties include members of Council as the University's supreme governing authority, and members of UEB, a senior executive management body. All members are required to declare any interests, and the membership is detailed at the front of the accounts. Since the University is involved in a wide range of activities

and the broad composition of its governing body, it is certain that the university will enter into transactions in the normal course of business with NHS trusts, educating bodies, Research Councils, and other private and public sector organisations in which members of the council or UEB might have an interest. All transactions involving organisations in which members of the governing body may have such an interest are conducted in accordance with the University's financial regulations and established procurement procedures. A register of the interests of the members of the council and UEB is maintained and kept up to date.

Related party	Nature of relationship	Recognised Income £'000		Recognised Expenditure £'000		Balance due to/(from) the University £'000	
		2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024
Applegate Marketplace Ltd	One UEB member is a director	20	-	-	5	20	-
Association of Commonwealth Universities Higher Education & Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Network	One council member is a board member.	n/a	2	n/a	8	n/a	-
British Council	One UEB member is a member of the Education Advisory Board.	61	-	7	191	-	-
City Science Corporation Limited	One council member is the chairman and a shareholder.	188	46	25	-	79	-
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Enterprise	One Council member is a Board Member.	(1)	50	-	18	(1)	(1)
Dartington Hall Trust	One council member was a Trustee.	n/a	-	n/a	4	n/a	-
Exeter College	One council member was the Vice Chair of the Board of Governors, one UEB member is a member of the Governing Body.	170	235	85	3	0	-
Exeter City Community Trust	One council member is a Trustee	-	n/a	3	n/a	(1)	n/a
Exeter Science Park	One UEB member is Chair of the Board.	233	-	132	20	(13)	(4)
Exeter Northcott Theatre	The University is one of the core funders of the company.	221	181	156	233	(1)	127
Exeter Rugby Group PLC	One council member is a non-executive director.	6	7	180	134	(28)	-
Exeter Science Centre	One UEB member is Chair of the Advisory Board	-	n/a	15	n/a	0	n/a
Falmouth and Exeter Students' Union	One council member is a President.	-	n/a	411	n/a	-	n/a
Falmouth Exeter Plus Ltd	One UEB member is a Board Member.	32	31	8,886	8,649	(647)	(46)

Notes to the Financial Statements

NOTE 30 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS (continued)

Related party	Nature of relationship	Recognised Income £'000		Recognised Expenditure £'000		Balance due to/(from) the University £'000	
		2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024
Global City Futures Limited	One council member is the Chairman and Shareholder.	-	-	5	15	(0)	-
IDP Connect UK	One UEB member is Chair of the Strategic Advisory Board.	-	-	955	962	(15)	(2)
INTO University Partnerships Limited	One UEB member is a Management Board Member.	1,391	1,625	2,208	161	1,093	52
Jisc	One council member is a Trustee and Non-Executive Director.	14	n/a	3,000	n/a	(279)	n/a
Kortext	One UEB member is the Academic Advisory Board member at Kortext.	-	-	1,112	929	(129)	-
Law Society	One council member is a member of the Learning and Development Steering Group.	33	31	2	1	0	34
McKinsey and Company	One council member is a Director Emeritus.	n/a	6	n/a	-	n/a	12
National Oceanography Centre	One UEB member is a Strategic Advisory Board member.	-	1	1,139	184	0	(45)
Pennon Group Plc	One committee member has a shareholding in the Pennon Group.	n/a	6	n/a	-	n/a	3
Plymouth City Council	One council member is Interim Strategic Director of Growth.	340	n/a	33	n/a	3	n/a
Public Digital	One council member is a director.	-	n/a	142	n/a	-	n/a
Russell Group of Universities	One UEB member is a Chair of PVC Education Group and the other is a Russell Group Board member.	-	-	96	93	0	-
South West Institute of Technology	One UEB member is a Board member.	-	-	9	9	0	-
Ted Wragg Multi Academy Trust	One Exeter UEB member is a Nominated Member of the Academy.	125	-		33	-	(5)
The Maynard School, Exeter	One UEB member is a Governor of the school.	9	6	4	4	(0)	-
The Royal Osteoporosis Society	One Senate appointed member Council is a Clinical Committee member, and Chair of the Bone Densitometry Training and Advisory Panel Committee.	0	-	0	3	0	-
Universities UK	One UEB member is a UUK nominated USS representative member of the JNC. One UEB member is a Board Member. One council member is a board member on the Horizon Europe Senior Advisory Group.	5	13	55	75	(46)	-

