

Edge Hill  
University

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**The Year in Review**

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**2016-17**



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# Teaching Excellence Framework

# Inspiring Teaching

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From its earliest days as the country's first non-denominational teacher training college for women, providing an excellent learning and teaching environment in which all students can achieve their academic goals has been at the heart of everything Edge Hill University does.

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**The Gold award  
– the highest  
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—



This year, the University’s commitment to creating opportunities through education was rewarded with a Gold rating in the national Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) for providing consistently outstanding teaching, learning and outcomes for its diverse student body.

The Gold award – the highest possible rating – was given to only three universities in the North West, indicating that teaching at Edge Hill is of ‘the highest quality found in the UK.’

The TEF was introduced by the Government to assess the performance of the UK’s world-class higher education sector, complementing the existing Research Excellence Framework with an analysis of teaching quality, learning environment, and student outcomes. The awards were decided by an independent TEF panel of experts, including academics, students, and employer representatives.

The TEF assessment found that ‘students from diverse backgrounds achieve consistently outstanding outcomes’ at Edge Hill, and that ‘very high proportions of students continue with their studies and progress to employment or further study.’ The findings also acknowledge very high levels of student satisfaction with ‘teaching on my course’ and outstanding levels of satisfaction with ‘assessment and feedback’, and ‘academic support’, notably exceeding the provider benchmark.



Dr John Cater, Vice-Chancellor at Edge Hill University, said: “I am delighted that Edge Hill’s strategic focus on employability and nurturing institutional culture has been recognised with a Gold rating from the TEF panel. Colleagues from across the University all play a part in achieving and maintaining this Gold standard and I am grateful to every one of them.”

Madeleine Atkins, Chief Executive of the Higher Education Funding Council for England, said: “The TEF measures the things that students themselves say they care about: high-quality, engaged teaching and a supportive, stimulating learning environment which equips them with the knowledge and skills they need to achieve their potential, and then to progress to a good job or further study.”

The Tech Hub is a key resource for over 600 students, housing innovative biotechnology laboratories, big data servers for research and a Harvard style lecture theatre.





# More than a degree

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Edge Hill University students are among the most employable in the UK, with 96 per cent going on to jobs or further education, with the number securing graduate level jobs above the national average. But the University is not resting on its laurels, and is working to embed employability opportunities into the curriculum for all students, not just those who proactively seek them out, so that all graduates have the best chance of finding employment when they leave.

Mark Allanson, Pro Vice-Chancellor (External Relations) said: “Government policy is asking universities to produce a highly productive workforce; in fact, graduate employability is one of the key measures in the new Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF). However, for me, employability goes beyond getting a job, it’s about the skills and attributes employers need that will stay with students for life.”



Computer Science students gained new skills and boosted their employability through challenges set by top businesses during dedicated 'Hack' week. Alder Hey Children's Charity tasked them with producing a range of games for children of primary school age, with the aim of transforming their experience in hospital by bringing comfort, fun, reward and distraction to young patients, while providing vital information to parents and carers.

Edge Hill's employability strategy aims to get students thinking about their own employability early on, when the reality of getting a job still seems far off in the distance, rather than them waiting until the third year when the reality of shortly starting a career is startlingly close.

1. Knowing what employability skills are and what employers are looking for
2. Practising those skills with employers, in live projects or placements
3. Recognising your own employability strengths and weaknesses
4. Understanding how to present yourself in the job market

This year has seen a growing range of initiatives to develop students' employability skills throughout their studies. One of these is SaPRA: a Skills and Personal Reflective Activity online tool to help students understand their strengths and areas to develop against employability skills and attributes. It creates an individual action plan designed to engage students from day one of their programme. It focuses on identifying and developing personal, employment, and digital skills, and allows ongoing self-reflection to help each student build up a picture of their progress over time. SaPRA is used as a standalone activity, is embedded into induction programmes, and used within personal tutoring.

Jacqui Howe, Head of Careers, said: "We found from talking to new students that there was a need for more support. Many students are not able to objectively assess or articulate their competence in different skill areas, and some are unaware how to transfer skills from one context to another, for example, their part-time job or hobby can actually be used as evidence that employers find attractive. SaPRA allows them to effectively assess their employability, identify areas of weakness and take practical steps to improve."

Launched as a pilot project two years ago, SaPRA is now used by more than 20 areas across the University from Sports Management to Midwifery.

SaPRA is the latest addition to Edge Hill's range of initiatives to prepare students for the world of work. This year also saw the introduction of *GraduatesFirst*, new psychometric testing software that allows students to practise the type of tests increasingly used to select candidates for interview. Additionally a mock assessment day for 270 Business School students, facilitated by employers such as Barclays, to give them an insight into group assessments and gain feedback on their performance.

With the Institute of Graduate Recruiters recently suggesting that today's graduate employers are increasingly unconcerned with which type of degree graduates have, the need for students to develop skills beyond their subject is paramount.

"Graduates need more than a degree, they also need social capital," said Mark Allanson, the Pro Vice-Chancellor (External Relations). "What that means is the social attributes needed in the world of work. The ability to network effectively in person, analyse with relevance as well as developing confidence and resilience, flexible and innovative thinking and action. We give all our students, irrespective of their background, challenges and opportunities like working at Parr St Studios, an internationally renowned recording studio, or being an intern for Edge Hill University Press. We're developing and embedding these types of opportunities into the curriculum and ensuring all students are included."



