



BIRMINGHAM CITY  
University



# *Annual Review*

2014/15



## Contents

- 03 Welcome
- 04 Highlights of 2014/15
- 12 Research
- 16 International
- 20 Academic success
- 24 Student success
- 28 Key facts and figures
- 31 Key officeholders

## Welcome

I am delighted to welcome you to the latest edition of Birmingham City University's Annual Review, covering the 2014/15 academic year.

There were plenty of achievements to celebrate, including the completion of our flagship Curzon Building at the City Centre Campus, providing a new home for our Business, Law, Social Science and English courses as well as new library, IT and social facilities.

This has helped us to create a bigger student community at the heart of the city centre with greater opportunities for students to meet and collaborate across different subject areas.

From 2017, most students will be based at our two main campuses, with Birmingham Conservatoire moving to a state-of-the-art home at the City Centre Campus, and the School of Education and our developing Sport and Life Science provision occupying a new building at the City South Campus.

Our investment in the city does not just extend to our estates. This summer saw the second Inspired arts festival, bringing our students' creativity to a wider audience.

A further exciting development saw the appointment of renowned musician Julian Lloyd-Webber as the new Principal of Birmingham Conservatoire. This illustrates the scale of our ambition for our students, and follows our tradition of appointing academics with real-life experience of the sectors they teach in.

Throughout our students' time here, their future careers are our primary focus. Our facilities, staffing, relationships with employers and careers support are all designed to equip them with the skills they need to successfully enter the workplace.

Thank you for your continued interest in the University and I look forward to continuing to enjoy your support over the coming years.



Professor Cliff Allan  
Vice-Chancellor







## Curzon Building *ready for new students*

The 2014/15 academic year saw the finishing touches being put to our new Curzon Building, ready to accommodate Business, Law, Social Science and English courses from September 2015, together with a new library, Students' Union and other support facilities.

This landmark building, at the eastern end of Birmingham's new Eastside City Park, features two wings of teaching accommodation, linked by a central atrium. Our flexible teaching space includes traditional lecture theatres and seminar rooms, as well as more informal 'break out' areas.

Alongside our existing facilities at Millennium Point and The Parkside Building, it forms the centrepiece of our City Centre Campus in Birmingham's fast-developing Eastside area.

University Vice-Chancellor Professor Cliff Allan said: "This, and the other recent developments, are more than just buildings. They will help us to transform the experience of everyone who will be occupying them, students and staff, enabling us to transform the way we teach, learn and undertake research.

"This whole area is coming together and will truly become an Eastside learning quarter, with Birmingham City University at its heart."

| The Curzon Building



## Pub restored to *former glory*

After standing derelict for almost 10 years, an unloved Birmingham pub has found a new lease of life as part of Birmingham City Students' Union.

Built between 1840 and 1850, the Grade II listed Eagle and Ball is Victorian in style and still has many of the original features including leaded windows, tiled and wooden floors, and period fireplaces.

Split over two levels, the pub has been lovingly restored and, although a student pub, it will also be open to the public offering food and a range of craft beers.

Students' Union President Jenny Watkins said: "We're absolutely thrilled that the Eagle and Ball has been so lovingly restored and returned to its former glory, right at the heart of the new University campus. This will be a popular part of the Students' Union with both current and future students, and

will show future generations a real piece of Birmingham's history."

The move to the city centre will also provide a new home for the Union's café, shop and support services, ensuring they are right at the heart of our largest campus.

| Eagle and Ball



## Staff and students rewarded *for 'extra' efforts*

Over 450 people were in attendance at the Extra Mile Awards 2014/15 in May, to celebrate the achievements of the University's staff and students.

The Student Record System team from Academic Registry walked away with the Vice-Chancellor and Students' Union President's Staff Award while education student Sophie Chapman won the student accolade.

The Extra Mile Awards is a project run in partnership by the University and the Students' Union. It has previously received acclaim from both the National Union of Students and the Chartered Institute of Public Relations.

### Full list of winners:

**The Vice-Chancellor and Students' Union President's Student Award**  
Sophie Chapman, BA (Hons) Primary Education

**The Vice-Chancellor and Students' Union President's Staff Award**  
SRS Team, Academic Registry

**Engaged Student of the Year**  
Vladina Chira, BA (Hons) Marketing, Advertising and Public Relations  
Runner-up: Ella Robson, MA Creative Industries and Cultural Policy

**Engaging and Inspiring Teacher of the Year**  
Ann Cubbin, Programme Director - Community Health Nursing  
Runner-up: Neil Hollins, Lecturer in Radio Production

**Entrepreneurial Student of the Year**  
Belise Niringiyimana, LLB (Hons) Law  
Runner-up: Rebecca Struthers, PhD Art and Design

### Frontline and Behind the Scenes Staff of the Year

Lydia Chaplain, Mental Health Adviser, Student Services  
Runner-up: Lesley Taylor, Careers Consultant, Student Services

### Personal Tutor of the Year

Alan Robson, Senior Academic in Technology, Risk and the Environment,  
Runner-up: Dr Katerina Kantartzis, Lecturer in Psychology

### Researcher of the Year

Professor Jon Yorke, Director of the Centre for American Legal Studies  
Runner-up: Andrew Kehoe, Deputy Head of School

### Student Academic Leader of the Year

Radhan Chauhan, LLB (Hons) Law  
Runner-up: Belise Niringiyimana, LLB (Hons) Law  
Highly commended: Edward Freshwater, BSc (Hons) Nursing

### Student in the Community Award

Sophie Chapman, BA (Hons) Primary Education  
Runner-up: Sophie Rowe, PhD Social Sciences

### Team of the Year

SRS Team, Academic Registry  
Runner-up: Level Up Mentoring Scheme

Ann Cubbin, winner of the Engaging and Inspiring Teacher of the Year award







| An artist's impression of the new Conservatoire building's interior



## Plans unveiled for new *Conservatoire building*

Work has begun on building the new home for Birmingham Conservatoire, with the development set to provide state-of-the-art performance spaces, over 70 practice rooms and a 450-seat concert hall when it opens in 2017.

Incorporating twice the amount of performance spaces as the current building, the Conservatoire will comprise five performance venues, a full orchestra, a recital hall with 150 seats and a smaller experimental music space. It will also host a specialised jazz venue, the first in Birmingham since Ronnie Scott's in 1991.



## Birmingham Conservatoire *welcomes new Principal*

World-renowned musician Julian Lloyd Webber started work as the new Principal of the University's Birmingham Conservatoire, in July 2015 and is ready to ensure its students continue to thrive in the music industry.

Newly appointed as Professor Lloyd Webber, he took up his new position as work got under way on a new £46 million home for Birmingham Conservatoire, the first of its kind to be built in the UK for over a generation.

Professor Lloyd Webber said: "The opportunities that lie ahead for Birmingham Conservatoire are limitless. We will have an exceptional new home for making music as well as access to the University's facilities and multi-genre expertise, ensuring our students leave with all the skills they need for today's music industry."

