

Minutes of a Meeting of Academic Assembly held on Tuesday 4 May 2021 at 12.30pm held remotely via Teams

Present:

Dr J White (Chair)
and 115 members

Attending by invitation:

Mrs K Bradshaw, Mr A Hutchinson, Mr C Iacono, Ms H Rhodes, Ms H South, Mr D Stacey

In attendance:

Dr C Harris, Secretary to Academic Assembly

722 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

723 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the meeting held on 28 October 2020 (Paper AA20/21-009) were approved as a correct record of the proceedings subject to an addition to minute 720 (addition in italics):

It was noted *by an Academic Assembly-elected Senator* that it would be helpful if more Senators attended Academic Assembly meetings.

724 Matters Arising

Minute 718 – Jeff Thompson had been approached and agreed to chair the Review Group (see minute 728).

This meeting of Academic Assembly had been put in members' Outlook calendars, with a good response.

725 Relevant Decisions of Senate

The Chair reminded members of Academic Assembly that she had forwarded Senate minutes to members and that reports of the meetings of Senate could be found at: <http://www.bath.ac.uk/statutory-bodies-committees/bodies-and-committees-senate/Senate/minutes/index.html>

The Chair drew attention to the following Senate approvals:

November:

The approach to mitigating impact on student assessment for 2020/21;

A new BEng (Hons) Structural & Architectural Engineering;

Dr Aurelien Mondon and Dr Emma Denham as Deputy Independent Advisors for

Postgraduate Research Students for three years;
A new Civic Engagement Award and new arrangements for the Excellence in Doctoral Supervision Prize;
Revised Terms of Reference for two Senate Committees (Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee and Academic Ethics and Integrity Committee);
Changes to Statutes to recommend to Council relating to Senate composition and functions following the Senate Effectiveness Review;

February:

In principle Council's recommendation that Senators' membership on Council be limited to a total of not more than nine years, with a recommendation that the measure should not be introduced retrospectively if possible;
Academic Year Dates 2021/22 and 2022/23;
To recommend to Council that it should adopt 'the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) working definition on anti-Semitism as a reference point in the development of our staff and student processes'. It also recommended a clarification be added to protect freedom of speech, acknowledging that it is not anti-Semitic to criticise the Government of Israel and its policies or actions alone, as other universities have done and as recommended by the by the Home Affairs Select Committee in 2016;
In principle changes regarding Student Discipline and Misconduct Committee and its Chair, and arrangements for student appeals;
Changes to the Honorary Degrees criteria and guidance;
Revised Standing Orders for Joint Committees of Council and Senate;
The Joint Scheme of delegation for Council and Senate;
Support for the University applying for the Race Equality Charter and a Silver Athena SWAN Award at institutional level.

The Chair reminded members that the composition of Senate would change following the Senate Effectiveness Review, to aid Senate with an insight across the whole University. It would consist of twelve professors with no fewer than two from each faculty and twelve non-professorial members of the Assembly with no fewer than two from each faculty. Implementation would start in 2021/22 as positions became vacant until the desired composition was reached.

726 Elections

Members of Academic Assembly noted the recent election of representatives to serve on Senate.

727 Vice-Chancellor's Statutory Address

The Chair welcomed the Vice-Chancellor to the meeting and invited him to give his statutory address to members in accordance with Statute 22.3; his presentation is appended to the minutes. The Vice-Chancellor thanked the Chair for her contribution as Chair of the Assembly.

Questions were put to the Vice-Chancellor from members of Academic Assembly. A member pointed out that the University was one of 21 universities involved with the Institute of Coding but had been very successful online with over one sixth of the nation's learners on University courses. The Vice-Chancellor paid tribute to the excellence in data science.

A member asked about plans for staff working locally to engage more globally. The Vice-Chancellor responded that Our University Our Future had led into the Civic University Agreement and engagement in the local area could be tracked to assess what other measures could be taken. He suggested that international university alliances may be easier where staff had built links hence greater opportunities for secondment, experiences elsewhere and doing new things would support success.

The Chair thanked the Vice-Chancellor for attending and for the town hall meetings.

728 Academic Assembly Review

The Assembly considered the Review Group's report Paper AA20/21-010, which covered four main areas and contained 16 recommendations. The Chair thanked Jeff Thompson, the Chair of the Review Group, who was unable to attend the meeting.

During discussion the following points were covered:

With a 10% response rate in the Assembly survey, comments and opinions may have been made from a select group. The Review Group had felt that 10% was reasonable and there was commonality of experience, but it was hard to connect with those that did not engage with the Assembly.