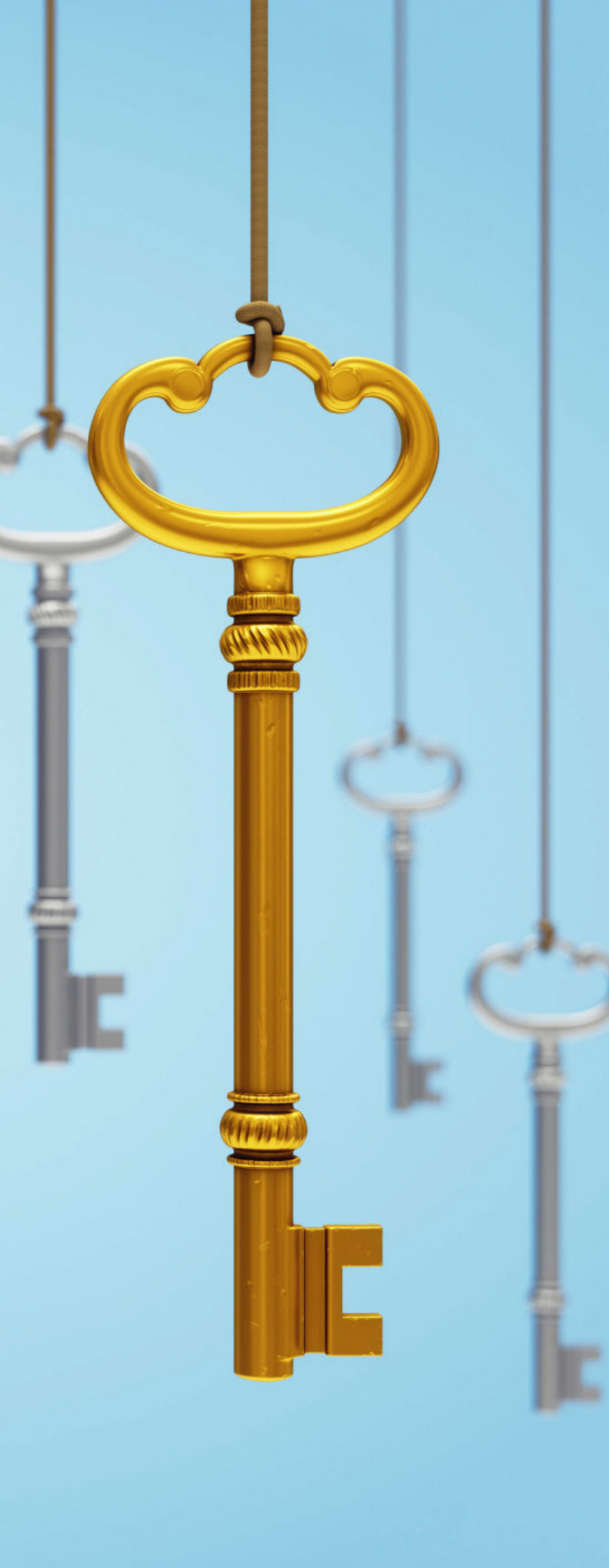
Mark Allanson  
Pro Vice-Chancellor  
(External Relations)

—  
**Employability goes beyond getting a job, it's about skills and attributes that will stay with them for life.**  
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# Opportunity for Knowledge

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This year, Edge Hill has spent £100,000 funding unique experiences to help students enrich their academic studies and enhance their employability skills.

So far, 64 students across 13 departments have been awarded funding for a range of activities from interning at the Ann Arbor Film Festival in America and the Computational Biology Department in Tokyo, to placements at the BBC and volunteering with local charities.



Lynda Brady  
Pro Vice-Chancellor  
(Student Experience &  
University Secretary)

**We realise  
that for most  
students going  
to University  
is about more  
than simply  
gaining a  
qualification,  
it is an  
opportunity  
to try  
new things**



After being recognised as the best in the North West for student experience, Edge Hill University has shown its commitment to helping students to excel in their learning, and make the most of their time at university by launching a new student fund.

The Student Opportunity Fund (SOF) ensures that costs are not a barrier to students making the most of their experience at Edge Hill. It allows undergraduate students to apply for up to £2,000 which can help towards the cost of activities designed to prepare them for the future.

Examples of the types of activity the fund supports include volunteering opportunities, internships, travel to and from interviews or assessment days, expenses to attend a conference, festival or event to showcase their work, and opportunities to travel abroad for academic purposes.



Lynda Brady, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Student Experience) & University Secretary said:

“We realise that, for most students, going to University is about more than simply gaining a qualification; it is an opportunity to try new things and have experiences which can be transformational. We are committed to supporting our students to develop and succeed not only academically but personally.

“Taking part in activities such as internships, attending conferences and travelling abroad for academic purposes, supports students to develop new skills, and can provide career enhancing and life changing opportunities. But we know that taking advantage of such opportunities can be costly, so our Student Opportunity Fund is specifically designed to remove financial barriers to students taking part in activities which enhance their employability skills.

“A large number of students have already enriched their university experience by taking advantage of the Fund, and it will have a positive impact on the degree they achieve and the careers they want to pursue.”

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**The Student Opportunity Fund was probably one of the most important factors in ensuring I was able to have this experience**  
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Two Film Studies students had the opportunity to go behind the scenes at a major US film festival thanks to the SOF.

Samantha Steele and Ben Loveland had the opportunity to go behind the scenes at a major US film festival as part of a flourishing partnership between Edge Hill and the Ann Arbor Film Festival (AAFF), the oldest avant-garde and experimental film festival in North America. The SOF helped them with the high costs involved in flying to and staying in Michigan.

During the two-week internship, Sam and Ben were involved in all aspects of the event, giving them an authentic taste of what it takes to deliver a six-day festival, featuring 180 films plus exhibitions, panel discussions, and community programmes, allowing them to gain the skills and experience to impress future employers.

Both Ben and Sam believe their experience at the AAFF will have an impact on their future employability in the highly competitive film industry.





Ben said:

“In terms of preparing me for my future, Ann Arbor helped me immensely. Getting this internship has helped show me that a difficult career path in analysing films is something that I am able to strive for and succeed in.

“The Student Opportunity Fund was probably one of the most important things in ensuring I was able to have this experience, without it I would have had a much more difficult time acquiring the money needed for the trip. I’m indebted to Edge Hill for this fantastic opportunity.”

It’s not only students who can apply for funding; academics can too, for initiatives benefitting groups of their students.

The SOF is supporting an ongoing collaboration between Edge Hill’s Paramedic Practice students and the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS).

In addition to their normal course curriculum, second year students on the DipHE Paramedic Practice course have been given the chance to gain hands on experience of patient extrication from simulated car incidents while training with the GMFRS at the station in Stockport.

The SOF has paid for the salvaged cars used in the training, provided by Stalybridge Auto Salvage. They are cleaned and emptied prior to the training to make sure they’re safe to use. So far, over 120 students have benefitted from the training which equips them with a number of skills from rapid patient assessment, and techniques for extrication and teamwork, to risk management, experience of challenging environments and triage.

