

MINUTES OF MEETING



Academic Assembly

Tuesday 2 May 2023 at 12.30pm

Virtual meeting via TEAMS

Present:

Professor Alan Hayes, Chair and 36 members

Attending by invitation:

Hannah South, Head of Library Academic Services

Helen Rhodes, School of Management Librarian

Rachael Kotarski, Head of Library Research Services

Secretariat

Dr Caroline Harris, Secretary

Katie Anderton, Secretary

Introductory items

767 - Welcome and Quorum

The Chair welcomed attendees and members. A particular welcome was given to the Vice-Chancellor & President who attended Academic Assembly to give the Statutory Address.

768 - Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

769 - Minutes of the Previous Meeting - Paper AA22/23-06

The minutes of the previous meeting of Academic Assembly held on 26 October 2022 were approved.

770 - Actions and Matters Arising

The action log was noted.

Part I

771 – Relevant decisions of Senate

It was noted that the minutes of meetings of Senate may be viewed [here](#). The Chair drew attention to the following Senate approvals:

November 2022:

- the appointment of an additional Deputy Independent Advisor to Postgraduate Research students.

MINUTES OF MEETING

- a new MSc Data Science & Statistics (Health) and MSc Data Science & Statistics (Health) with placement commencing 2023/24.
- a new placement variant of the following courses: MSc Molecular Biosciences (Microbiology), MSc Molecular Biosciences (Medical Biosciences), MSc Molecular Biosciences (Bioinformatics), MSc Biotechnology (Healthcare Technologies), and MSc Biotechnology (Sustainable Biotechnologies) commencing 2023/24.
- a new MSC in Education exit award to the Doctor of Education (EdD).
- amendment to the Terms of Reference of the Boards of Studies and agreed to recommend to Council that these be incorporated into ordinance 10. Senate approved the new set of standing orders for the Boards of Studies.
- amendments to Academic Ethics and Integrity Committee Terms of Reference.
- an amendment to the Senate Scheme of Delegation to delegate authority to the Chairs of the Student Disciplinary and Misconduct Panel for the appointment of members of the panel

February 2023:

- the adapted credit quanta for use in the articulation of Undergraduate Assessment Regulations 23-24.
- agreed to recommend the proposed amendments to the University Charter to Council.
- the Zero Carbon Futures PG Diploma and PG Certificate as standalone courses.
- the University of Salamanca as a new strategic partner.
- a delegation of authority to the Head of Governance to make changes to the University's Governance Framework to allow for the posthumous award of academic titles, subject - where relevant - to the approval of Council.
- the introduction of the honorary title of "Distinguished Professor".
- the membership and Terms of Reference for the Senate Steering Group.
- the academic year dates for 2024/25 and agreed to recommend to Council the Calendar of Meetings for 2023/24.

April 2023:

- new Undergraduate Assessment Regulations, noting that any substantive corrections needed would be brought to the next meeting of Senate - any non-substantive corrections would go to EQSC.
- agreed to provide assurance to Council on postgraduate degree outcomes.
- a new full-time and part-time MSc Criminology course.

MINUTES OF MEETING

- a new exit award for MSc Forensic Psychology.
- the Code of Practice on Research Integrity.
- agreed to recommend the Precautionary Measures Policy to Council and to make the consequential changes to associated policies.
- dates and venue for winter ceremonies.
- the Senate Parental Leave Policy.
- amendments to the Terms of Reference for the Godfrey and Sue Hall Prize Committee and the Peter Troughton Prize Committee.
- to grant a sabbatical year to Jura Neverauskaite.

772 – Vice-Chancellor's Statutory Address

The Chair welcomed the Vice-Chancellor to the meeting and invited their statutory address to members in accordance with Statute 22.3; the presentation is appended to the minutes. The Vice-Chancellor thanked the Chair for their role with the Assembly and for arranging the Ask Me Anything sessions. The Vice-Chancellor concluded by paying tribute for the achievements of the University despite the challenges of the year.

Questions were put to the Vice-Chancellor from members of Academic Assembly:

Questions were asked on the financial future of the higher education sector in the coming years in response to the cost-of-living crisis. The Vice-Chancellor noted that nobody had predicted the recent global events but that in similar periods of financial hardship institutions who achieved highly in the sector manage to fare well and the current numbers of both domestic and international students were positive and the research income for the University was steady. They noted that this did not mean the University were passive in the current financial climate and work was being done to increase efficiency throughout the University and identify areas where income could be increased.