The survey had been supplemented with conversations with the senior team and examining the minutes. The minutes had shown the breadth of topics that the Assembly had affected.

25% of respondents had not known that they were members of the Assembly. It was suggested to prioritise induction, visits to department meetings and the executive group for the Chair to share the workload.

The Chair commented that workload associated with the role was not an issue but the opportunity to talk with a group of interested people, through formation of a Chair's Advisory Group, was welcome.

The incoming Chair would work through the recommendations.

Action: Pass on any suggestions on prioritisation of review recommendations (All members)

729 Any Other Business

Dr Steve Wharton thanked the Chair on behalf of the Academic Assembly for her care and attention as Chair during some difficult times, for suggesting the review and for her service to the University.

730 Dates of Meetings

The dates of meetings in 2021/22 were noted as:

Wednesday 27 October 2021 at 1.15pm

Tuesday 3 May 2022 at 12.30pm

The meeting concluded at 1.45pm

Action Summary

Minute No: 728 Pass on any suggestions on prioritisation of review recommendations (All members)



Academic Assembly

4 May 2021



6th in the UK in
The Guardian University
Guide 2021
13 subjects in the top 10



9th overall
5th for graduate
prospects in 2021



9th overall
6th for graduate prospects
16 subjects in the top 10



172nd/1,000 in 2020
163rd in Leiden 2019



201-250 in THE World
University Rankings 2021



2 Queen's
Anniversary Prizes



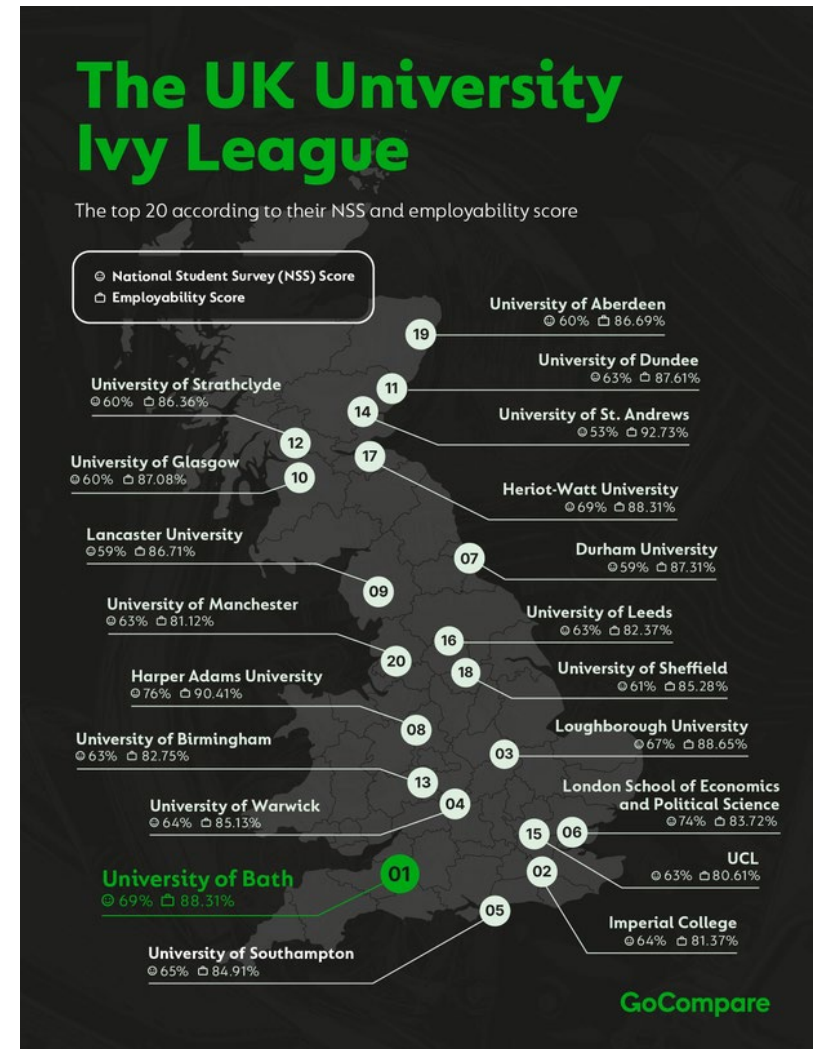
14th by GPA
87% of our research world-
leading or internationally
excellent