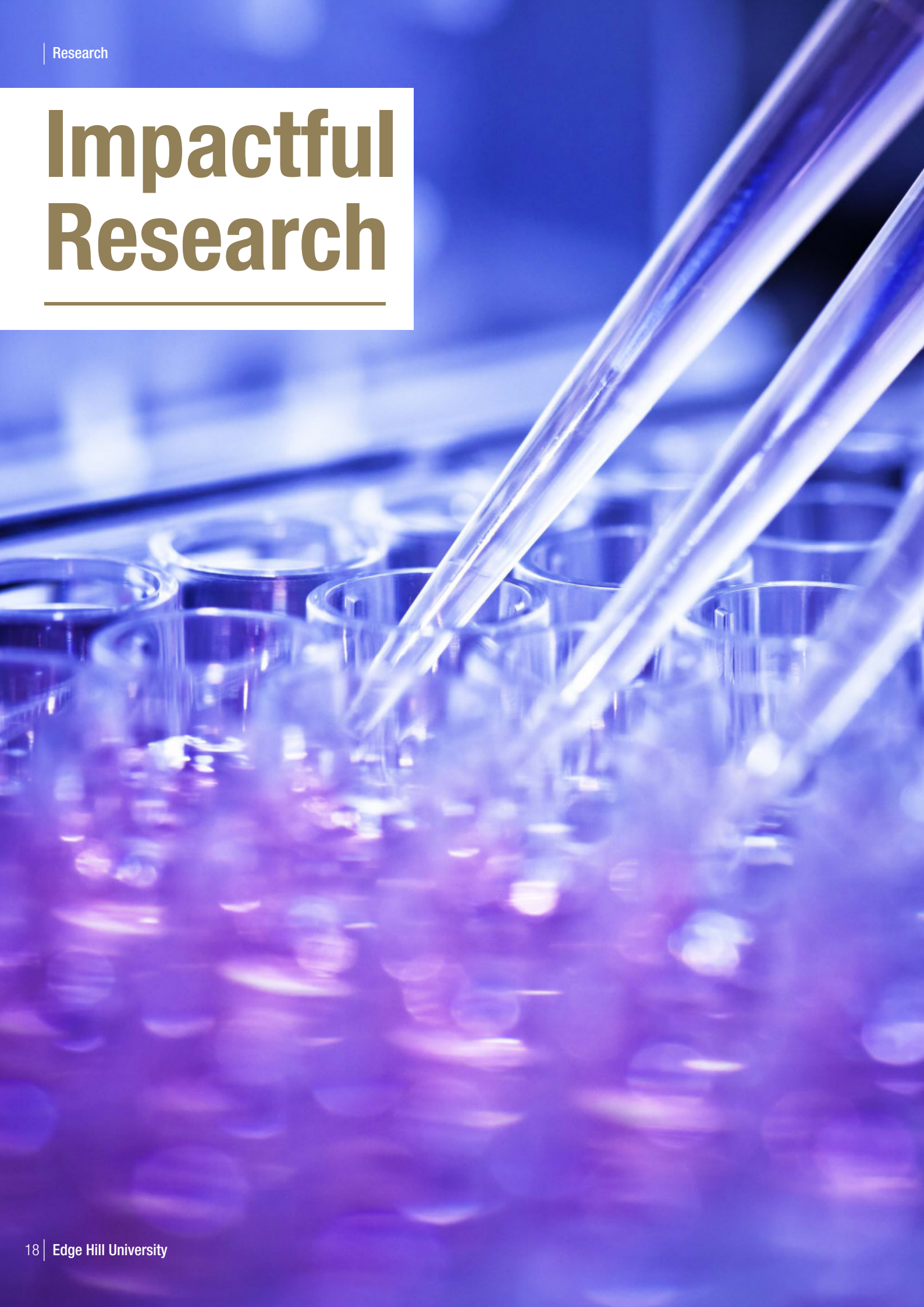
Karen Simpson-Scott, Senior Lecturer in Paramedic Science and Hospital Care spearheaded the partnership.


“As well as supporting the Trauma Management module, this training enhances the student experience as it provides a unique opportunity for learning to develop leadership, and work closely with the emergency services,” said Karen. “It’s highly regarded by the students as a valuable opportunity and echoed by the GMFRS.

“The fire service do not charge anything for this training and it is a well-established partnership which always creates positive feedback. The only cost to Edge Hill is the salvaged cars for training, which are paid for by the Student Opportunity Fund.”

# Impactful Research

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Home to a dynamic, thriving research culture, Edge Hill is committed to producing a wide range of high quality research that transforms people's lives.

Staff in all subject areas are engaged in research, and feed their expertise directly into their teaching, providing an exceptional learning experience for all our students.

Research is fundamental to the University mission of providing opportunity through knowledge, and making a difference to organisations, communities, and individuals.

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**A research project to explore the views of both school children and adults working in education.**  
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**Images of Inclusion**  
Faculty of Education

Inspired by children who don't have a voice, Dr Fiona Hallett, along with Dr Clare Woolhouse, Dr Linda Dunne, and Virginia Kay, decided they wanted to create a research methodology to help us listen to the views of children who struggle to communicate, through exploring views of inclusion and exclusion.

The term 'inclusion' remains open to interpretation, so the team decided to embark on a research project to explore the views of both school children and adults working in education.

In the first stage of the research, school children took photographs of their understanding of inclusion in school, and in the second stage, some of the images taken by the children were shared with other children and adults working in the field of education, in order to explore their responses and interpretations of inclusion. This highlighted the differences in perception.

Fiona and her colleagues are working on a new phase of the project, where they will be working with a larger number of schools across England.

Every Voice Matters	1
Dr Barnaby King	2
Lucho Guzman	3
Dr Mike Hartill	4



## 2 **More Than Just Clowning Around** Dr Barnaby King

All over the world, clowns have a significant impact on people's lives and are regularly used to influence and deliver messages, particularly in Colombia and across South America.

After visiting Columbia, Edge Hill's Dr Barnaby King wondered why there were so many clowns on the street, and was inspired to conduct research into their social significance.



