



The
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The University of Sheffield

The University of Sheffield is one of the UK's top universities, with an international reputation for cutting-edge research, teaching excellence and an outstanding student experience.

From our beginnings in 1828 as the Sheffield School of Medicine, we received University Charter status in 1905. Our founding motto of Rerum Cognoscere Causas – “To discover the cause of things” – has been the driving force of our success in world class research and teaching, with outstanding public acknowledgement for our endeavours including several Nobel Prize winners, the award of 4 Queen's Anniversary Prizes and numerous accolades and awards for our organisation and staff. It was recently named University of the Year in the 2011 Times Higher Education Awards.

Our standing as a world-class university has been repeatedly confirmed by our excellent performance in rigorous external assessments. The Research Assessment Exercise 2008 confirmed our ranking among the top ten UK research-intensive universities. Our commitment to innovative curriculum development and delivery and “the Sheffield Graduate” experience has been recognised as outstanding and received commendations in our Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) audit. *The Virgin 2011 Alternative Guide to British Universities* says: “Sheffield is a top university across the board” and this year we have received further national acclaim with a top 5 ranking in *The Times Higher Education Student Experience Survey 2010*. The University is rated 13th in the UK, 32nd in Europe and 101st in the 2011-12 Times Higher Education World University Rankings. Similarly, The University is rated 10th in the UK and 97th in the world in an annual academic ranking of the top 500 universities worldwide published by Shanghai Jiao Tong University.

With around 6,000 staff and 24,000 students representing more than 120 nationalities, our efforts in discovery benefit from the rich diversity and talent of our university community.

Our students and staff work across 49 academic departments in five Faculties:

- Arts & Humanities
- Engineering
- Medicine, Dentistry & Health
- Science
- Social Sciences

Each Faculty is led by a Pro-Vice-Chancellor, and supported directly by the Faculty Director of Operations.

The University is an independent corporation whose legal status derives from a Royal Charter granted in 1905. The University's Council is the governing body of the University, responsible for the strategic development and overall performance of the University's business. The University Executive Board, or UEB, is the Vice-Chancellor's executive group and is comprised of:

- The Vice-Chancellor



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- Five Faculty Pro-Vice-Chancellors
- Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research and Innovation
- Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Learning and Teaching
- Pro-Vice-Chancellor for International
- Registrar and Secretary
- Director of Finance
- Director of Human Resources

Further information about the University can be found on our web page: <http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/about/>

The University's Mission, Vision & Identity is an explanation of our journey through understanding to knowledge, our definition of who we are, what values we have and our ideas of where we are going. The University's Mission, Vision and Identity frames our approach to strategic planning, which is structured around our six guiding principles: Achieving Excellence, Cultivating Ambition, Making a Difference, Working Together, Protecting the Future and Leading the Way.

The University's Strategic Plan 2010-2015 sets out what we want to achieve and our priorities, how we will go about it and the key performance indicators which will help us monitor how we are doing. Full details can be found at the following link: <http://www.shf.ac.uk/strategicplan/index>

The University established 'Project 2012' in December 2010 in order to co-ordinate and plan how the University could best maintain and improve the high quality of the student experience and research-led learning in the face of the significant and substantial changes to the funding regime for higher education. Through Project 2012 we talked not only with our own staff but also 1700 current and prospective students and 300 alumni about what they most valued in a University of Sheffield education. We consulted heads, principals and teachers from more than 450 primary and secondary schools, further education and sixth form colleges on our proposals. This rigorous process is already resulting in real changes and improvements to teaching spaces, for example, which will benefit students over coming years. Further details about Project 2012 can be found here: <http://www.shf.ac.uk/ueb/project2012/index>



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The Faculty of Social Sciences

Overview

The Faculty of Social Sciences (the Faculty) is a large and diverse grouping of thirteen departments, including 'classical' social science departments, but also several other major subject areas, some of which are distinctive to Sheffield.

This rich and exciting disciplinary mix, encompassing both academic research and education and also a strong practitioner focus in particular areas, uniquely positions the Faculty among Sheffield's peer institutions.

We are renowned for our high quality research, with some of the UK's leading researchers across the full range of discipline areas. In the RAE2008, over 60% of the Faculty's research activity was graded as world leading or internationally excellent, with the majority of the Faculty's submissions ranked in the top 10 in the UK, of which five were in the top 5.

We offer a very wide range of undergraduate and postgraduate courses across the full breadth of the Faculty's departments, and Sheffield graduates are held in high regard by major national and international employers.

Many departments are consistently strong performers in terms of the National Student Survey (NSS) and all those with a practitioner focus hold all relevant external accreditation by professional bodies.

Research and Innovation

Departments in the Faculty have a strong track record in terms of research grant and contract income generation, with an annual total of around £6 million in new grants being awarded.

We are seeking to build on this success via the re-branding of a major research centre to host large-scale research programmes that cut across the broad range of disciplines within the Faculty, and more broadly across the University. This facility - the Interdisciplinary Centre of the Social Sciences (ICoSS) - is a major £4 million investment, which provides small conference, seminar and meeting facilities in addition to work stations for close to 80 researchers.

Many of today's greatest research challenges are inherently multidisciplinary in nature, and require doctoral researchers who not only have a strong core expertise in their 'home' discipline, but can cross disciplinary boundaries effectively. The White Rose Doctoral Training Centre in Social Sciences was established in January 2011 with an investment from the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) to provide a national training centre for postgraduate researchers in social sciences. This has been launched with considerable success and is currently one of the largest national providers of ESRC doctoral training scholarships in the country (in 2011 we have over 50 scholarships). With over 350 academic staff in the 13 departments, and with one of the largest postgraduate research populations in the UK (with over 600



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postgraduate students registered within the Faculty's departments at any one time), the Faculty provides a rich and vibrant research environment.

In respect of knowledge transfer, we are a major player in terms of policy impact internationally and have made tangible differences within the UK and local, regional and national economies. A key vehicle for this activity is the Public Services Academy (PSA) which aims to enhance the Faculty's external profile with business, government departments, and many other external organisations.

Learning and Teaching

The University has a strong reputation for high quality, innovative learning and teaching, and is committed to cutting edge research informing learning and teaching in both academic and practitioner-focused programmes. We also boast world-class learning facilities such as the Information Commons, which set a new standard in library provision in the UK as the first building of its type.

We offer a very wide range of undergraduate and postgraduate courses across the full breadth of the Faculty's departments.

As we are one of the most broadly constituted Faculties of Social Sciences in the UK, we also have a strong track record in providing professional qualifications in a wide variety of areas, including Law, Education, Town and Regional Planning, Architecture, Landscape, Journalism Studies, Social Work and Librarianship.

All these courses have long-established recognition and accreditation by the relevant external professional bodies.