Gold Award
Teaching Excellence
Framework 2017



2nd in England
88.3% for overall
student satisfaction



Support for the city and wider region

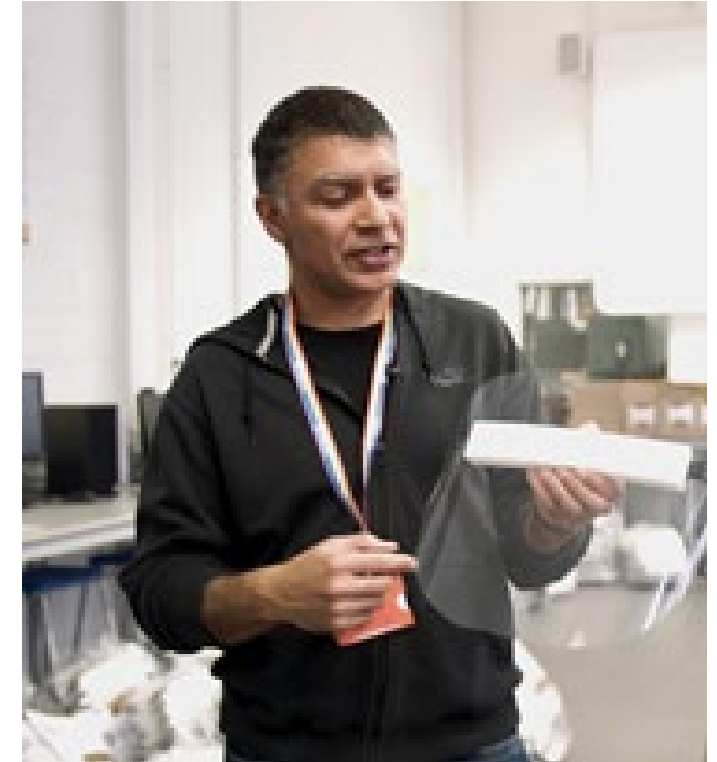
Staff and students from the Faculty of Engineering made over **400,000 pieces** of personal protective equipment (PPE) for frontline healthcare workers in the city, co-ordinating the extraordinary generosity of over 100 local businesses, groups and individuals.

The team were finalists in the Creativity for Good category at the **Creative Bath Awards**.

Through a separate project, also involving our engineers, Bath Spa University, the RUH and local community sewing groups, we took the lead in manufacturing full **PPE gowns**. These projects have been supported by generous donations in excess of £30,000 including from our alumni community.

We offered **free accommodation** for NHS workers at the Royal United Hospital in Bath who needed to isolate from their families and/or stay closer to work.

The NHS established a COVID-19 testing facility in **Carpenter House** for staff, students and members of the local community and the University has provided additional testing for staff and students **on campus** and in **Dartmouth Avenue** using Lateral Flow Technology.



- Our Centre for Photonics and Photonic Materials has been working on a rapid-response project to find [treatments for Covid-19](#) by building innovative optical devices that can access the deepest chambers of the lungs.
- Behavioural psychologist Dr Ben Ainsworth is working with others to expand and roll-out '[Germ Defence](#)', an evidence-based behaviour change website, which aims to reduce infection transmission.
- Through the [Institute of Coding](#), we've also been working with partners to support the Government's Skills Toolkit, the new online learning platform to help boost the nation's skills while people are staying at home, with courses such as 'Thriving in the Digital Workplace'.
- A new £1m research programme will see experts from Bath's [Centre for Sustainable and Circular Technologies](#) and [Water Innovation Research Centre](#) help to develop a standardised system for detecting coronavirus in wastewater, in order to provide an early warning of future outbreaks and reduce reliance on costly testing of large populations.



c/o Corinne Evans

National Chartered Institute of Public Relations Award for Best Covid Response (in house):

https://twitter.com/CIPR_Awards/status/1387705888996306945

Shortlisted Entries

- Ascenti, Re-establishing our employee health and wellness strategy
- AstraZeneca plc, Emerging strong from the pandemic
- College Green Group, College Green Group's 'Get Your Jobs' Campaign
- King's College London, Giving scientists real time data to fight COVID
- Lloyds Banking Group, The Big Conversation: Helping Britain Recover
- TUI UK & Ireland, Protecting TUI's reputation and brand trust
- University of Bath, Belong at Bath
- University of Oxford, Oxford University's COVID-19 Research