Professor Lloyd Webber replaced David Saint, who was retiring after 37 years at Birmingham Conservatoire, five as Principal, during which time it has nurtured a host of talent, including singer-songwriter Laura Mvula and the award-winning Birmingham Conservatoire Chamber Choir, led by Principal Conductor Paul Spicer.

| Julian Lloyd Webber



## University launches one-stop *student help service*

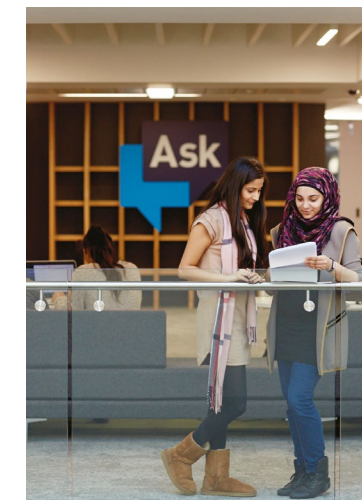
The 2014/15 academic year saw preparations taking place for the launch of our new student enquiry service, Ask, which was officially launched in July 2015, ready for the next intake of students.

Ask is a fully-integrated enquiry service which allows students to get a rapid response to their questions either online, on campus or on the phone.

Two face-to-face enquiry desks are available to students, one in The Curzon Building and another at City North Campus. The friendly Ask team will be based at these desks to help provide a first-class customer service to students.

An online helpdesk, called iAsk, is also available to answer student queries. The service brings together support from Student Services, Students' Union, Academic Registry and Finance to help provide a central point of contact for students, capable of covering a wide range of topics where they may need help or advice.

Student Hub manager Sujata Banger said: "You don't do a project like this without the support and hard work of lots of other people. There have been many people all across the University, both students and staff, who have contributed to making this project a success."



| One of the new enquiry desks



## Students gather *for graduation*

Over 1,500 graduates gathered at Birmingham's Symphony Hall to receive their degrees during January 2015.

As ever, the event provided an opportunity for our former students to celebrate their success with family and friends, as they embark on the next stage of their lives and careers.

We also honoured our latest Alumni of the Year, with silversmith Kevin Grey and learning disability nurse Raj Jhamat the recipients of the prestigious title for January.

Graduation ceremonies also took place in September 2014.

| The graduation ceremony



## Broadcaster and fertility *expert gets honorary degree*

Renowned fertility expert and broadcaster Professor Robert Winston was among the recipients of honorary degrees over the past year.

Professor Winston is Professor of Science and Society and Emeritus Professor of Fertility Studies at Imperial College London.

He has presented numerous award-winning TV and radio series, including *The Secret Life of Twins*, *Child of Our Time* and the BAFTA Award-winning *The Human Body*. He has also written over 20 books and published over 300 scientific articles in peer-reviewed journals.

In the 1970s Professor Winston developed techniques to improve fertility treatments and later pioneered improvements in In-Vitro Fertilisation (IVF).

| Professor Robert Winston

He said: "In accepting an honorary degree at Birmingham City University, I am greatly privileged. This large university's important commitment to education is very dear to my heart."







## New investment in region's wellbeing

The University is investing £41 million in new facilities that promise a major contribution to the health and wellbeing of the West Midlands.



| Artist's impression

The move forms part of the University's investment in science, technology, engineering and mathematics subjects – 'STEM' skills that manufacturing leaders say are urgently needed to support economic growth. Funding for the STEM expansion includes £5 million from the Higher Education Funding Council for England.

The expansion of the University's campus in Edgbaston will feature specialist laboratories for a newly created School of Life Sciences, offering a range of courses in health, nutrition and biomedicine. This will reinforce our status as the region's largest provider of qualified health and social care professionals to the NHS and will also provide a new home to the School

of Education, supporting the development of the next generation of school teachers.

Professor Ian Blair, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Health, Education and Life Sciences, said: "This investment clearly demonstrates the University's commitment to the things that matter to our society and our economy."



## University gets royal seal of approval

Our School of Jewellery played host to two very special guests in November 2014 when The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall paid a visit, to see for themselves our first-class teaching facilities and the quality of our creative talent.

Touring the School as part of a visit to Birmingham's historic Jewellery Quarter, the Royal Highnesses left with a glittering keepsake after alumnus Jack Row presented them with limited edition handcrafted silver fountain pens.

After viewing a range of student work, including jewellery, clocks and watches, the Duchess toured the School to meet staff and students while the Prince held a private meeting to discuss the Jewellery Quarter's regeneration, in which his charity had been involved.

Head of the School of Jewellery Gaynor Andrews said: "It was a true honour to share the work of our students and alumni with The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall. They were both clearly impressed with the diversity of courses and the quality produced."



## Creative students inspire the city

Summer 2015 saw the return of the University's Inspired festival, which showcases the innovative and ground-breaking work of students on our creative and cultural courses to the wider public.

Following on from last year's inaugural festival, Inspired offered a wide range of concerts, performances and exhibitions, demonstrating the high-level skills and talents that define our graduates.

The festival was launched with a specially-commissioned catwalk event, with models wearing the designs of a number of final year Fashion students. Their creations

were not just for their degree courses, but also for the University's presence at the annual Graduate Fashion Week in London.

Birmingham Conservatoire staged a number of performances, including opera, jazz, chamber music and baroque, while aspiring actors and theatre professionals from Birmingham School of Acting performed shows in theatres across the city. Our Art and Design students showcased their work at various exhibitions, English students put on their Creative Writing Summer Show, and Exhibit This 2015 celebrated the ingenuity of our Birmingham School of Media graduates.



## Building links to help others

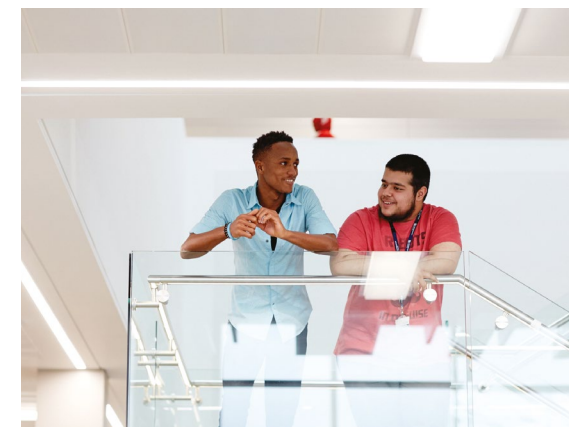
Over the last year, the University's Schools and Colleges Liaison team has been strengthening its relationships with the 30 further education institutes which provide the largest number of students to us.

Building partnerships with schools and colleges is a significant contributor to the University being part of the region's success. Effective cross-sector partnerships between education providers are a key way to raise aspirations and achievement of individuals, as well as economic growth and cultural wellbeing.

Scholarships were awarded to students from these partners, as well as the opportunity to become a mentor, supporting students progressing from these institutes the following year. In our first year of running this scheme, almost 100 students have been able to benefit.

Patricia Murchie, Director of Marketing and Communications, said: "Rich and dynamic partnerships with schools and colleges will be an essential element of Birmingham City University in the future.

"The University recognises that the value students gain from their education will be maximised if institutions work in partnership across sectors."







## Fashion guru *Gok bares all*

Over 200 people came to see TV fashion expert Gok Wan discuss some of his most personal life experiences – including his childhood struggles with obesity and anorexia, and how he overcame schoolyard bullies – at the first of our City Talks public lecture series in 2015.

Born and bred in Leicester, Gok has worked in the fashion industry for the best part of two decades, written for various fashion magazines and presented Channel 4 television shows *How to Look Good Naked* and *Gok's Fashion Fix*. After receiving an honorary doctorate in 2014, Gok returned to the University to share tips on fashion and styling, as well as

reflecting on his meteoric climb to TV fame.