3 His research around clowning, circus and popular performance, and their relationship to local culture and social conditions fuelled his collaboration with acclaimed Colombian clown Lucho Guzman who helped launch Barnaby's latest book *Clowning as Social Performance in Colombia: Ridicule and Resistance*.

Lucho Guzman visited Edge Hill for a week-long residency which featured a performance of his show *Ceniza (Ashes)* during the official launch of Barnaby's book. He also delivered clown workshops and lecture presentations on the growing practice of social and humanitarian clowns.



## 4 **Improving Child Protection in Sport** Dr Mike Hartill

Dr Mike Hartill, Reader in the Sociology of Sport and part of the current FA inquiry into non-recent allegations of sex abuse in football, has been researching and sharing knowledge around sexual abuse and exploitation in sport for many years, but he felt the voices of victims were missing.

This inspired him to co-lead a project with partners across eight European countries on a unique venture called the Voices for Truth and Dignity in Sport project (The VOICE Project), which aims to combat sexual violence in sport through the voices of survivors, and enhance the sports community's capacity to combat sexual violence and strengthen integrity in sport.

Mike has also recently collaborated with the National Working Group on Child Sexual Exploitation (NWG) to develop a CPD accredited training course designed to raise awareness and provide a greater comprehension into the issue of child abuse within sport.



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**Children’s Epilepsy Treatment Under Scrutiny**

Professor Bernie Carter and Dr Lucy Bray

Rolandic epilepsy affects over 10,000 children in the UK, and Faculty of Health’s Professor Bernie Cater and Dr Lucy Bray are playing an instrumental role in a six-year long national study which aims to improve the quality of life for these children.



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The Changing Agendas on Sleep, Treatment and Learning in Epilepsy (CASTLE) research project works with children with Rolandic epilepsy, to investigate how their learning, sleep, and behaviour are impacted by the condition and its treatment.

Supported by a £2.73m programme grant, funded by the National Institute of Health Research, and led by King’s College London, the project will test an older medicine, which has been used for the last 40 years and is not 100 per cent effective in stopping seizures, against a newer drug, and against no drug treatment.

Bernie and Lucy are leading the qualitative and public and patient involvement aspects of the study. This involves interviewing children and their families about their understanding and experiences of the medicines and interventions used in the clinical trial, their perception of the benefits and risks associated with them, and impact of the treatments on their lives.

Professor Bernie Carter 5  
 Dr Lucy Bray 6  
 Bacterial tests 7  
 Dr Lorena Fernández-Martínez 8  
 Lorena in the lab 9



### New Antibiotic Revealed

Dr Lorena Fernández-Martínez

There is a worldwide increase in antibiotic resistance to many infectious bacteria, and Dr Lorena Fernández-Martínez, expert at analysing microbial interactions in soil environments, has been researching newly identified strains of bacteria thought to be capable of producing new antibiotics to treat infectious diseases.

She has collaborated with Colombian research centre, Corpogen, to study new bacteria collected from unexplored and unique environments in Columbia. It is thought the strains exhibit antibacterial activity that could hold the key to new antibiotics for clinical trials and use in medicines around the world.

Lorena will test the bacteria and identify gene clusters responsible for antibiotic production, so she can then genetically manipulate them in order to produce higher volumes of these antibiotics.

The joint project between Edge Hill University and Corpogen is funded by The British Council, on behalf of their Newton Fund, in partnership with COLCIENCIAS. Over the coming months, a researcher from Corpogen will be based at Edge Hill's new microbiology and biotechnology labs housed in the Tech Hub.







# Excellent Environment

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Blending historic architecture, wildlife-filled green spaces and brand new, state-of-the-art buildings, Edge Hill University is renowned for providing a uniquely stunning environment for students, staff and the local community.

This year, the University has again invested in the student experience with innovative capital developments, further strengthening its position as one of the top two university campuses in the country, according to the 2016 *Times Higher* survey.



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**Over the past five years, the University has invested heavily in constructing new residences to ensure that all first years can live on campus if they want to.**  
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The latest addition to the Edge Hill landscape is a new village of student homes in the centre of the Ormskirk campus. Located on the site of the old running track, the three and four-storey townhouses will house 250 second and third year undergraduate students, giving them instant access to all the facilities they need in those important final years. The new accommodation is also available to postgraduate students who need to be close to campus for their research. The first townhouses opened in September 2017, while a second phase will welcome its first residents in time for the start of the following academic year.

The opening of Woodland Court means that senior students can live on campus for the first time, relieving them of the stress that often comes with finding and living in rented accommodation at a time when they need to focus all of their attention on their studies.

Vice-Chancellor Dr John Cater, said: “Over the past five years, the University has invested heavily in constructing new residences to ensure that all first years can live on campus if they want to. We are delighted now to be able to extend that offer to senior and postgraduate students and give them access to high quality, affordable accommodation beyond their first year.”

The quality of Edge Hill’s student accommodation has been recognised nationally with a plethora of awards over the years, including ‘Best Accommodation’ in the WhatUni Student Choice Awards and ‘Best Value for Money in the UK’ in the National Student Housing Survey Awards, both in 2017. It has also been voted Safest Campus in the North West by *The Complete University Guide* for six years in a row, which means greater peace of mind for both students and their parents.

Woodland Court kitchen and social area 1  
 Tech Hub 1  
 Woodland Court 3  
 Architects rendering: Catalyst 4



The University is also expanding its campus beyond Ormskirk with the opening of a new learning and teaching space in the heart of central Manchester. Opened in March 2017, St James' houses an extensive clinical simulation suite, including a mock operating theatre, replica ambulance and clinical skills stations, as well as six teaching classrooms. The site also has an open plan library and IT facility ensuring that students on Operating Department Practice and Paramedic Practice programmes have access to all of the University's extensive learning facilities without needing to travel to Ormskirk.

The Edge Hill skyline continues to change on a daily basis with the construction of a new £26m home for the University's Library, Careers and Student Services. Catalyst, which is due for completion in 2018, will be a 24/7 'destination' building to support all students' learning, research, welfare, and career needs, complete with 230,000 books, a reading room, exhibition space, and rooftop terrace with panoramic views over the campus.