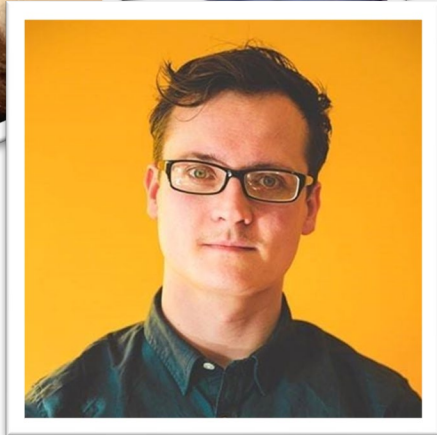
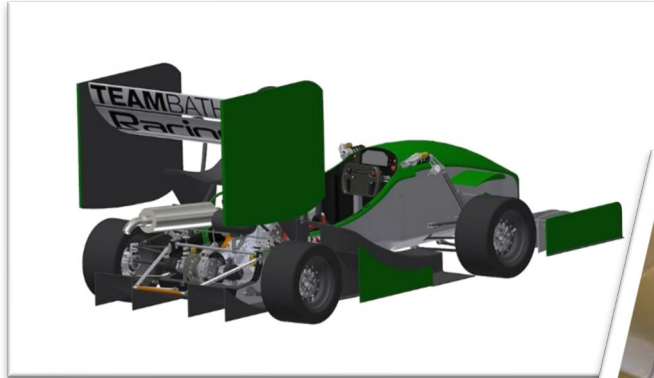
Professor Saiful Islam – 2020 American Chemical Society Henry H. Storch Award in Energy Chemistry

Dr Asel Sartbaeva – winner of the 2021 FDM Everywoman in Technology Award

Dr Vasanta Subramanian – finalist in the Science category of the Asian Women of Achievement Awards

Professor Lynn Prince Cooke – Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences

Professor Ventsislav Valev – Fellow of the Institute of Physics



Team Bath Racing won this year's [Formula Student UK](#) competition, a prestigious international motorsport engineering contest

Albert Opoku, an alumnus, is the Global British Council Study UK Alumni Awards Winner under the Social Impact Award category

2019 DBA alumna **Dr Roxanne Stockwell** is the winner of the 2020 Emerald/EFMD Outstanding Doctoral Research Award (ODRA)

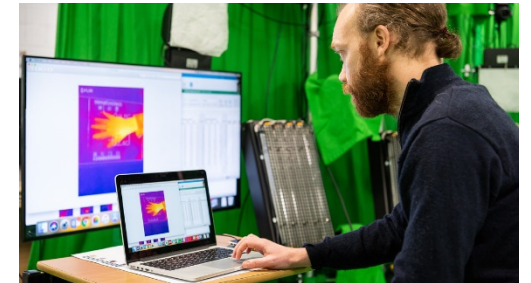
SU Volunteer Coordinator, **Joshua Hale**, has been recognised with a British Empire Medal (BEM) in the New Year 2021 Honours List

The School of Management is leading on [DiScriBe](#) (ESRC Digital Security by Design Social Science Hub+), a new £3.5 million research collaboration that will focus on the social science side of digital security



[Nurvv Run](#), a new way of tracking running data to improve technique and speed as well as reduce injury risk, was developed in part by the renowned biomechanist, Dr Grant Trewartha

CAMERA, the [Centre for the Analysis of Motion, Entertainment Research and Applications](#), has been awarded over £10m to fund its research in Intelligent Interactive and Visual Computing until 2026



Dr Jane Younger of the Milner Centre for Evolution has found that [Gentoo penguins](#) are four species, not one

- **Personnel Matters**

- Health and Wellbeing Initiatives
- Rajani Naidoo - Head of the Race Equality Taskforce
- Alex Butler - Executive Chair of the Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Committee
- Revised dignity and respect policy and procedure for staff and students
- Enhance communications, e.g. regular Town Hall events

- **Education**

- Bath Blend/Curriculum Transformation Project
- Institute of Coding – over 700,000 learners

- **Research**

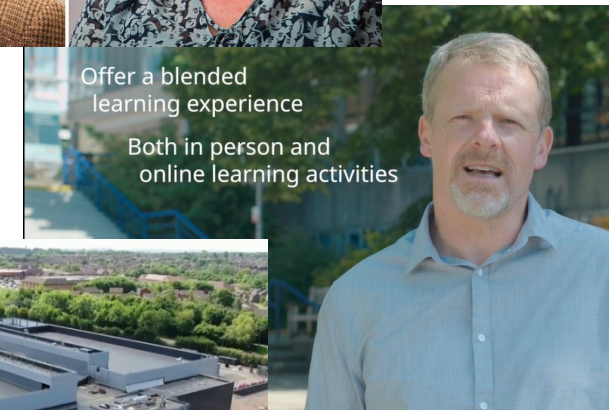
- REF Submission
- Interdisciplinary Research Network
- Bath Beacons Scheme