The future of the balance of domestic and international students was queried and the possibility of imposed quotas in Higher Education. The Vice-Chancellor responded that there was no fixed plan but so long as domestic students were not disadvantaged, the University would continue to encourage international students although there would be considerations in place regarding the accommodation requirements both on campus and within the city. It was noted that there was hesitancy within the sector to impose quotas due to the impact on students from widening participation backgrounds and from an equality, diversity and inclusion perspective.

The synergy between placements and degree apprentices was queried, as placements had reduced in companies wanting degree apprentices. The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education) responded that the University had not lost placements, with strong students helping to develop good employer relationships. The aim was for a large number of apprentices in a small number of companies, but this was a work in progress with level 7, Masters level

MINUTES OF MEETING

currently covered. It was noted that the relationship between apprentices and knowledge exchange/Research & Innovation Services was critical.

Clarification was sought on the Master Plan timing. The Vice-Chancellor replied that the BANES Local Plan was being updated hence the Master Plan was with BANES for ongoing discussion, followed by further consultation.

The Chair thanked the Vice-Chancellor for the informative presentation.

773 – Inspira Experiences

Two senior lecturers from the School of Management gave an overview of the trial taking place in the School to use Inspira for in-person closed-book invigilated examinations. Trials in the autumn found that many students could log on at the same time successfully, but that the safe browser that could be installed to disallow access to anything other than Inspira could not be downloaded to all devices. Special scanning sheets were available for diagrams and mathematical equations. Student performance was found to be comparable to previous years and both staff and students liked the system.

The semester one examinations trial, which excluded very large first year examinations, was successful hence Inspira would be used for almost all Semester 2 examinations. Lessons learned included better student briefing, invigilating from the back of the room to be able to view screens although this was difficult in large lecture halls and asking for all devices to be rebooted before the start of the examination to avoid 'cut and paste'.

A member suggested that this method could not be used more widely due to insufficient wi-fi across campus; however, it was thought what the lack of available power sockets was more likely to be the issue (the new School of Management building has a power point for each desk).

774 – Elections for Senators

The Chair reminded members that nominations were being sought for three Professors and five non-professorial members of academic staff to serve on Senate 2023-2026 and encouraged nominations.

775 – Academic Assembly Review Update – Paper AA22/23-08

The Chair introduced the update on review actions. They advised that the Climate Emergency Response Group was reactivating and that an Ask Me Anything session would be organised on this issue.

Action: Chair to organise an AMA session on the topic of the Climate Emergency and the University of Bath.

Part 2

776 – Programme of Meetings for 2022/23

Academic Assembly noted the programme of meetings:

- Wednesday 25 October 2023 at 1.15pm, by Teams

MINUTES OF MEETING

- Tuesday 30 April 2024 at 12.30pm, by Teams, to include the Vice-Chancellor's statutory address.

777 – Any Other Business

The Chair advised that the Director of Human Resources and the Head of Governance had been due to talk to the Assembly on the method of recruitment of a new Vice-Chancellor but unfortunately the Director of Human Resources was unwell. An Ask Me Anything session was organised for this topic on 7 June 2023.

Action: Chair to organise an AMA session on the method of recruitment of a new Vice-Chancellor.

The Chair thanked the Secretary, who was shortly retiring, for service to the Assembly for twelve years.

The meeting closed at 13:35

Please [contact the Governance Team](#) if you require any further assistance regarding this meeting.

Academic Assembly 2 May 2023

Ian White



Rankings and Reputation

National Rankings and Awards



7th in the UK in
The Guardian University Guide 2023
11 subjects in the top 10



8th overall
6th for graduate prospects
26 subjects in the top 10



8th overall for 2023
Top university in the South West
15 subjects in the top 10



1st in England and 3rd in UK
9 courses achieved satisfaction
ratings of 100%



92% of our research rated
as 'world-leading' or
'internationally excellent'