In addition to its award-winning buildings, the University has also been granted prestigious Green Flag status – the mark of high quality parks and green spaces – for the sixth consecutive year for its stunning and environmentally friendly campus which, as well as housing more than 2,500 students, is also home to a wealth of plants and wildlife, from rare orchids to the famous Edge Hill ducks.





# Ideas about Identity

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Edge Hill University's second *Festival of Ideas* was an eclectic mix of lectures, performances, debates and exhibitions around the themes of *Identity and Belonging* in the 21st century.

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**The Festival  
of Ideas  
sought to answer  
the questions  
surrounding what  
makes us  
who we are,  
how we can shape  
our own identity  
and, ultimately,  
find somewhere  
to belong.**  
—



The University's three research centres – the Institute for Creative Enterprise (ICE), the Institute for Public Policy and Professional Practice (I4P), and the Postgraduate Medical Institute (PGMI) – joined forces to present a stimulating programme of events during June 2017 that explored what makes us who we are.

The Festival of Ideas is designed to inspire communication and collaboration between people engaged in healthcare, policy-making, the arts, and the wider public. As well as public lectures and roundtables covering a diverse mix of subjects, spanning health and wellbeing, psychology, public and social policy, and race and gender identity, the Festival also featured film screenings, performances, and art installations, looking at personal and group identities. Ideas ranged from patient identities in a metrics-driven health and social care system, to gender and political fluidity, and the rise of artificial intelligence and its impact on human identities.

Professor Janet Hemingway CBE 1  
Shifting Identities 2



Highlights included:

#### **Athena SWAN Lecture**

Director of the Liverpool School of Tropical medicine, Professor Janet Hemingway CBE, delivered Edge Hill's annual Athena SWAN lecture, which promotes gender equality in women's academic careers. The internationally acclaimed researcher, who was the youngest woman to become a full professor in the UK, spoke about her inspirational career journey and her role as Senior Technical Advisor on Neglected Tropical Diseases for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

#### **Leonora Carrington Centenary Symposium**

International academics and art lovers paid homage to the life and work of Lancastrian Surrealist painter Leonora Carrington, with speeches from Dr Catriona McAra from Leeds College of Art, and Carrington's cousin Joanna Moorhead, who have both written books about the artist, alongside her son, Gabriel Weisz Carrington, the Director of the Fundacion Leonora Carrington in her adopted country of Mexico.

#### **Resonant Edge**

Edge Hill's new annual music festival and symposium, launched as part of the Festival of Ideas 2017, was designed to present concerts that extend across traditional borders of genre and medium, as well as traversing geographic frontiers. The inaugural festival featured a range of musical styles from contemporary jazz and classical to indie and electronic, with artists including the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, avant-garde flautist Roberto Fabbriani, and saxophonist Jan Kopinski, readings by legendary Liverpool poet Roger McGough, plus an accompanying symposium exploring current thinking on a variety of subjects in music theory and aesthetics.

#### **We Need to Belong**

Drawing on his experience among arts psychotherapists and applied arts practitioners, leading child psychologist Professor Colwyn Trevarthen shared his thoughts on the artfulness of our social self, and how all of our learned skills for practical life depend on our awareness of other people.

#### **2 Shifting Identities**

*Shifting Identities* was an interactive installation exploring the experiences of children with illness or disability and their parents. The collection of objects, videos, photographs, and soundtracks considered how the identities of both the children and their parents adapt and transform over time.

#### **Shifting the Curve**

Naomi Eisenstadt CB, Independent Advisor on Poverty and Inequality, shared her experience of working on Fairer Scotland, a national debate about how the country could be a fairer and more equal place to live. She discussed the report and recommendations she produced for the First Minister of Scotland, and the subsequent 50-point action plan designed to tackle poverty, reduce inequality, and build a fairer and more inclusive Scotland.

#### **What Do We Need to Create a Good Society?**

With 3.9 million people in the UK living in 'persistent poverty'<sup>\*</sup>, this timely discussion looked at issues including social housing, poverty, and equality in Britain. Presented in association with the Webb Memorial Trust, the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) and I4P, the event asked what makes a good society, and examined how to influence policy and decision makers.

<sup>\*</sup> Office for National Statistics, 2016.

# Summer of Learning

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It may sound obvious, but Edge Hill University's international strategy centres on two key objectives: to attract more overseas students to Edge Hill, and to encourage more home students to experience living and studying abroad. This year has seen growth in the number of international students arriving on campus. Students from 25 different countries came to study on a range of programmes including Erasmus+, short term English Language programmes, undergraduate and postgraduate degrees – the focus is now on helping our own students to broaden their cultural horizons and become true global citizens.



Lisa Gerraty  
Head of International  
Recruitment  
and Admissions

—  
**It is all  
about recruiting  
international  
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variety of countries,  
which contributes  
to the diversity of  
our student body  
and ensures a  
richer learning  
experience**  
—

International summer events, which have been a feature of Edge Hill's overseas programme for many years, had a surge in popularity this year, with the English Language Summer Programme attracting its biggest ever cohort. More than 170 students spent part of the summer on the University's stunning campus, studying, networking, and immersing themselves in British culture.

Students are able to embark on either a three-week English Language Summer Programme, for people who want to learn English for work or study, or the International Summer School, an academic, credit-bearing programme centred around a core module, British Culture and Heritage. Four US partner institutions also brought students to campus over the summer on faculty led programmes.

Strong relationships with partner institutions in North America have led to consistently strong numbers of study-abroad students choosing Edge Hill. The International Office has been actively recruiting for both short and long term programmes in North America and certain regions of Asia for the past few years, and the recruitment team has expanded to reflect this approach.

Lisa Gerraty, Head of International Recruitment & Admissions said "For us it is all about recruiting international students from a variety of countries, which contributes to the diversity of our student body and ensures a richer learning experience which is beneficial to all our students."

This year, the International Office has continued to build the Edge Hill brand abroad and has forged new partnerships with 10 academic institutions across the globe. The mutual benefits of these partnerships were explored at a special week-long conference in July 2017 for the University's North American partners, who send around 100 students to study at Edge Hill every year. A total of 25 delegates visited the Ormskirk campus to see the University's outstanding learning and teaching facilities for themselves, discuss future collaborations with Edge Hill staff, and enjoy the North West of England.