- **Major Developments**

- The Institute for Advance Automotive Propulsion Systems
- New School of Management building

- **University Initiatives**

- Climate Action Framework
- University of Sanctuary
- Our Shared Future

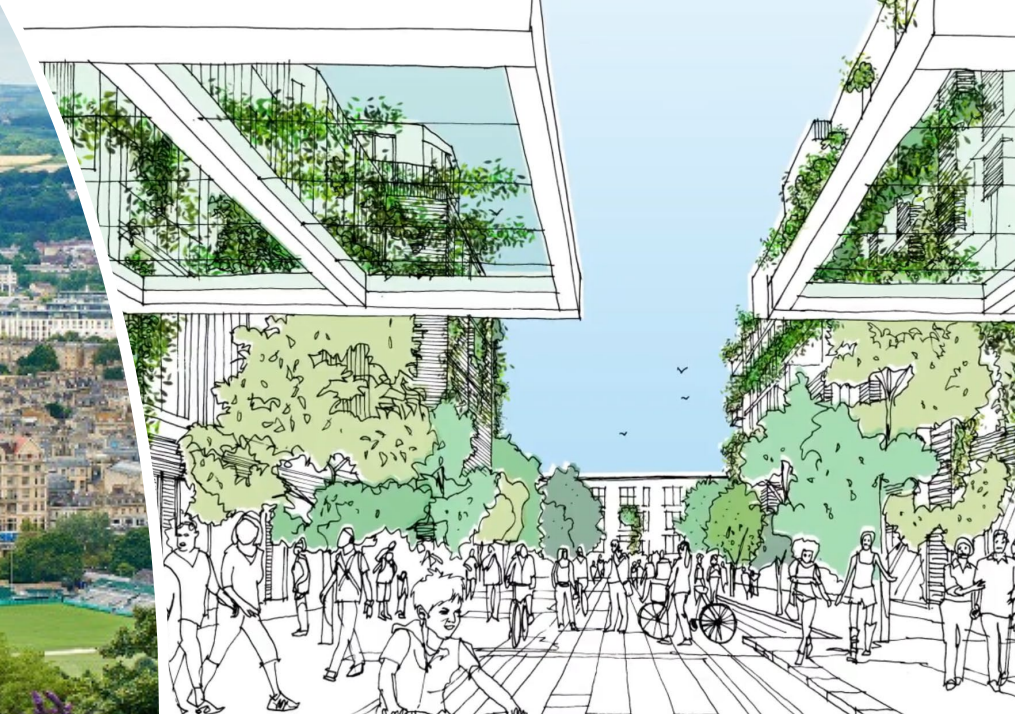


Universities of Sanctuary

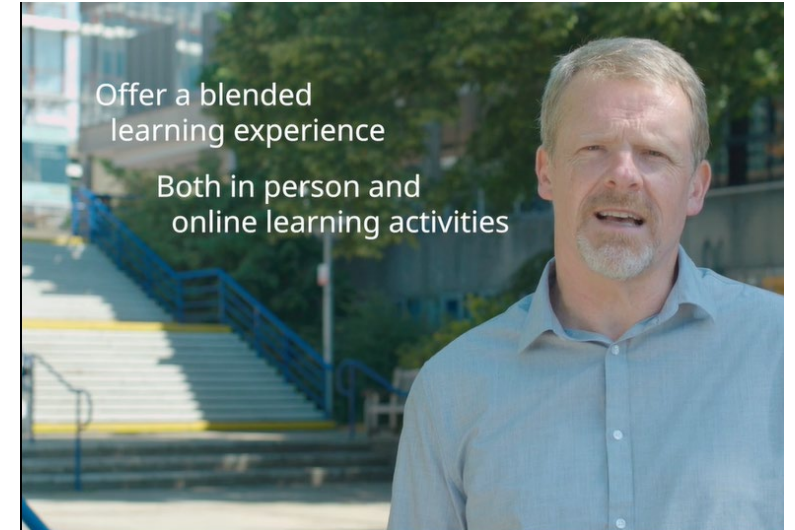
2020/21: External Engagement

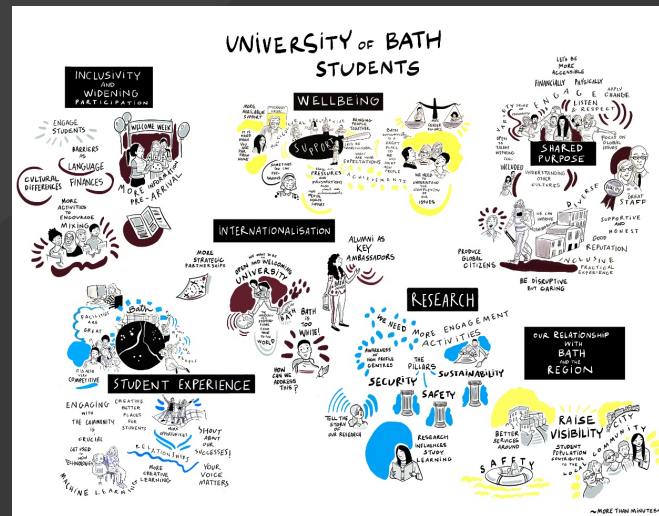
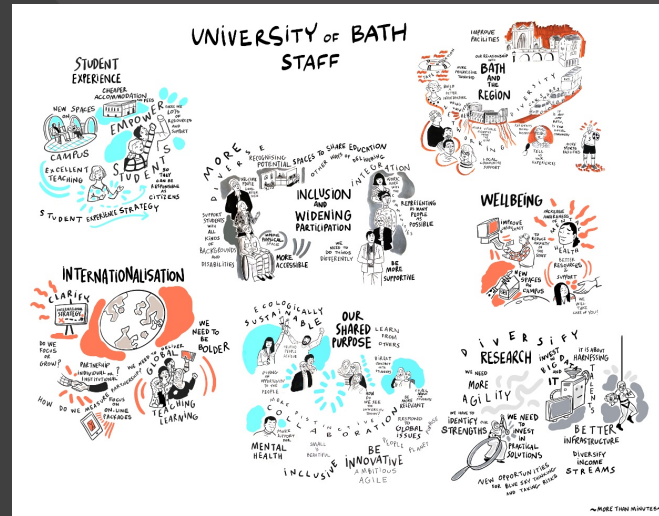
Recognising the importance of
partnership and collaboration...

- **Guild Living** – enhancing urban later life living communities
- **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
- **Bath & North East Somerset Economic Renewal Partnership** – working to support a renewed local economy post lockdown. – Bath Unlimited
- **Bath beyond 2020: Creating a resilient economy together** – a report from the University of Bath Institute for Policy Research (IPR) and The Good Economy