2 Queen's
Anniversary Prizes

International Rankings



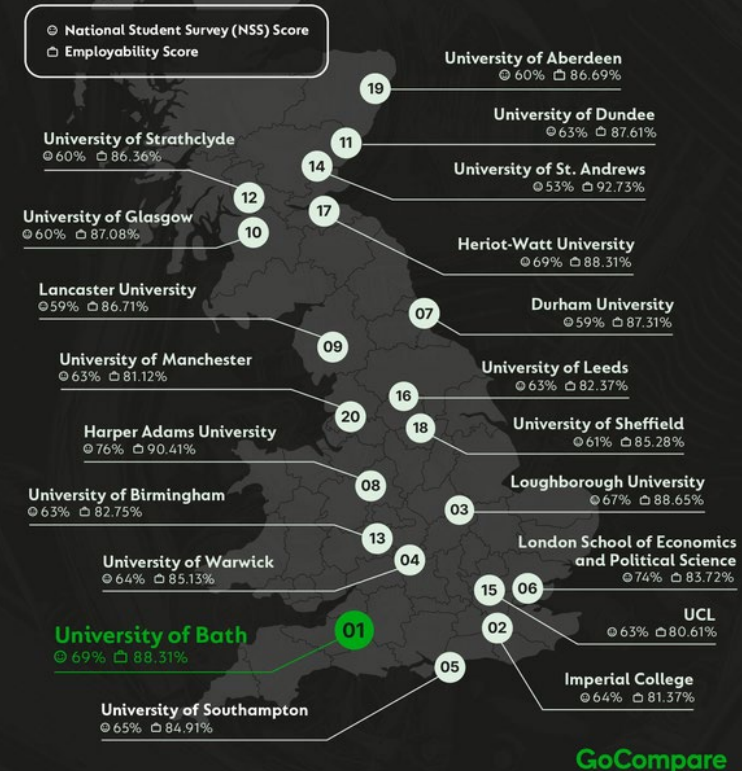
179th/1,422 for 2023
93rd in the QS Graduate Employability Rankings
134th in Leiden 2021



201-250 in THE World
University Rankings 2021

The UK University Ivy League

The top 20 according to their NSS and employability score



Our University Strategy 2021-2026

Significant progress has been made across the four key pillars

Fostering an outstanding and inclusive community

Driving excellence in education

Driving high impact research

Enhancing strategic partnerships



Our University
Our Future:
Connected



UNIVERSITY OF
BATH

Fostering an Outstanding and Inclusive Community

An increasingly diverse community

- 20,311 students representing 153 nationalities – 32% come from outside the UK
- A significant increase in UK students from Widening Participation backgrounds with the University's Gold Scholarship Programme (a 2021 upReach Student Social Mobility Awards winner) supporting up to 50 students a year
- Over 3,500 members of staff representing 87 nationalities
- Over 145,000 alumni living and working in more than 170 countries



Fostering an Outstanding and Inclusive Community

Initiatives

- Support for members of our community affected by global events and cost of living
- More regular staff surveys – Reward, Hybrid Working, Wellbeing, Workload
- Outstanding Student Engagement in SU
- Student inclusion – Living Ambassador Scheme
- Athena Swan Awards held by all 16 academic departments
- Statement of Equality Objectives approved
- Application for the University Mental Health Charter Award submitted
- Culture of Care training package launched
- Suicide Safer Community Action Plan approved
- Accessibility Committee set up and external audit commissioned
- National pay and pension issues continue, but locally we have:
 - signed a pioneering collective agreement on anti-casualisation
 - brought forward implementation of the voluntary living wage
 - completed the second round of the new Professorial pay system
 - seen a reduction in our median gender pay gap



Fostering an Outstanding and Inclusive Community



New Senior Appointments

- Professor Deborah Wilson, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences from 1 October 2022
- Professor Duncan Craig, Dean of the Faculty of Science from 1 March 2023
- Dr Randolph Cooper, Interim Chief Operating Officer from 5 December 2022
- Dev Biddlecombe, Director of Estates from 5 September 2022
- Chris Youles, Chief Information & Digital Officer from 1 May 2022



Driving Excellence in Education



Recruitment and Admissions

- 16,431 applications for FT PGT courses and 32,825 UG applications for 2022 entry
- UG applications for 2023 are up by 4.8% and PGT applications are up by 35.7%