Attendee Renate Wyssmann, from Universidad Anahuac in Mexico, believes in the importance of studying in another country. She said: "I see students totally transformed after studying abroad at Edge Hill University. They leave as shy individuals, many of whom have not left their local area before, and come back confident and competent adults able to organise themselves."

As well as expanding the number of partners in the future, Edge Hill is also hoping to arrange more reciprocal opportunities to enable home students to live and study overseas.

Lisa Gerraty said: "We are focussing on the outbound mobility of our students to increase their employability through international experience. As well as expanding our Erasmus+ and Exchange programmes, we are also taking advantage of Edge Hill's new Student Opportunity Fund, to allow more students to engage in overseas activities to gain skills and boost their CVs."





# Cultural Campus

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Edge Hill's campus has once again been a hive of cultural activity, with current students, alumni and staff adding to the literary, theatrical and artistic life of the region – and beyond.

A flourishing partnership with Tate Liverpool brought together art and education for a range of joint projects to test ideas and discover new perspectives, through art, while Edge Hill graduates continued to entertain audiences through their own theatre companies, including the award-winning Naughty Corner Productions.

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**This year,  
 The Arts Centre  
 programme has  
 included shows  
 written, directed,  
 and performed by  
 current students  
 and alumni,  
 who have been  
 inspired by their  
 time at Edge Hill  
 to pursue a career  
 in the  
 performing arts.**  
 —



1

**Festival Fever for Publishing Interns**

Edge Hill University continues to make its mark on the literary world – and give students valuable experience – with the publication of *Atlantic Drift: An Anthology of Poetry and Poetics*, the second book by its literary imprint, Edge Hill University Press (EHUP).



2

The poetry anthology, published in partnership with poetry specialists Arc Publications, was edited by Edge Hill academics and acclaimed poets, James Byrne and Emeritus Professor Robert Sheppard, and supported by a team of student interns. Working alongside staff from Edge Hill and Arc, the interns helped to devise the content of the book, liaised with authors and publishers and selected artwork for the cover, giving them valuable insight into the publishing industry, and building their network of contacts. They were also involved in the launch event for *Atlantic Drift* which took place at the prestigious Edinburgh International Book Festival in August 2017.



3

*Atlantic Drift* brings together 24 poets from the UK, Ireland, USA, and Canada to define or redefine the discussions between poets from both sides of the pond and, uniquely, combines poetry with short pieces in which the contributors reflect on their writing, poetry in general, and the contexts of their poetic practice. The launch of *Atlantic Drift* follows the success of EHUP's first publication, *Head Land*, which celebrated ten years of the Edge Hill Short Story Prize and featured stories by past winners and shortlisted authors.



4

- Atlantic Drift launch 1
- Naughty Corner 2
- Claire Alizon Hills 3
- Tate Liverpool 4

### Graduate Theatre Companies

Edge Hill University is well-known for its 'creative campus', with a thriving Arts Centre at its heart, offering an eclectic mix of theatre, dance, films, and exhibitions. For some students, being surrounded by creativity on a daily basis has motivated them to achieve creative successes of their own after they leave University. Several alumni have gone on to start their own theatre companies, regularly returning to Edge Hill to help the next generation of talented students take their first steps in the theatrical world.

This year, The Arts Centre programme has included shows written, directed, and performed by current students and alumni, who have been inspired by their time at Edge Hill to pursue a career in the performing arts.

One of the most successful is the multi-award-winning Naughty Corner Productions, founded by a group of former Drama students in 2013, who performed their critically acclaimed production, *Not the Horse*, at The Arts Centre in March. Formed in 2013, Naughty Corner took their first show, *The Bastard Queen*, to the Edinburgh Festival where it won the 2014 *Sunday Times* National Student Drama Festival award, and the company has gone from strength to strength ever since.

Artistic Director and co-founder, Mike Dickinson, said: "All auditions for Naughty Corner shows are held at Edge Hill and the cast always features current students and alumni alongside professional actors. This gives students an opportunity to work with a professional theatre company, and allows us to keep coming back."

As a resident theatre company at Edge Hill, Naughty Corner took their latest production, *Church Blitz*, to the Edinburgh Festival in 2017, and performed the final night of the show's tour back in The Arts Centre in October.

Another former student to return to Edge Hill this year was Claire Alizon Hills, who set up children's theatre production company Topsy Turvy Theatre in 2010. Claire's fifth children's show, an adaptation of Charlotte Middleton's story about a heroic guinea pig, *Christopher Nibbles*, delighted children at The Arts Centre in October 2016 with its mix of music, drama and puppetry. "When I first started at University I took a module in Children's Theatre and I still use so many of the skills I was taught through that in my working life," said Claire. "I try and keep the same sense of silliness and creativity I had when I was working on my very first project. to make our productions approachable and fun for children."

### Tate of the Art


Edge Hill University's creative partnership with Tate Liverpool gives students and staff the opportunity to engage with one of the country's most visited galleries outside of London. This year has seen an exciting programme of events designed to enhance students' creative development and provide a space for creativity and collaboration between higher education and the arts. As well as numerous joint events and sponsorship of exhibitions, the University contributed to Tate Exchange, a project bringing artists and the public together to collaborate, test ideas, and discover new perspectives through art.

"The Tate Liverpool programme provokes, inspires and starts conversation," said Mark Allanson, Edge Hill's Pro Vice-Chancellor (External Relations). "Our partnership with Tate provides students on creative courses such as dance, film and writing, invaluable opportunities to enhance their knowledge and employability."

# Degrees for the Real World

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From experienced doctors to aspiring police officers, Edge Hill University continues to provide students with new programmes that reflect a changing society and meet the needs of employers.

The University has introduced a total of six undergraduate programmes this year, as well as a new PGCE in Primary Physical Education, and a Masters in Medicine. The new degrees are a mixture of existing subjects that have been consolidated and refined to create more industry-focused programmes, and brand new subjects that draw on burgeoning areas of research within Edge Hill.