Talking about his early life, Gok said: "I struggle with anorexia every day – it's like a parasite that won't go away. Realising it doesn't go away is the biggest weapon. In order to get through the dark times you need to remember that life is short and therefore you really need to focus on the good stuff. The little things that worry you are those that will ultimately fuel your success."

Other City Talks during the year included appearances from record producer Ken Scott, headteacher and *Educating Essex* star Stephen Drew, and Philip Gooderson, author of the book *The Gangs of Birmingham*. We also hosted a discussion on 'What Birmingham Means to Me', a pre-election debate and a talk on sport and leadership.



Gok Wan (right) and interviewer Mark Williams-Thomas



## Mental health *issues in the spotlight*

Research into mental health care by an academic from our Faculty of Health, Education and Life Sciences has now been turned into a play, to raise awareness of mental health issues among black and minority ethnic (BME) communities.

Professor Fatemeh Rabiee-Khan was part of the ENRICH programme, working in collaboration with Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust and the University of Warwick, to explore the challenges faced by mental health services.

She researched how easily reached and suitable Early Intervention Services were for the cultural needs of BME communities in Birmingham, and a number of recommendations have been made to help reduce the differences in levels of care and outcomes between ethnic groups.

The findings have also been turned into a play called *Cracked* by Olivier Award-winning playwright Mike Kenny, which was due to tour the West Midlands in the autumn of 2015.

Professor Rabiee-Khan said: "We're very proud and excited that the findings from our research will be disseminated to a wide range of audience in such a creative way. We're hoping that through this medium it will de-stigmatise mental illness and encourage people to access help at an early stage."



Emma Boyle and Neil Hollins at the ceremony



## Staff and students triumph *in radio competition*

The University enjoyed great success at the 2015 New York Radio Festival's International Radio Program Awards, with students and staff winning a trio of prizes.

The awards, seen as the most prestigious in the radio industry, saw entrants from 27 countries taking part, with former Broadcast Journalism student James Bovill winning gold in the Best News Documentary category for his programme *The Birmingham Pub Bombings 40 Years On*. Made for BBC WM and presented by journalist Adrian Goldberg, the programme was broadcast on the 40th anniversary of the IRA attack.

A silver award for Best Student Radio Station went to Scratch Radio, the University's student station. This follows the station's success in winning the Midlands category of the 2014 UK Radio Academy's Nations and Regions Awards.

University graduate Emma Boyle collected the bronze award in the Best Student Journalist category for her investigative documentary series *The Student Underworld*.

Lecturer in Radio Production Neil Hollins said: "It is fantastic to see students getting recognition for their work on Scratch Radio. Getting involved in the station offers them a very meaningful opportunity to develop their production and presentation skills, as well as learning about station management."



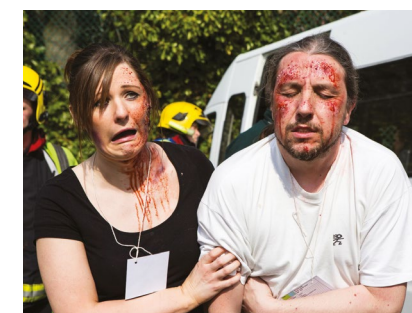
## Health students hone skills with *mock crash*

An overturned car, screams and multiple casualties may sound like the scene of a horrific accident, but it was all in a day's work for our nursing students.

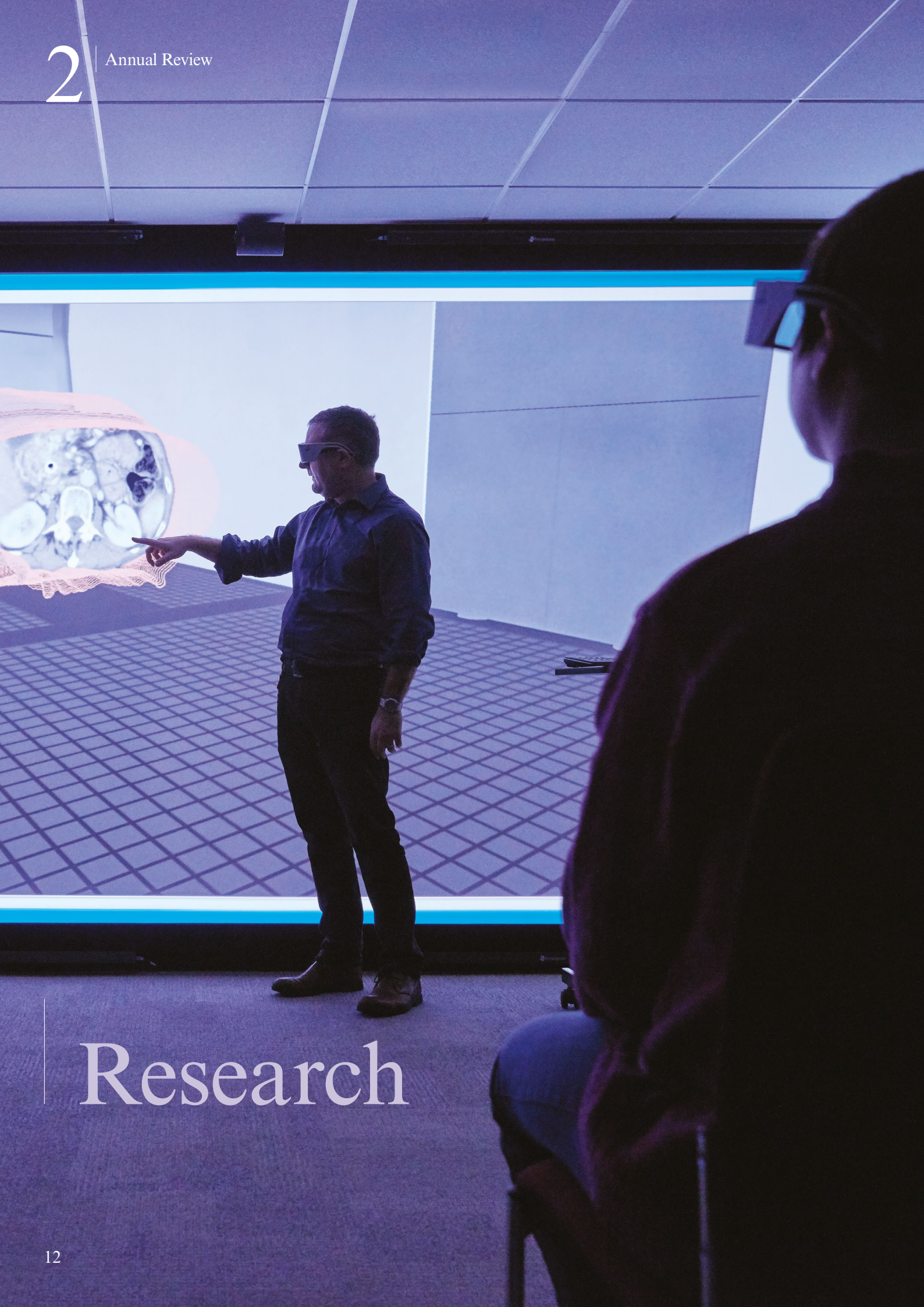
Students and professionals took part in a mock 'major incident' featuring a serious car accident with casualties trapped in their cars and other 'walking wounded'. An operating theatre and mock A&E department were put on red alert to receive 'patients' needing emergency surgery following the crash, which was a training exercise for student nurses, midwives, paramedics, radiographers and operating department practitioners.