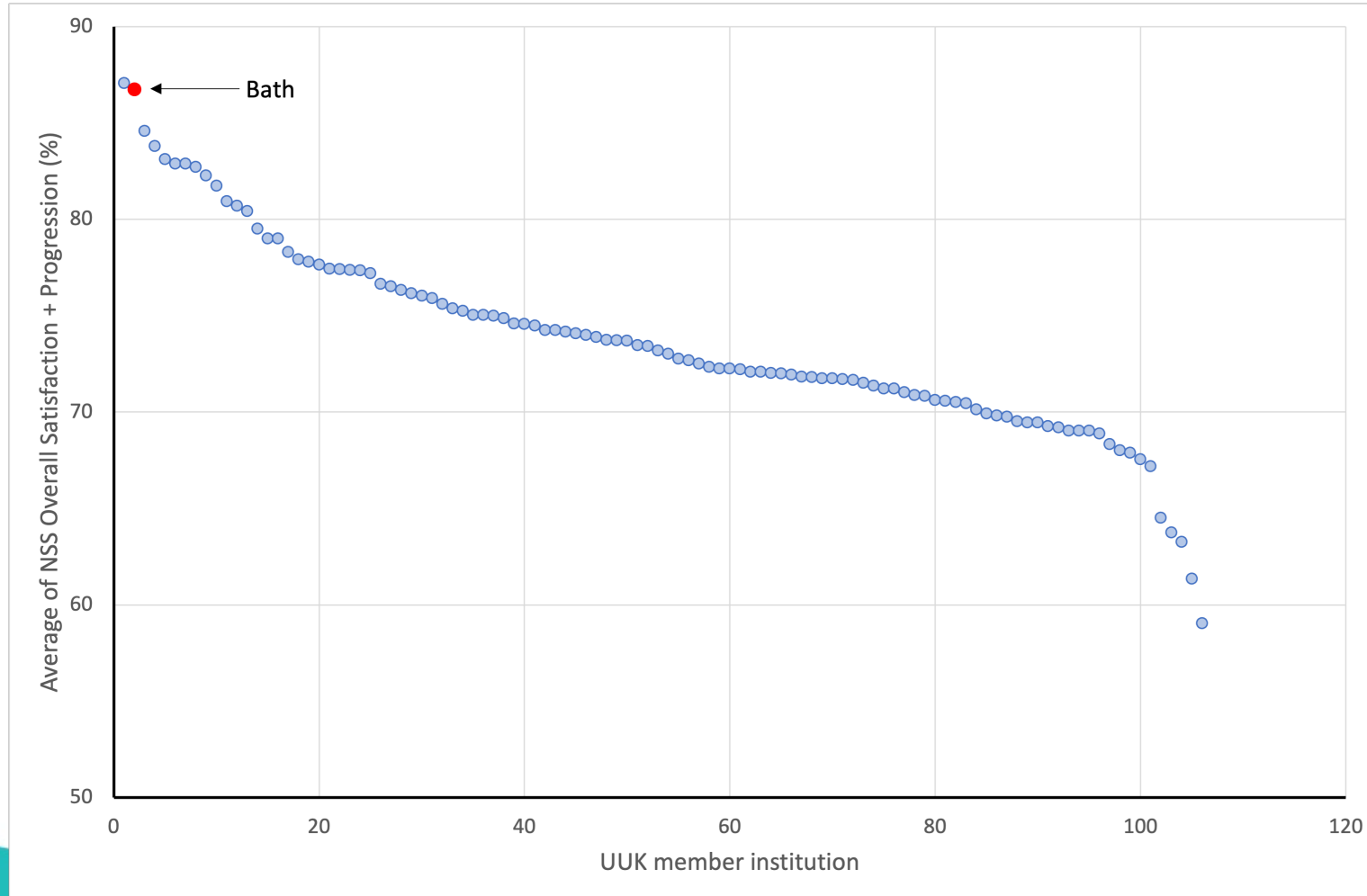
Delivery

- Last year, we returned to a campus-based education whilst retaining the successes of the 'Bath Blend'
- This year, circa 96% of all pre-Covid in-person delivery has been face-to-face, with around 4% online interactive learning
- Social and extra-curricular activities are back to pre-pandemic levels

Initiatives

- Teaching Excellence Framework 2023 – submission made in Jan 2023
- Curriculum Transformation (CT) project – preparing to launch all undergraduate courses in 2023/24
- New Education Data Insights Group – robust data and analysis to support continual improvement of our education and student experience