- Coronavirus is having major impacts and has demanded immediate attention
- In many cases, it has accelerated change, particularly in teaching – the “Bath Blend”
- During the year, we have sought to assess the current University strategy, particularly within the following areas of focus are:
 - Research, education and enterprise
 - Reputation
 - Staff and student experience
 - Engagement with alumni and key stakeholders
- The Our University, Our Future project has been invaluable in learning from our community and the alumni survey has been particularly useful in determining what our graduates value about their Bath education and what we could improve





Six world café events, with 3,368 pieces of feedback

372 students and staff signed up to the cafés

5 weeks of gallery walk and 317 comment cards

1,422 survey responses and 1,420 visits to the microsite

Many positives, and some healthy challenges and opportunities...

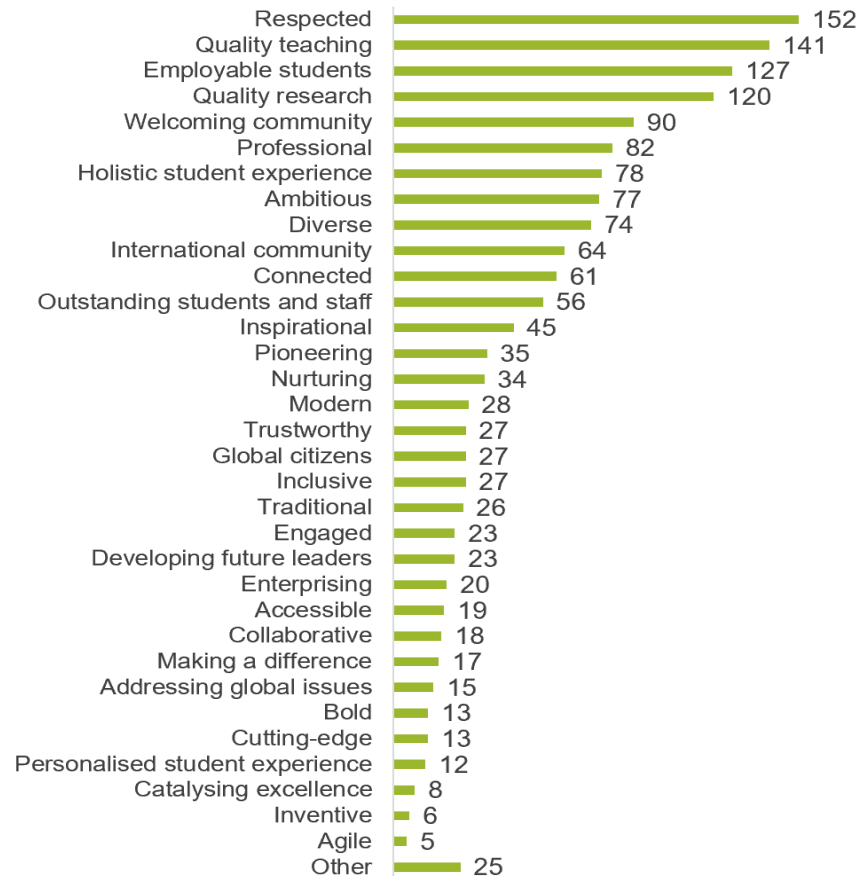
For the future:

- Students want a respected university with quality research and teaching, known for employability
- Staff prioritised a community of outstanding people, staying relevant by making a difference tackling key global issues



Alumni Survey 2016 – 2019

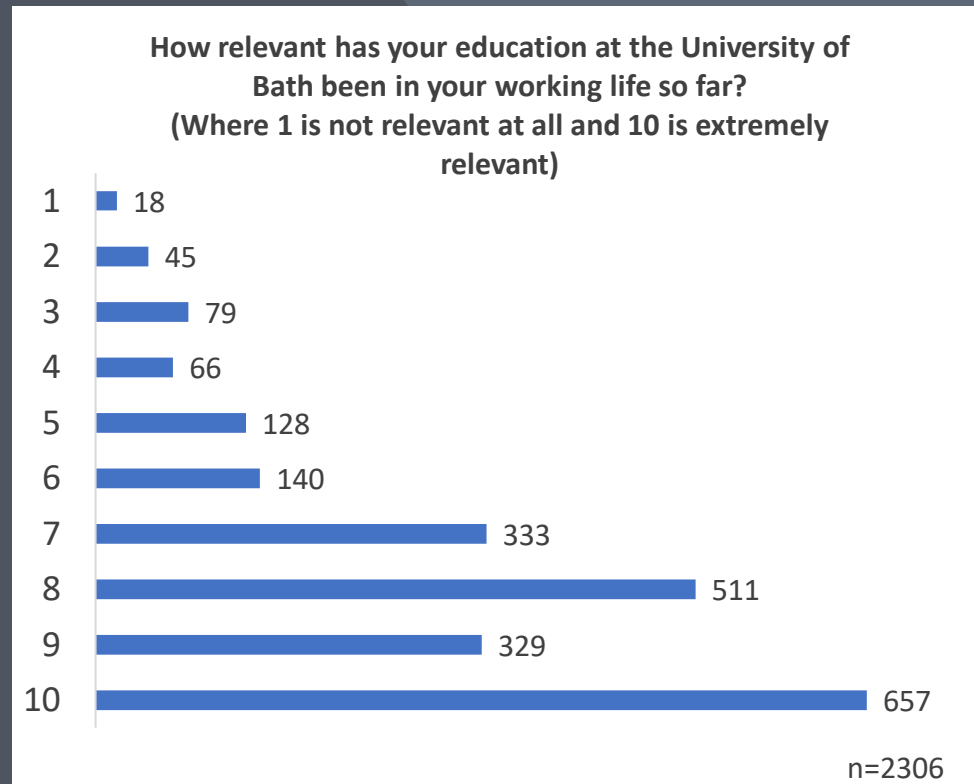
What words and phrases would you use to describe Bath at its best?