Joining forces with medical students from the University of Birmingham and West Midlands Fire and Police services, the team managed the scene, responding to the situation as though it were a real life incident.

Child Nursing student Laura Critchley said: "It was an incredible, invaluable experience. The atmosphere throughout the simulation can only be described as 'real'. Everyone was so serious, and completely pushed out of their comfort zones, but we collaborated as true professionals."







# Research

Our teaching is underpinned by ground-breaking research, as proved by the recent Research Excellence Framework assessment, which praised the impact of our work. Our research staff and students are contributing to businesses and organisations around the world, helping to advance new thinking and feeding this knowledge back into the University's programmes.

## Praise for impact of *University's research*

The latest review of the University's research performance revealed that we had doubled the number of staff producing internationally recognised research and significantly increased the impact our work is having on society and the economy, since the last assessment in 2008.

The 2014 Research Excellence Framework (REF) results, published in December 2014, also revealed that 90 per cent of the University's submission had been judged to have delivered 'outstanding' or 'very considerable' impact externally.

The six-yearly assessment of research performance also saw the University achieve an increase in the amount of four-star or three-star research on which public funding is partly based, from 40 per cent in 2008 to 60 per cent in 2014.

The University's research has impacted on a range of business developments and public policy. Examples include work that enables

the migration of music on obsolete platforms to modern devices, and research that has influenced death penalty policy and practice around the world.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Cliff Allan said: "Moving forward, our new research and enterprise strategies will enable us to do more and better research, ensuring new knowledge aligns increasingly with the needs of society and the economy.

"Our 2014 REF submission is far more ambitious than ever before, forming part of our aim of repositioning the University as a broader based institution with research increasingly integral to our work."



# Experts help bring *history to life*

Researchers at our School of Jewellery have helped to bring a new dimension to museum visitors’ experience at an impressive new gallery dedicated to the Staffordshire Hoard.

The gallery was opened in October 2015 at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery (BMAG) and showcases the largest collection of Anglo-Saxon gold and silver metalwork ever found, anywhere in the world.

In a joint project between the Jewellery Industry Innovation Centre (JIIC) and Birmingham Museums Trust, craftsmanship has met cutting edge technology to create unique replicas of items from the Hoard.

The team have even managed to create ‘unfolded’ replicas of the ‘folded cross’, which was found as part of the stash, uncovered in 2009

The Staffordshire Hoard consists of more than 3,500 items, hundreds of which can be viewed at BMAG. The replicas created by our researchers are used as exhibits which can be handled by members of the public.

## In brief

### Crime researcher has academic paper published

PhD researcher Mohammed Rahman analysed the use of violence within organised crime, securing prominent media coverage for his work. Mohammed is currently investigating the relationship between lethal violence and organised crime, looking at how the latter employs the use of the former.

### New group for female researchers

The University has set up a new Women Researchers’ Network to bring together female researchers, including PhD students and professors, to discuss the issues faced by women in academia in a frank and supportive atmosphere. At the first meeting in July 2015, staff discussed confidence building and the importance of networking, self-promotion, work-life balance and dealing with real or perceived discrimination issues.



| Dr Carolyn Blackburn



| Tochukwu Ben Onyidoon

### PhD researcher plans for a greener future

Research student Tochukwu Ben Onyidoon has focused his efforts on finding ways for businesses to pursue a sustainable, environmentally-friendly approach. Ben’s PhD investigated how companies can operate as an environmental business, providing products and services that have socio-environmental value in a way that addresses existing environmental problems, while avoiding the creation of new ones.

# Research fellow has PhD, *will travel*

A researcher from the University has won a fellowship to go to New Zealand, where she will continue her research into delays and difficulties in speech and language in young children’s development.

PhD graduate Dr Carolyn Blackburn currently works with Birmingham City University as a research fellow in the Centre for Research in Education. Her research involved interviews with parents and early years practitioners, as well as observations of children with different communicative abilities.

Carolyn was awarded a 2015 Winston Churchill Memorial Trust (WCMT) Fellowship to work abroad, collating new knowledge about early years intervention.

“I am travelling to New Zealand to work with the world-leading Champion Centre,” she

said. “I will be able to explore relationship-based early intervention services for young children with complex needs.

“There were over 1,000 applications for the WCMT fellowship this year, with only 150 being awarded, so the competition was fierce.”

Carolyn credits the University with providing the support she needed to succeed. “The PhD was an essential qualification in securing my current role,” she said. “In the time I’ve been at the University, the research team has grown immensely and it’s been great to be part of that.”

*“I am travelling to New Zealand to work with the world-leading Champion Centre.”*