Education Performance



Highlights

- Highly Relevant Courses – 3rd in Employability after Imperial and Cambridge
- Approximately 70% students on placements
- Bath-led Institute of Coding – 960,000 learners

Student Success

- Mechanical Engineering graduate **Waleed Lattouf** – Young Innovators Award, Innovate UK
- Professor **Linda du Plessis** (DBA) – International Award in the 2022 Emerald and HE Teaching and Learning Association 'Outstanding Doctoral Research Awards'
- **Nav Sawhney**, MSc Humanitarianism, Conflict and Development graduate – 'Points of Light' award from the Prime Minister for his hand-cranked washing machine project
- A multidisciplinary team of Bath students – gold medal in the prestigious iGEM competition for developing a bacterial variant that turns a pollutant into a soil nutrient
- Gold Scholar **Gracie Stavers**, MChem (hons) Chemistry – Outstanding Achievement Award at the upReach Student Social Mobility Awards
- **Thomas Finn** (Mathematical Sciences PhD) – first Royal Statistical Society PhD Competition in Applied Probability winner



Driving High Impact Research

Themes

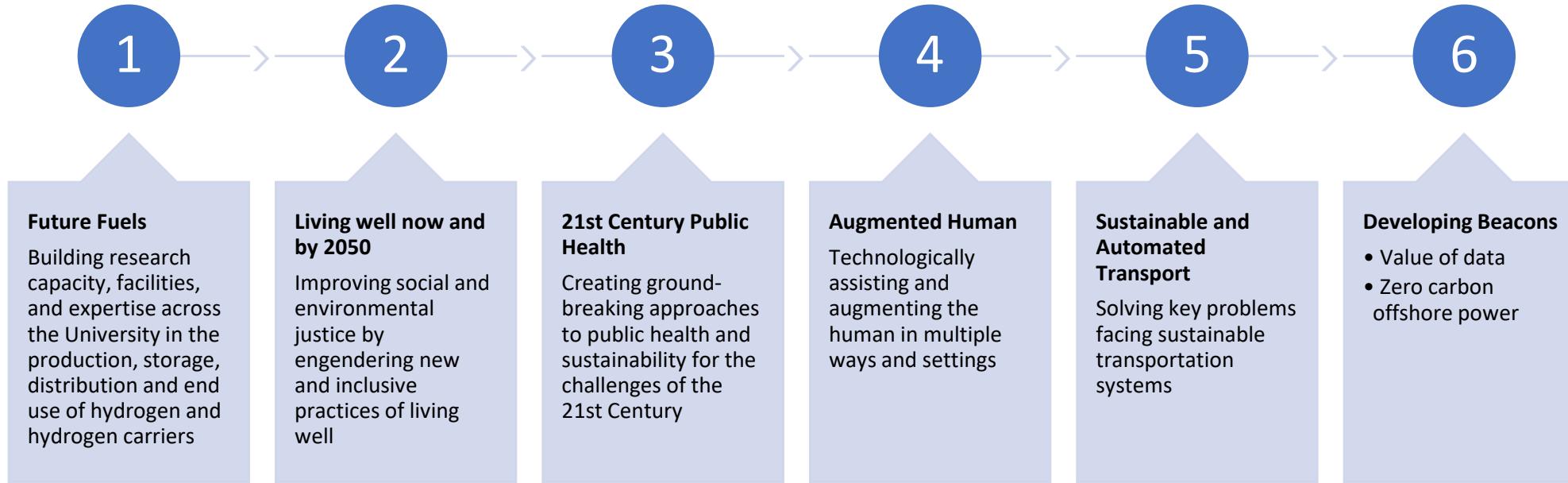
- Sustainability; Health & Wellbeing; Digital

Initiatives

- New Institute for Sustainability launched
- New Institute for the Augmented Human launching this year
- New Institute for Digital Security and Behaviour to be launched
- 40 International PGR scholarships per Faculty/School will attract a diverse and high-quality cohort
- 37 projects funded through the Research England Enhancing Research Culture Fund will address our 6 pillars of research culture: career development, collegiality, research recognition, research ethics and integrity, open research and research design
- New Economic and Social Research Council Impact Acceleration Account (IAA) funding of £1.25 million will support a wide range of social, economic and behavioural science impact activities
- Bath leading the £12M EPSRC-funded Cellular Agriculture Manufacturing Hub
- Bath Beacons scheme developing with second round soon to launch