Notes to the Financial Statements

NOTE 30 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS (continued)

Related party	Nature of relationship	Recognised Income £'000		Recognised Expenditure £'000		Balance due to/(from) the University £'000	
		2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024
University of Cambridge	One council member is an Advisory Board Member of Cambridge University Library. One council member is a Policy Fellow Alum of the Centre for Science and Policy, University of Cambridge.	293	293	800	479	(78)	n/a
University of Exeter Students' Guild	The annually elected Student President of the University of Exeter Student Guild is a Council Member. One standing attendee is the CEO.	196	242	2,983	6,897	(45)	7
Venice International University	One UEB member is a Board Member.	-	n/a	50	n/a	-	n/a

All outstanding balances with the related parties are unsecured and are due for settlement in the form of cash. There was no expense recognised during the year in respect of bad or doubtful debt and no provisions were made for uncollectable receivables.

Notes to the Financial Statements

NOTE 30 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS (continued)

FX + Ltd

For further information on FX Plus Ltd see Note 16 on Joint Ventures.

The University and Falmouth University have jointly and equally guaranteed four loan facilities to FX Plus Ltd:

- A loan from Lloyds TSB Bank plc of £18.6m for 30 years at a fixed rate of 5.89% which was drawn down in September 2004.
- A loan from Lloyds TSB Bank plc for £12.1m for a term of 30 years at a fixed rate of 5.215% which was drawn down in December 2006.
- A loan from Barclays Bank Plc of £20.5m for new residences. The loan is repayable over 30 years, at a variable rate linked to SONIA plus 0.275% margin and was drawn down in July 2010.
- A loan of £8m for new residences, £4m from the European Investment Bank (EIB) at a fixed rate of 2.4% and £4m from Lloyds TSB Bank at a fixed rate of 2.1%. The loan is repayable over 16 years. The EIB loan was drawn down in May 2012 and the Lloyds loan was drawn down in various stages from June 2012 – Oct 2013.
- The total FX Plus Ltd debt as at 31 July 2025 is £29.9m (2024: £32.7m). The University has guaranteed 50% of this balance, totalling £15.0m (2024: £16.3m).

The FX+ Limited has capital commitments as follows:

	Year Ended 31 July 2025 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2024 £'000
Commitments contracted at 31 July	76	4
Authorised but not committed at 31 July	182	211
	258	215

Transactions between the University and FX + Ltd were as follows:

	Year Ended 31 July 2025 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2024 £'000
Income derived from the FX + Group	32	66
Expenditure incurred with the FX + Group	8,886	7,928

The balances owing between the University and FX + Ltd at the year-end were as follows:

	Year Ended 31 July 2025 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2024 £'000
Amount owing from the FX + Group	(647)	386

INTO University of Exeter LLP / Exeter ISC Limited

For further information on INTO see Note 16 on Joint Ventures.

Transactions between the University and INTO University of Exeter LLP in the normal course of business were as follows:

	Year Ended 31 July 2025 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2024 £'000
Income derived from INTO	1,391	275
Expenditure incurred with INTO	2,208	870

The balances owing between the University and INTO University of Exeter LLP at the year-end were as follows:

	Year Ended 31 July 2025 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2024 £'000
Amount (from)/due to the University from INTO	1,093	(51)

Notes to the Financial Statements

NOTE 31 DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION AND TEACHING REGULATION AGENCY (DETRA) INITIAL TEACHER TRAINING BURSARIES

DETRA training bursaries are available solely for students; the University acts only as paying agent. The training bursaries are therefore excluded from the Income and Expenditure Account.

	Year Ended 31 July 2025 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2024 £'000
Balance at 1 August	92	(44)
NCTL Grants	2,117	1,950
	2,209	1,906
Disbursed to students	(2,099)	(1,814)
Balance at 31 July	110	92

NOTE 32 REGULATORY DISCLOSURES

The Office for Students requires the University to publish additional information, set out in the OfS Regulatory Advice 9: guidance on preparing and publishing financial statements for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 August 2019. This covers data on senior staff costs and the President and Vice-Chancellor's remuneration which is included in Note 7 on Staff Costs. In addition, we are required to publish supplementary data on tuition fees and teaching grant and on access and participation expenditure, as set out below.