Dr Carolyn Blackburn

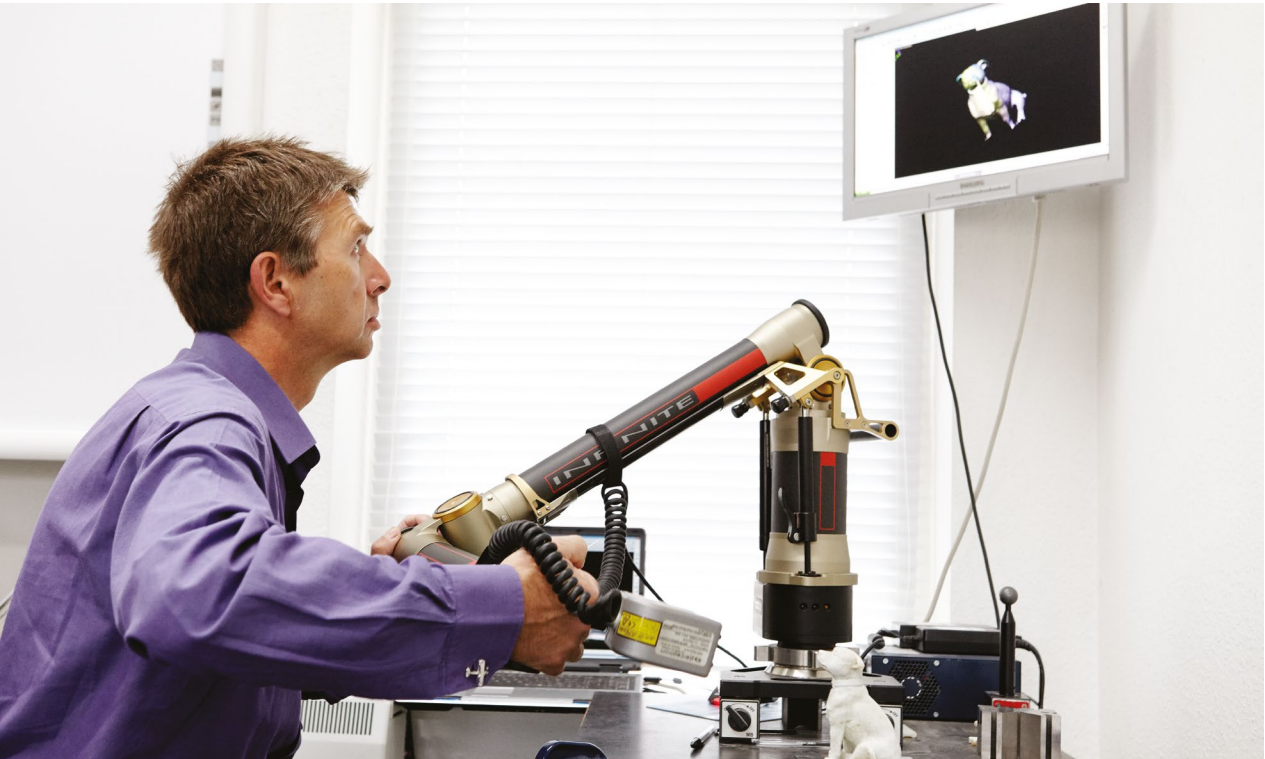
### Horologist has time on her side

Rebecca Struthers, a watchmaker and horologist who has studied at the University a number of times during her career, is now back undertaking unique research into the origin, manufacturers and merchants behind watch forgeries in eighteenth century Europe. Her research will provide the first published reference for horologists to understand the ‘Dutch forgeries’ of the era.



| A horologist in action

| Working on recreating the Staffordshire Hoard







# International

With students coming from around 80 different countries, Birmingham City University benefits from a truly global outlook. The past year has seen further exciting collaborations announced with institutions across the globe, together with staff and students participating in a wide range of international projects. This means that all of our students are part of a vibrant, internationally-facing learning environment.

## University enters into *new Chinese partnership*

Birmingham City University has been given approval by the Chinese Government to establish the Birmingham Institute of Fashion and Creative Art (BIFCA), a partnership with the prestigious Wuhan Textile University (WTU).

The Institute is expected to have 3,500 students studying or having studied university degrees by 2022. There are three initial degree programmes, delivering high-quality courses in Landscape Architecture, Visual Communication and Digital Media Technology.

The programmes are tailored to offer a UK benchmarked curriculum, consistent with the expectations of Chinese higher education policy, while providing a high-quality internationalised student experience. Teaching will be given by both Birmingham City University and WTU staff in English and Chinese during the first two years, then entirely in English during years 3 and 4.

Anyone studying a BIFCA programme will automatically be enrolled as a student of Birmingham City University and will study

for an internationally-recognised UK Bachelor's degree.

There will be the option of studying in China for the entire four-year programme, or spending the first two years in China before transferring to the UK to complete the degree. Whichever route is taken, students will be awarded a Birmingham City University degree on successful completion of their studies.

Birmingham City University Pro-Vice-Chancellor Professor Bashir Makhoul said: "The fact that we are among only 10 UK universities to have been given the go-ahead by the Chinese Government for a partnership of this kind shows just how far Birmingham City University has come and how serious we are about developing internationally, as well as at home."

| Wuhan, China





*“Being the only UK institution to be selected for the project is a fantastic achievement and has had a big impact on the reputation of the University.”*

Professor Andrew Kulman

## Lecturer shares expertise with students in India

A Visual Communication lecturer was selected to teach a special international workshop held at India’s National Institute of Design in Ahmedabad.



| Professor Kulman teaching in India

The move followed a request by the Institute to UK universities, asking for a lecturer who was able to deliver a design workshop for some of their top students. Birmingham City University was the only institution selected to be part of the project, with Professor Andrew Kulman beating over 40 academics from across the country to earn the honour of teaching there.

Professor Kulman’s workshop, titled Design for Drawing, was so popular that it has now been selected to be a part of the International Open Electives in January 2015.

He said: “I think the workshop is a great example of what this University does best: learning by doing. I am very proud as I’ve always wanted to build some sort of affiliation with the National Institute of Design, as it was developed thanks to the work of renowned American designers Charles and Ray Eames.

“Being the only UK institution to be selected for the project is a fantastic achievement and has had a big impact on the reputation of the University with India’s foremost design institution.”

## University hosts successful international conference

Academics from around the world were attracted to a conference co-hosted by the University in Jordan in April 2015.



| The conference took place in Amman, Jordan

The ‘First International Conference on the Transformation of the Urban Character of Arab Cities since the Late Last Century’, organised and co-hosted by Birmingham City University and the German Jordanian University (GJU), took place at the main GJU campus and was supported by the Mayor of Amman, Akel Beltagi.

The conference covered various topics and subjects including comparing contemporary and traditional approaches to urban design, public spaces, sustainability, and regeneration

Despite the political unrest in the region, the conference succeeded in gathering professionals and academics from all over the world, with scientific papers submitted

from the USA, Canada, Germany, Italy, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Iran, UAE, UK and Jordan.

The conference included eight valuable sessions and welcomed keynote speakers Dr Farouk Yaghmour from Jordan, Prof Christoph Zoepel from Germany, Prof Ali Madanipour from UK and Prof Ruth Carter from the USA. The third day was a scientific tour to discover the legacy of Amman, Jordan.

During the concluding session, Dr Mohammed Yaghan, the Dean of School of Architecture and Built Environment at GJU, said: “This conference has come to bridge the gap between theory and practice, and will help in developing the field.”

### In brief

#### Deal signed with UAE provider

The University has signed an agreement to collaborate with Al Ghurair University (AGU), one of the largest private higher education providers in the United Arab Emirates. The agreement will lead to Birmingham City University delivering courses at AGU premises in Dubai and will allow AGU students to complete their undergraduate education in Birmingham in areas including computer science, telecommunications and networks, and business information technologies.

#### University joins forces with Malaysian provider

An admission agreement has been signed between the University and Tunku Abdul Rahman University College (TAR UC), one of the largest private higher education providers in Malaysia. The agreement will lead to the University recognising courses taught in-country at TAR UC, and encourage advanced progression and direct entry onto a number of courses in Birmingham.

#### Shenzhen partnership moves forward

The University has signed a Memorandum of Understanding as a natural step in its growing relationship with Shenzhen University, in the Guangdong region of China. Collaborations in art, design and fashion, computing and business are under discussion, and we have hosted two visiting academics, including the former Head of Shenzhen University’s School of Fashion.

#### Film screened at European festival

One of the world’s biggest film festivals has screened a film created at the University. Valentine Dumez created her film, titled A 4363’s Trip, during her studies at the University and got the opportunity to see her work on the big screen as part of the Annecy Festival in France, in June 2015.



# Staff *success*



Professor of Marketing  
Hatem El-Gohary

Our academics continue to lead the way in their fields, helping to enhance the University's reputation through their pioneering teaching and research. They come from and maintain their links with industry, ensuring the University stays up to date with the latest thinking and providing real-life insight for our students.



## Business School professor *wins national research prize*

An academic from Birmingham City Business School has won a national award for his research on viral advertising. Professor of Marketing Hatem El-Gohary was one of the winners at the Institute for Small Business Enterprise (ISBE) Awards 2014, taking home the gold award in the Creative Industries Entrepreneurship category.

Hatem has over 20 years of experience in academia, has worked as a marketing director of a multinational company and a marketing consultant for a number of other multinationals. He is also editor-in-chief of the International Journal of Online Marketing and an associate editor of The International Journal of Customer Relationship Marketing and Management.

His winning paper, co-authored with PhD student Antonius Raghubsie and Director of Student Academic Engagement Dr Chris Lewis, was titled 'An Empirical Study of

Innovation in the Digital Advertising Process among SME Advertising Agencies in the UK: The Case of Viral Advertising'.