### New courses for 2018

#### Undergraduate

- BA (Hons) Criminology
- BA (Hons) Criminology and Law
- BA (Hons) Criminology and Psychology
- BA (Hons) Policing
- BSc (Hons) Psychology and Criminology
- BA (Hons) Sociology with Politics

#### PGCEs

- PGCE Primary Physical Education Specialist with QTS

#### Postgraduate

- MMed Medicine



#### Improving Career Prospects for Medical Professionals

Another first for Edge Hill this year is the launch of the MMed Medicine. Designed in collaboration with senior clinicians, and delivered in partnership with Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust, this postgraduate programme enables qualified doctors to develop an evidence-based approach to healthcare, and enhance their clinical knowledge through a number of specialist pathways. Students can study a generic programme or choose from six established specialities, including cardiology, elderly medicine, and rheumatology. This new course adds to Edge Hill's growing portfolio of postgraduate programmes that support the development of the healthcare workforce.

#### New Degree Helps Fight Crime

One of the new subjects available from September 2018 is a BA (Hons) Policing, a three-year programme designed to equip students with the academic, vocational, and critical skills for a career in the police force or other policing-related organisations, such as the Prison Service, HM Revenue and Customs, and private security. Drawing on the disciplines of law, criminology, psychology, and management, the degree gives students an in-depth insight into policing and its social, economic and political contexts, and allows them to gain the College of Policing's Certificate in Knowledge of Policing, an essential qualification for recruitment to the police service.



### A First for Emergency Services Leaders

Recent tragic events, such as the Manchester Arena bombing and the Grenfell Tower fire, have placed the work of the emergency services in the spotlight. While their swift and professional response has been widely praised, these events have raised serious concerns about resources, funding, and the long-term sustainability of our 'blue light' services.

Increased threats to national security at a time of reduced budgets call for greater co-operation between emergency services, and strong leadership to meet these new challenges – needs which are being addressed by a unique new programme launched this year by Edge Hill University.

The Professional Doctorate in Emergency Services Management, the first of its kind in the UK, aims to harness the research potential of senior staff and bring the emergency services and academia together to critically assess current ways of working, and influence future policy and practice.

The four-year, part-time programme, which helps students build subject-specific research skills before undertaking an original piece of research, welcomed its first candidates in September, with interest already high for 2018.

# Awards and Appointments

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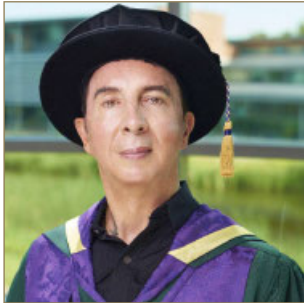




This year the University has marked the inauguration of Professors in disciplines ranging from Computer Science to Social Science, celebrated the achievements of exceptional staff in Student-Led Staff Awards, and awarded Honorary Doctorates to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to their fields.

Further senior appointments demonstrate the University's intention to attract and retain the very best leaders and innovators.

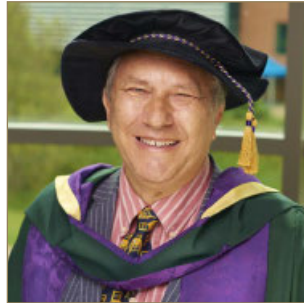
# Honorary Awards



Marc Almond  
Honorary Doctor of Philosophy

Musician Marc Almond, who grew up in Southport, accepted an Honorary Doctorate in Philosophy from Edge Hill University.

Marc has sold over 30 million records worldwide in a career that spanned a diverse range of musical styles from the electro of his band Soft Cell to Turkish torch songs to Brazilian Macumba music and Russian folk. In 2010 he celebrated 30 years as a recording artist with a successful tour, culminating in receiving *Mojo* magazine's 'Hero Award'. His most recent release is the musical anthology *Trials Of Eyeliner* covering the years 1979-2016.



Peter Beresford  
Honorary Doctor of Science

Professor Peter Beresford OBE was made an Honorary Doctor of Science by Edge Hill University in recognition of his stance on matters relating to citizen participation.

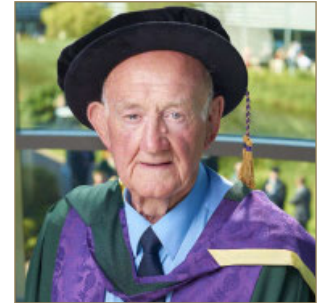
A leading figure in the arena of policy issues and citizen involvement, and perhaps the pre-eminent voice in relation to service user and carer participation in service design, delivery and evaluation, Professor Beresford's reputation as an academic is also internationally recognised. In 2007 he was awarded an OBE and in 2016 he was named as one of the top 100 influential people in the UK in relation to issues of disability and impairment.



Chris Chibnall  
Honorary Doctor of Literature

Formby-born Chris Chibnall, who had recently been appointed Showrunner for the BBC's *Doctor Who*, was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Literature by Edge Hill University.

One of Britain's most important and accomplished television dramatists, Chris was head writer and co-producer of award-winning *Doctor Who* spin-off, *Torchwood* and writer of all three series of acclaimed crime drama *Broadchurch*. He contributed scripts to BBC One's *Life on Mars*, was lead writer and executive producer for ITV1's *Law & Order UK*; and creator and executive producer for *Camelot*, a dark retelling of Arthurian myth.



Ray French  
Honorary Doctor of Arts

St Helens-born Ray French MBE was made an Honorary Doctor of Arts at Edge Hill University.

Ray represented his country at international level in both rugby union and rugby league and combined his sport and media careers with a 34-year teaching career, the majority of which he spent as an English teacher at Cowley High School in St Helens. In addition to his teaching and rugby careers, Ray is a coach, author and columnist. He was also a well-known TV rugby commentator, in particular on the BBC where he was the national rugby league commentator for 32 years until his retirement in 2013.



Francesca Halsall  
Honorary Doctor of Science

Edge Hill University made Olympic swimmer Francesca Halsall an Honorary Doctor of Science in celebration of her successful career in sport.

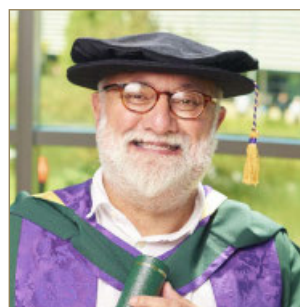
Southport-born Francesca retired earlier this year from a career that saw her represent Great Britain in the Beijing, London and Rio Olympics and compete in many other international competitions, breaking records and bringing home 14 gold, 14 silver and nine bronze medals from World, European and Commonwealth championships. Former Merseyside Young Personality of the Year and *Sunday Times* Young Sportswoman of the Year, Francesca is now a businesswoman, having opened a new coffee shop in the heart of Altrincham, a shared venture with two other Olympians, Jess Varnish and Liam Phillips.