Grant and Fee income

Group and University	Year Ended 31 July 2025 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2024 £'000
Grant income from the OfS	20,199	20,886
Grant income from other bodies	50,406	51,925
Fee income for taught awards	327,809	325,757
Fee income for research awards	11,624	12,030
Fee income from non-qualifying courses	11,092	12,784
Total grant and fee income	421,130	423,382

This note is a consolidation of Note 1 and Note 2.

NOTE 32 REGULATORY DISCLOSURES (continued)

Expenditure on Access and Participation related activities for the year ended is included in the Statement of Comprehensive Income and presented in the table below:

	Year Ended 31 July 2025 £'000	Year Ended 31 July 2024 £'000
Access and Participation		
Access Investment	3,846	3,716
Financial Support	5,974	6,229
Disability Support (excluding expenditure included in the two categories above)	1,460	1,309
Research and Evaluation	501	464
Total	11,781	11,718

Total Access and Participation costs are calculated using a combination of direct costs captured through our accounting system and indirect costs which were calculated using an assumptions-based model.

These assumptions are based on analysis undertaken by our finance team working closely with departments across the University to capture all available data for input into the model to ensure a robust methodology.

- £4.285m of these costs (2024: £4.137m) are already included in the overall staff costs figures included in the financial statements (see note 7);
- The published access and participation plan can be found here: [Access and Participation Plan 20/21-24/25 \(exeter.ac.uk\)](https://www.exeter.ac.uk/access-and-participation-plan-2021-24-25)

Notes to the Financial Statements

NOTE 33 US DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULE

In satisfaction of its obligations to facilitate students' access to US federal financial aid, the University is required, by the US Department of Education, to present the following Supplemental Schedule in a prescribed format.

The amounts presented within the schedules have been:

- prepared under the historical cost convention, subject to the revaluation of certain fixed assets;

- prepared using United Kingdom generally accepted accounting practice, in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS 102) and the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting for Further and Higher Education (2019 edition);

- presented in pounds sterling.

The schedules set out how each amount disclosed has been extracted from the financial statements. As set out above, the accounting policies used in determining the amounts disclosed are not intended to and do not comply with the requirements of accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Primary Reserve Ratio Line item/related disclosures	£'000	Year ended 31 July 2025 £'000	£'000	Year ended 31 July 2024 £'000
Expendable Net Assets				75,091
Statement of Financial Position – Net assets without donor restrictions		560,868		561,233
Statement of Financial Position – Net assets without donor restrictions		24,580		21,629
Statement of Financial Position – Net assets with donor restrictions		54,187		51,664
Statement of Financial Position – Restricted reserves		94		121
Note 23 – net assets with donor restrictions – restricted in perpetuity	21,850		21,716	
Note 23 – net assets with donor restrictions – restricted in perpetuity	3,404		3,350	
Note 23 – annuities, term endowments and life income funds with donor restrictions	28,933		26,512	
Statement of Financial Position – Restricted reserves	94		121	
Statement of Financial Position – Non-current assets	8,116		7,093	
Statement of Financial Position – non-current assets, net property, plant, and equipment <i>pre-implementation</i>	548,395		561,525	
Statement of Financial Position – non-current assets, net property, plant, and equipment <i>post-implementation</i>	168,422		155,041	
Statement of Financial Position – provisions, post-employment and defined benefit pension plan liabilities		2,862		6,647
Note 20 – Long term debt for long term purposes <i>pre-implementation</i>		209,552		209,552
Note 20 – Allowable <i>post-implementation</i> Long term debt for long term purposes		73		58
Note 30 – Unsecured related party receivables	99		455	
Total expenses and losses		674,773		648,945
Statement of Comprehensive Income – Total expenditure		678,930		480,533
Note 23 – expenditure with donor restrictions	3,916		4,907	
Statement of Comprehensive Income – Staff costs – movement on pension provisions		-		177,732
Note 10 – Net charge on pension schemes	241		4,413	

Notes to the Financial Statements

NOTE 33 US DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULE (continued)