"To be recognised by the ISBE for our research is a fantastic achievement and the first time, to my knowledge, that the University has won an award from the organisation," he said.

The ISBE is one of the world's leading organisations for small businesses and entrepreneurship, and the 2014 conference welcomed over 400 attendees from more than 40 countries.





| Professor Kevin Singh

# Academic recognised with teaching fellowship

A Birmingham City University professor has been awarded a National Teaching Fellowship from the Higher Education Academy.

Professor Kevin Singh, Head of the Birmingham School of Architecture, was recognised for his innovative teaching and positive student feedback. Over 180 lecturers were nominated for the fellowships, which celebrate outstanding achievement in learning and teaching in higher education, in 2015.

Professor Singh, who is a graduate of the Birmingham School of Architecture, has been in his current position since 2011, having previously worked within the School as Postgraduate Programme Director.

“Needless to say I am delighted to receive such an accolade,” said Kevin. “The award comes with a £10,000 prize fund which needs to be spent on further research or initiatives, and it’ll also bring access to an amazing community of other Fellows, all of whom are innovative in their own field.”

Vice-Chancellor Professor Cliff Allan feels the award is well deserved. “This is a great recognition for Kevin,” he said. “It’s truly well-deserved and Kevin now joins a number of National Teaching Fellows here at the University.”

## In brief

### Academic appointed to government panel

Imran Awan, Deputy Director of the Centre for Applied Criminology, was appointed as an independent member of the Government’s Cross Working Group on Anti-Muslim Hatred, based in the Department for Communities and Local Government. The group is made up of a mixture of civil servants, academics and members of the Muslim community and looks to tackle problems caused by marginalisation as well as examining the role of the media.

### Staff recognised with OBEs

An expert in historic conservation and one of the country’s foremost choral conductors have both been recognised by the Queen for their work. MA Conservation of the Historic Environment course leader Harriet Devlin received an MBE for the services she has provided to heritage and the historic environment while Jeffrey Skidmore, Artistic Director of Birmingham Conservatoire’s Early Music programme, was recognised with an OBE for services to music.

| Harriet Devlin



# Praise for crash test analysis work

Work carried out by the Faculty of Computing, Engineering and the Built Environment to streamline the process for crash testing vehicles has been named fifth in a list of the top 20 computer science projects by impact.

Professor Cham Athwal and his team worked with the Motor Industry Research Association (MIRA), to research and develop a system that could blend multimedia such as video footage, stills and sensor data from multiple sources, and mesh it into a single chronological record of the crash.

Investigators could pinpoint an instant in a crash, and see information from different angles and sources, synced to an exact split-second.

Professor Athwal said: “The system itself is very flexible. It was originally built with car crash testing in mind, but it has been useful for all sorts of engineering and scientific investigations where data and video are recorded together.”

The list was published by the UK Computing Research Committee, the Council of Professors and Heads of Computing and the BCS Academy, drawn from around 280 case studies submitted by UK universities to the 2014 Research Excellence Framework (REF).

| The system in action



| Professor Kathryn Moore

### Ambassador role to benefit University

Professor of Landscape Architecture Kathryn Moore has been appointed World President of the International Federation of Landscape Architects. In her role as World President, Professor Moore is embarking on a demanding schedule of international travel to speak about the power of landscape architecture. Professor Moore said: “It is a tremendous opportunity for the University to be at the heart of a long-established international organisation with connections to major partners across the world.”

### Professor speaks at UN conference

Professor of Interdisciplinary Environmental Research Mark Reed was among the speakers at a global conference warning of the growing deterioration of the global landscape. Professor Reed, together with University of Leeds Professor Lindsay Stringer, presented the first comprehensive report into global climate change and issues such as deforestation and soil erosion at the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in March 2015.

| Professor Mark Reed





# Student *success*

We aim to provide the learning and support that enables our students to progress to successful achievement in their chosen field. The regular stream of prizes, awards and accolades received by those studying on our programmes provides ample evidence of the benefits they gain from studying at a forward-thinking and innovative university.

Adam  
Lawrence



## Peaky Blinders role *for acting graduate*

A recent graduate from the University landed a role in the second series of Birmingham-set BBC drama *Peaky Blinders*.

Adam Lawrence, who graduated from Birmingham School of Acting (BSA) in 2012 with a BA (Hons) in Acting featured in the show alongside Hollywood A-listers including Cillian Murphy (*The Dark Knight Rises*, *28 Days Later*) and Tom Hardy (*Inception*, *Black Hawk Down*).

Adam said: "Having grown up in Birmingham, the opportunity to represent not just the School but also my city is something I am extremely proud of.

"My training at BSA has taught me more than just how to act. Acting training is a life experience of its own, and BSA has really prepared me for going into the industry."

Adam, who has also featured in Channel 4 drama *Dates* and daytime series *WPC 56*, was nominated for Spotlight's Best Actor prize in 2012.

The awards promote the next generation of acting talent by asking 21 drama schools from across the UK to select their most promising student to compete and represent their school.

The second series of *Peaky Blinders* was shown on BBC2 in October and November 2014. The critically-acclaimed show tells the story of a gangster family in Birmingham in the period following the First World War.



# Student nurse secures *prestigious scholarship*



1 Nurses at City South Campus

A student from the School of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work has been named Cavell Nurses’ Trust’s Outstanding Student Nurse of the Year 2015 – the third time in four years that one of our students has won this prize.

BSc (Hons) Nursing student Deborah Cooper received a scholarship from the Trust, which she will use to pay for an elective placement, to widen the scope of her learning. The Trust provides financial grants, advice and support to UK nurses, and its scholarship scheme recognises exceptional student nurses and midwives from across the UK.

Deborah said: “To have the funding to go on an elective really opens up doors to me. I’m looking forward to the experience and also sharing what I’ve seen and learned with my fellow students. I can’t quite believe that I won because the competition was fierce,

but obviously the judges saw something in my application that they liked!”

Deborah has always been interested in pursuing a healthcare career and, following her biology degree, worked as a community carer and healthcare assistant. She found this experience inspiring and realised that she would like to train to become a nurse.

She added: “The course attracts students from so many different backgrounds and we work well together, learning from each other. There’s always so much to learn and so many differing perspectives to understand.”

1 Deborah with her award



*“To have the funding to go on an elective really opens up doors to me. I’m looking forward to the experience and also sharing what I’ve seen and learned with my fellow students.”*

Deborah Cooper

## In brief

### Harvey Nichols chooses graduate’s designs for new campaign

A graduate from our BA (Hons) Textile Design course has seen her work go on show in the shop window of top department store Harvey Nichols, in London. Amy Sellers was commissioned to create the exclusive display after representatives of the store saw her final degree project at the New Designers show, which showcases work by some of the UK’s top graduate designers.

### Another student wins top PR award

Media graduate Danielle Hudspith was named by the Midlands Chartered Institute of Public Relations (CIPR) as their Student of the Year for 2014 – the ninth consecutive year that one of our students has taken the title. Danielle, who won the award thanks to her outstanding final year degree project with the charity Baby Lifeline, has since earned a place on the Vodafone graduate scheme as a Corporate Communications Executive.