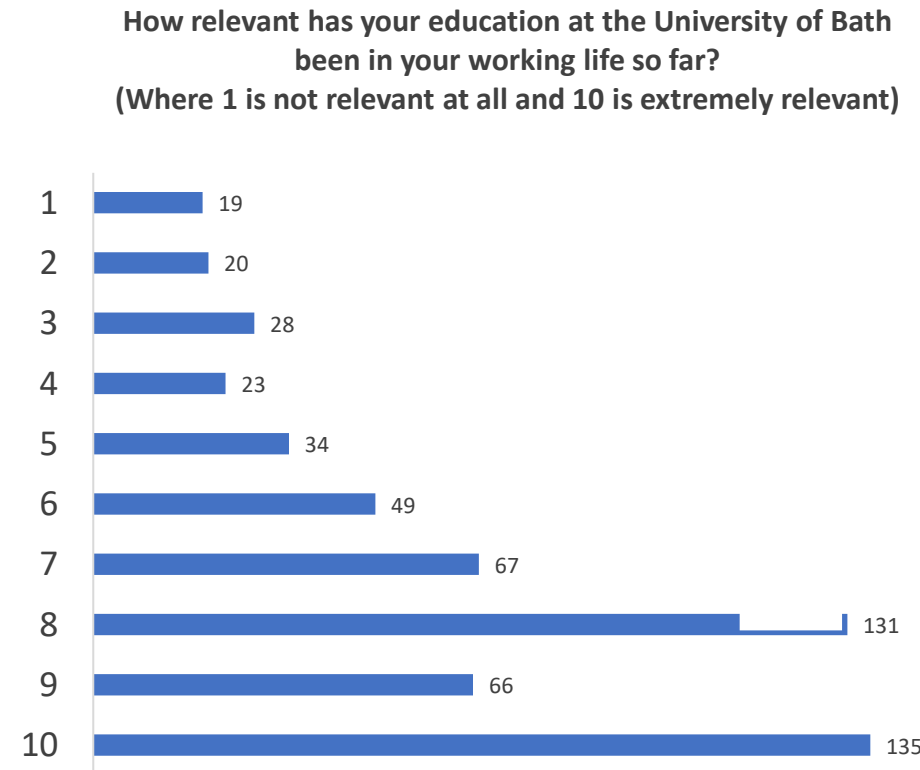
n=556

Relevance of education

1950s to 2015



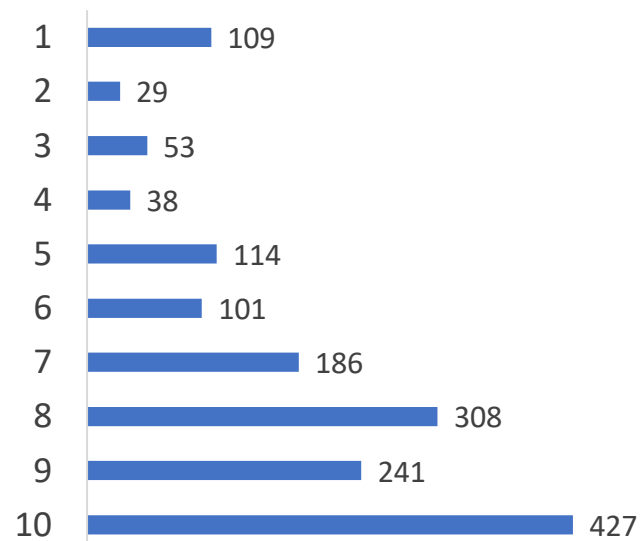
2016 to 2019



Placements

1950s to 2015

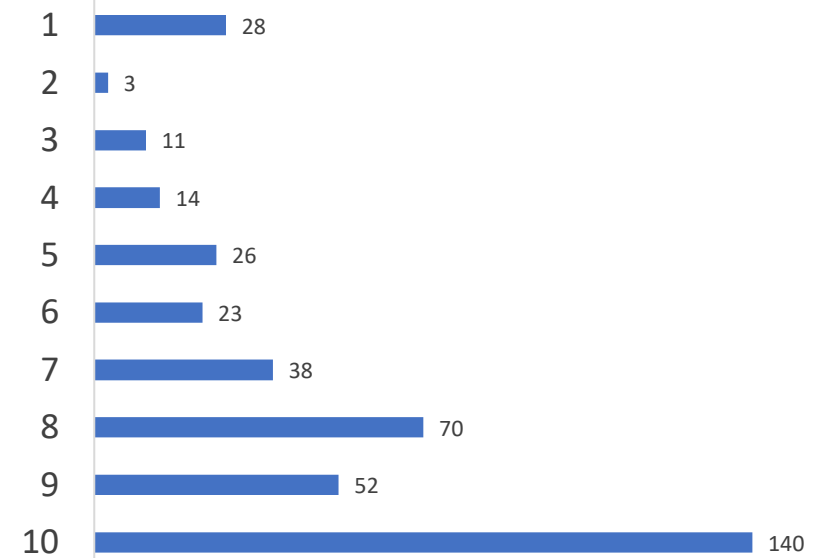
If you went on placement, how important has this been in your working life so far?
(Where 1 is not important at all and 10 is extremely important)



n=1606

2016 to 2019

If you went on placement, how important has this been in your working life so far?
(Where 1 is not important at all and 10 is extremely important)



n=405



Fostering an
outstanding
and inclusive
community

Driving excellence
in education

Driving high
impact research

Enhancing
strategic
partnerships