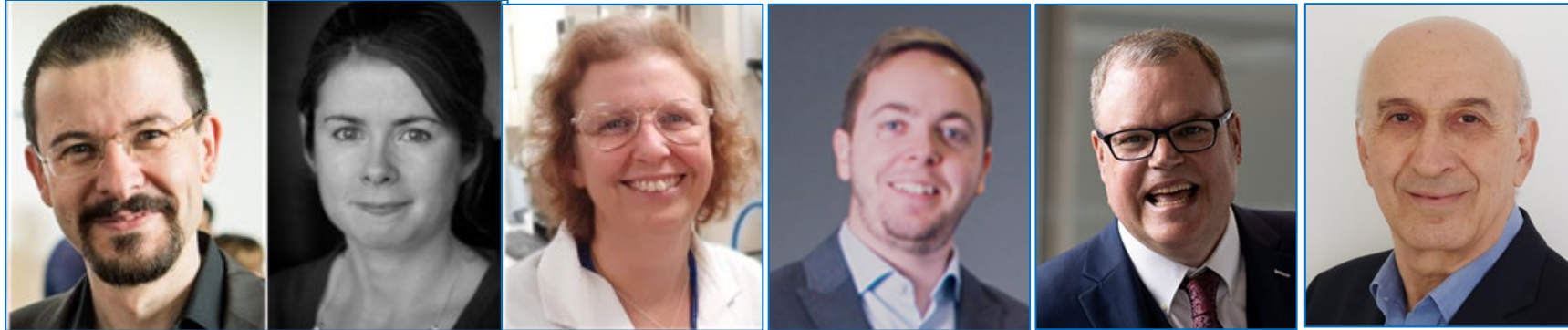
Driving High Impact Research



Bath Beacons

Our multidisciplinary Beacons empower our research community to tackle major global challenges by building consortia for large-scale funding.

Driving High Impact Research – External Recognition



Professor Ventsislav Valev – Fellow of the Institute of Physics and Fellow of SPIE

Professor Lorraine Whitmarsh – MBE for services to Social Research in Climate Change, Energy and Transport

Dr Ben Metcalfe – Vice-President (Academic) and Fellow of the Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine

Dr Christine Edmead – Fellow of the British Pharmacological Society

Professor Phil Tomlinson – Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences

Professor Ismet Gursul – Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics

Enhancing Strategic Partnerships

Research alliances, enterprise partnerships and other collaborations



- iSTART – providing a new facility in the new Bath Quays business district offering research, innovation and enterprise support for businesses and skills development for residents in partnership with Bath Spa University, Bath College and B&NES Council
- Local collaborations in Health: RUH, Guild Living – enhancing urban later-life living communities
- Additional funding of £3.39M through the WECA for projects including the development of Hydrogen infrastructure at IAAPS and an upgrade to the CAMERA motion capture facility
- Innovation Centre for Applied Sustainable Technologies - located in Carriage Works, Swindon with Oxford, NCC, CPI, SWLEP
- Collaborations with leading large-scale organisations: BT, CERN
- Success in the second Knowledge Exchange Framework – Bath substantially outperformed its peer group in three perspectives: Working with Businesses; IP and Commercialisation; and CPD and Graduate Start-Ups
- Partnerships with elite sports teams and national/international bodies

Sporting Success

- More than 100 international medals won and new elite training centres opened during a stunning sporting 2022 at the University
- Outstanding SU sports success
- Bath again named one of the top 10 places in the world to study sport (QS World University Rankings by Subject 2022)
- The University, with Pentathlon GB, UK Sport and B&NES Council, will host the UIPM Modern Pentathlon and Laser Run World Championships in August 2023
- Bath continues to be a top training venue for national and international teams
- A new dedicated training facility for the world-leading Great Britain wheelchair fencing squad has opened at the University
- Bath and Edinburgh awarded a new International Olympic Committee Research Centre



The Times and Sunday Times University of the year 2023



UNIVERSITY OF
BATH

THE  TIMES
THE SUNDAY TIMES

**GOOD
UNIVERSITY
GUIDE
2023**

**UNIVERSITY
OF THE
YEAR**