### Graduate named Headteacher of the Year

Graduate Paul Harris won the Headteacher of the Year award at the 2015 Times Education Supplement Schools Awards. He was chosen for his efforts in turning round Curwen Primary and Nursery School in London from being on Ofsted’s radar as a ‘cause for concern’ on his appointment in 2006 to being judged ‘outstanding’ just three years later.

### Students see off Cambridge in moot final

Students from the School of Law won a mini-pupillage at a prestigious Lincoln’s Inn firm after coming first in a moot competition at the Bedfordshire University Invitational Moot. The Mooting Society were pitted against the University of Cambridge in the competition final and came out on top. It was one of three national competitions the Society took part in during the academic year.



1 The project focused on how to tackle drought in Nepal

# Idea to combat drought *scoops national award*

A group of BSc (Hons) Mechanical Engineering students were crowned winners of a national engineering competition for their work on finding potential ways to combat drought in Nepal.

Suhayb Manzoor, Giovanni Forioni Bragaia, Shamul Hoque and Athos Graton Roman fought off competition from over 3,000 students at 23 UK universities to win the Engineering Without Borders (EWB) Challenge.

The students wowed judges with their water harvesting system, designed to collect moisture from fog and dew in the atmosphere, which could contribute towards the provision of safe drinking water during dry seasons.

As a result, they got to attend EWB’s International Educational Course in

Mexico City to further their understanding of the role of engineering in international development.

Suhayb said: “We designed a bamboo structure with a hydrophobic mesh net that the fog would travel through and the dew would collect on. Condensed water would then gather and collect in a tank. We built apparatus and tested our ideas at labs here at the University, replicating weather conditions in Nepal as closely as possible.”

*“We built apparatus and tested our ideas at labs here at the University, replicating weather conditions in Nepal as closely as possible.”*

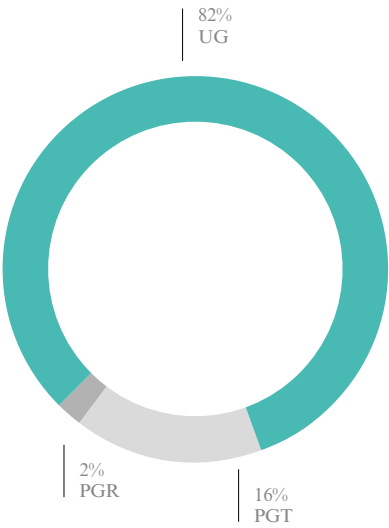
Suhayb Manzoor



# Key facts *and figures*

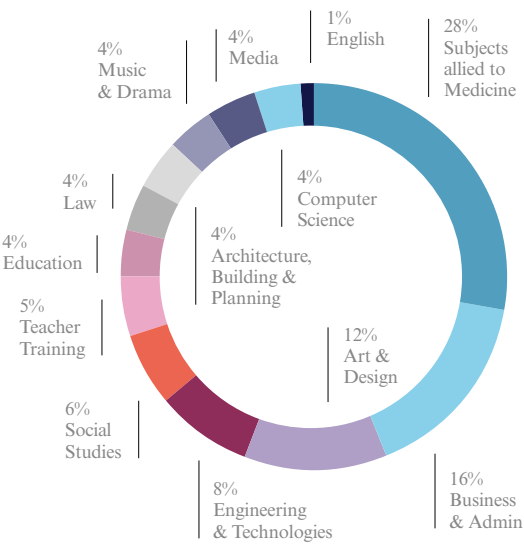
Students by level of course

Course	Full-time	Part-time	Total
UG	16,394	2,809	19,203
PG Taught	1,832	1,987	3,819
PG Research	150	165	315
Total	18,376	4,961	23,337



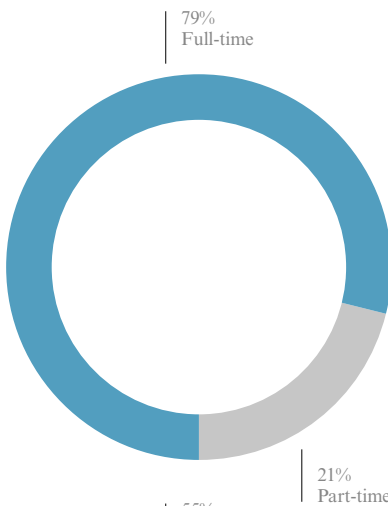
Choice of study by subject

Subjects allied to Medicine	6,532
Business & Admin	3,703
Art & Design	2,914
Engineering & Technologies	1,799
Social Studies	1,399
Teacher Training	1,126
Education	981
Law	965
Architecture, Building and Planning	945
Music and Drama	858
Media	853
Computer Sciences	832
English	351
Others	79
Total	23,337



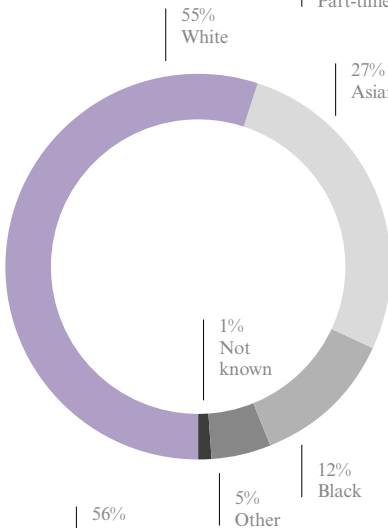
Attendance mode

Full-time	18,376
Part-time	4,961
Total	23,337



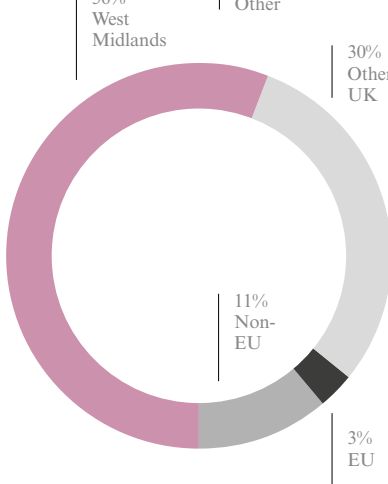
Student ethnicity

White	12,715
Asian	6,261
Black	2,892
Other	1,216
Not known	253
Total	23,337



Domicile (full-time only)