Equity Ratio Line item/related disclosures		£'000	Year ended 31 July 2025 £'000	£'000	Year ended 31 July 2024 £'000
Modified Net Assets			631,514		627,099
Statement of Financial Position – Net assets without donor restrictions	Income and expenditure reserve		560,868		561,233
Statement of Financial Position – Net assets without donor restrictions	Revaluation reserve		24,580		21,629
Statement of Financial Position – Net assets with donor restrictions	Endowment reserve		54,187		51,664
Statement of Financial Position – Restricted reserves	Income and expenditure reserve		94		121
Statement of Financial Position – Non-current assets	Intangible assets	8,116		7,093	
Note 30 – Unsecured related party receivables	Sum of balances due to/(from) the University	99		455	
Modified Assets			1,112,934		1,094,361
Statement of Financial Position – Non-current assets	Total non-current assets		808,560		803,051
Statement of Financial Position – Non-current assets	Total current assets		312,589		298,858
Statement of Financial Position – Non-current assets	Intangible assets	8,116		7,093	
Note 30 – Unsecured related party receivables	Sum of balances due to/(from) the University	99		455	
Net Income Ratio Line item/related disclosures		£'000	Year ended 31 July 2025 £'000	£'000	Year ended 31 July 2024 £'000
Change in Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions			2,586		181,577
Statement of Comprehensive Income	Unrestricted comprehensive expenditure for the year	365			181,576
Statement of Comprehensive Income	Revaluation reserve comprehensive (income)/ expenditure for the year		2,951		1
Total Revenue and Gains			670,320		658,574
Statement of Comprehensive Income – Total Income			680,870		665,028
Note 6 – New restricted endowments and donations	Note 6 – Total	9,376		5,187	
Note 6 – New restricted endowments and donations	Note 6 – Unrestricted donations		305		37
Note 23 – Restricted investment income		1,479		1,304	

Five Years Summary Accounts

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

	2024/25 £'000	2023/24 £'000	2022/23 £'000	2021/22 £'000	2020/21 £'000
Income					
Tuition fees and education contracts	350,525	350,571	339,498	326,635	287,491
Funding body grants	70,605	72,811	75,592	62,756	59,416
Research grants and contracts	136,855	129,155	118,689	106,765	94,618
Other income	102,065	93,818	84,203	83,725	56,287
Investment income	11,444	13,485	8,072	1,440	1,145
Donations and endowments	9,376	5,188	6,862	5,603	2,615
Total income	680,870	665,028	632,916	586,924	501,572
Expenditure					
Direct staff costs	396,560	373,992	329,797	307,118	277,971
Movement on pension provision	-	(177,732)	(26,057)	131,817	20,731
Other operating expenses	201,807	206,759	204,099	181,148	154,216
Depreciation	74,749	67,555	83,772	59,054	53,754
Interest and other finance costs	5,814	9,979	12,441	6,331	6,243
Total expenditure	678,930	480,553	604,052	685,468	512,915
Surplus/(deficit) before other gains losses and share of joint ventures	5,082	184,475	28,864	(98,544)	(11,343)
Gain/(loss) on investments	(852)	3	(3,016)	(2,570)	7,768
Share of operating (deficit)/surplus in joint ventures	260	2,057	466	1,068	(1,585)
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	1,348	186,535	26,314	(100,046)	(5,160)
Operating cash generation (EBITDA)	48,041	56,736	62,442	62,094	35,780
Operating Surplus/(Deficit) (EBIT)	8,209	22,530	29,007	30,799	(721)
Operating Surplus as a % of income	1.2%	3.6%	5%	5%	0%
Staff cost ratio ¹²	56.8%	54.9%	51.9%	52.2%	55.3%

¹² Staff costs per Note 7, excluding movement in pension provisions and severance costs, as a % of total income.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	2024/25 £'000	2023/24 £'000	2022/23 £'000	2021/22 £'000	2020/21 £'000
Tangible and intangible assets	724,933	723,659	718,617	737,916	749,656
Heritage assets	12,471	9,287	9,287	9,245	9,088
Investments	51,801	51,984	46,682	48,799	48,429
Investment in joint venture	19,355	18,121	17,663	15,462	5,099
Net current assets	114,886	119,949	107,389	97,107	58,631
Creditors: due after one year	(279,646)	(280,497)	(261,907)	(262,790)	(264,049)
	643,800	642,503	637,731	646,631	606,854
Pension liability and other provisions	(4,071)	(7,856)	(187,662)	(214,587)	(89,039)
Total net assets	639,729	634,647	450,069	431,152	517,815
Represented by:					
Endowment reserve	54,187	51,664	48,677	48,816	49,589
Income and expenditure reserve	560,962	561,354	379,504	361,071	446,203
Revaluation reserve	24,580	21,629	21,888	22,265	22,023
Total reserves	639,729	634,647	450,069	431,152	517,815



University
of Exeter