West Midlands	10,295
Other UK	5,470
EU	576
Non-EU	2,035
Total	18,376



All staff by category

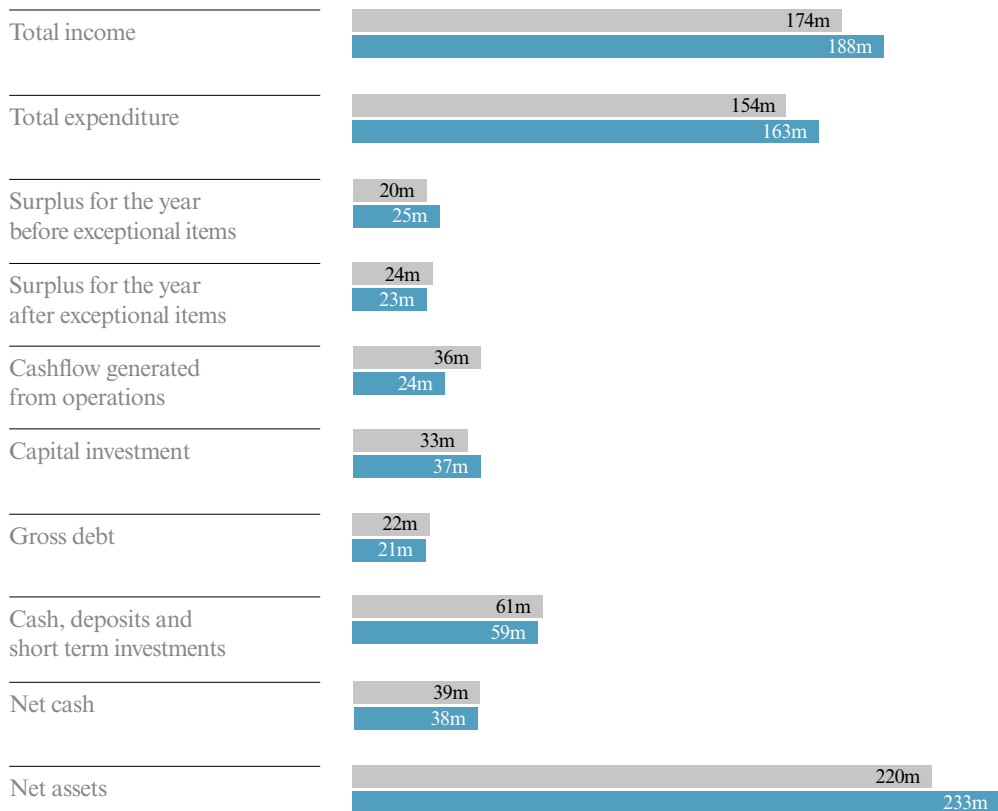
	2014/15 Headcount	2014/15 Full-time equivalent
Academic	1,579	982
Managers, professional services and support staff	1,106	1,012



Consolidated accounts for 2014/15

2014 (£)

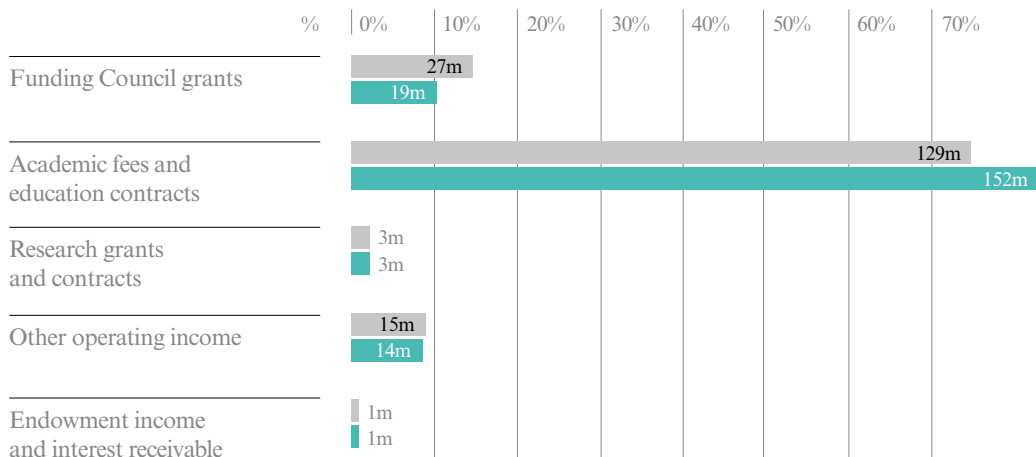
2015 (£)



Income

2014 (£)

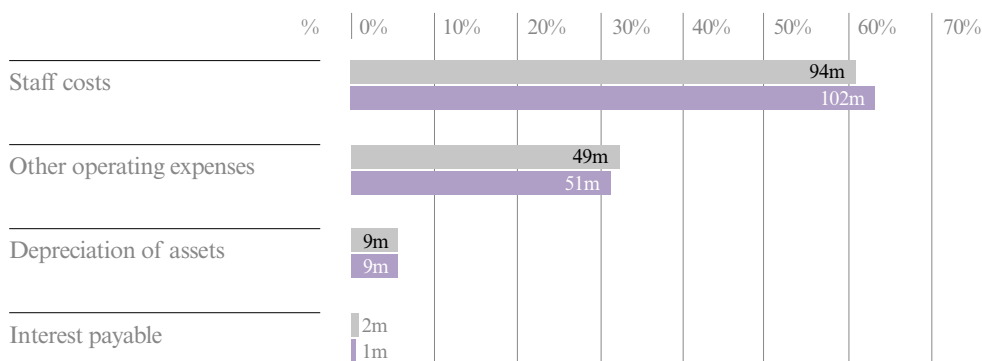
2015 (£)



Expenditure

2014 (£)

2015 (£)



Key officeholders

Key officeholders who held office during the 2014/15 academic year

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

Councillor Shafique Shah (to May 2015)

Councillor Raymond Hassall (from June 2015)

Board of Governors

Pro-Chancellor and Chairman

Mr Alex Stephenson, CBE (to 23 April 2015)

Mr Mark Hopton, FCA (from 23 April 2015)

Other Members

Professor Cliff Allan, FRSA

Dr Waqar Azmi, OBE (to 2 October 2014)

Mr Jim Beeston, OBE

Professor Stuart Brand

Mr Ian Burke (from 1 April 2015)

Ms Andrea Chalk (from 23 April 2015)

Honorary Alderman John Charlton, CBE (to 31 March 2015)

Mr Vic Cocker

Rt Hon Lord Grocott of Telford

Professor Graham Henderson, CBE, DL

Mr Mark Hopton, FCA (Pro-Chancellor and Deputy Chairman to 23 April 2015)

Ms Ann Jones

Mr Andrew Jowett

Mr Joe Kelly (Pro-Chancellor and Deputy Chairman from 23 April 2015)

Ms Jenny Ladbrooke

Ms Jenny Loynton

Mr Niall Magennis (to 30 June 2015)

Dame Julie Moore (from 16 July 2015)

Professor David Roberts (to 31 March 2015)

Mr Raaj Shamji (to 1 December 2014)

Mr Shaun Smith

Professor Philip Thickett (from 23 April 2015)

Ms Jenny Watkins (from 1 July 2015)

External Members of Board Committees

Audit Committee

Ms Sally Bevan

Mr Nick Longley

Senior Staff of the University

Vice-Chancellor

Professor Cliff Allan, FRSA

Pro-Vice-Chancellor

Professor Julian Beer, MinstKT FIKE (from 2 March 2015)

Pro-Vice-Chancellor

Professor Mary Carswell, MBA, BSc, Chartered MCIPD

Pro-Vice-Chancellor

Professor Fiona Church, MA, CertEd, PFHEA (from 1 October 2014)

Pro-Vice-Chancellor

Professor Paul Ivey, BSc, DPhil (to 31 October 2014)

Pro-Vice-Chancellor

Professor Bashir Makhoul, BA, MA, PhD

Interim Pro-Vice-Chancellor

Dr Paul Hartley (from 27 October 2014)

Director of Finance and Resource Allocation

Mr Richard Spilsbury, BSc, MSc FCA

University Secretary and Director of Operations

Ms Christine Abbott, BA (Hons), MA, DMS



Birmingham City University  
University House  
15 Bartholomew Row  
Birmingham  
B5 5JU

T: +44 (0)121 331 5000  
[www.bcu.ac.uk](http://www.bcu.ac.uk)