Sue Ion  
Honorary Doctor of Science

Dame Sue Ion, the UK's foremost female nuclear engineer, accepted an Honorary Doctorate in Science from Edge Hill University.

Chairman of the UK Nuclear Innovation Research Advisory Board and having managed British Nuclear Fuel Limited's UK Research and Development portfolio, Sue has worked tirelessly to promote the benefits of the industry and was credited with persuading Tony Blair to change Labour's official government policy on nuclear power, allowing the development of an energy policy that recognised a need for nuclear, alongside coal and renewable sources, to meet Britain's future energy requirements. Awarded an OBE in 2002 for services to the nuclear industry, Sue was made a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 2010 for services to science and engineering.



Alexei Sayle  
Honorary Doctor of Literature

Liverpool-born comedian, writer and broadcaster Alexei Sayle was made an Honorary Doctor of Literature by Edge Hill University for his contribution to many art forms.

With strong associations in his work to his upbringing and schooling in Liverpool and the north west, stand-up comedian, actor, author, radio and television broadcaster, columnist and recording artist, Alexei is widely regarded as one of the most original and influential performers to emerge from the 1980s alternative comedy scene, and acknowledged for his creative innovation.

# Professors



Paul Aplin  
Professor of Geography

**Seeing is Believing:  
Environmental Change  
Down a Very Long Lens**

With research into variation in the natural environment and how this can be represented using image data and analysis, Professor Aplin has published widely on this topic and his research has taken him all over the world. Satellite sensors have been capturing images of the Earth for nearly 50 years and Professor Aplin's inaugural lecture presented state-of-the-art technologies in the field of remote sensing, shedding light on a range of environmental applications with some spectacular fieldwork visuals.



Jeremy Brown  
Professor of Clinical Education

**Learning and Surviving:  
an outsider looking in at the  
working lives of doctors**

Professor Brown is an experienced education researcher, specifically in the areas of postgraduate medical education and transitions in medical careers. He has published widely in this field and presented at national and international conferences. His inaugural lecture examined the ongoing challenges faced by doctors at each stage of their professional career, from newly qualified to hospital consultant or GP.



Bernie Carter  
Professor of  
Children's Nursing

**A Muffled Clamour:  
Turning up the Volume  
on Children's Stories of  
Pain and Illness**

Professor Carter is a children's nurse who has worked within children's surgery, neonatal, and children's intensive care settings. In practice she found there to be more questions than answers, which led to the start of her research career. She has published over 120 peer-reviewed articles and written and edited books on pain and children's nursing. Her inaugural lecture explored how pain and illness can shape children's lives, and how their stories and artwork can provide a deeper understanding of their experiences.



Vicki Coppock  
Professor in Social Sciences

**Psychiatrised Childhoods:  
A Human Rights Issue?**

Professor Coppock began her professional career as a psychiatric social worker, joining Edge Hill in 1991. She has built an international reputation for pioneering research and publications that combine the fields of social work, the sociology of childhood, mental health and children's rights. Her inaugural lecture examined the medicalisation of children's emotions and behaviour focussing on the negative consequences caused by current diagnostic and treatment practices.





Ailsa Cox  
Professor of Short Fiction

**World's first Professor of Short Fiction: Professor Cox and Mrs Power**

Ailsa Cox is the world's first Professor of Short Fiction and in 2006, founded the Edge Hill Prize for Short Story. Her stories have been included in various magazines and anthologies and her guide for new writers, *Writing Short Stories*, is in its second edition from Routledge. Her inaugural lecture explored identity, creative practice and the reality of fiction and reflected on the transformation of life into art.



Mary O'Brien  
Professor of Palliative and Support Care

**End of Life Care: Getting it Right**

Professor O'Brien joined the Edge Hill in 2003 following a nursing career which culminated as a Nurse Specialist for Motor Neurone Disease. Her particular interests are end-of-life and palliative care research and she has published widely on the subjects, achieving international recognition. Her inaugural lecture reflected on her career in nursing and she discussed the support needed by and provided for those affected by life-limiting illness.



Ella Pereira  
Professor of Computer Science

**The Connected World: Blurring the Boundary between Real and Virtual Objects**

Professor Pereira has an extensive background in Mechanical Engineering, publishing widely in journals, conferences and books. She has a growing research interest in deploying the 'connected world' technology for health and wellbeing of people. Drawing on her knowledge and experience in distributed systems and software engineering, her inaugural lecture examined the effects of the interconnected world and explored what the future connected world might look like.

# Senior Appointments



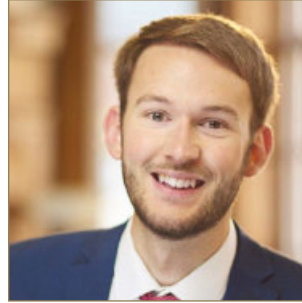
**Simon Bolton**  
**Professor of Innovation and Associate Dean**

An internationally acclaimed designer and innovation specialist, Simon joined Edge Hill as a Professor of Innovation and Associate Dean of Enterprise and Employability. He has exhibited at galleries all over the world and has over 20 years' experience of helping international organisations and brands including the BBC, BSkyB, Hyundai and Nokia to enhance their customer insight and innovation capabilities. Simon also spent seven years as a global thought leader for Proctor & Gamble helping them to successfully unlock hidden innovation opportunities in European and Asian markets. He is also Chair of the Board of Directors at Birmingham Open Media and is a Visiting Professor at Icesi University in Columbia and the Central University of Finance and Economics in China.



**Lisa Gerraty**  
**Head of International Recruitment and Admissions**

Lisa joined Edge Hill in August 2016 after working for a number of years at Lancaster University. Firstly in the Management School and then the central International Office, she specialised in student mobility and international student recruitment. Having studied abroad at The University of Bordeaux as part of her undergraduate degree, Lisa is passionate about encouraging students to internationalise their student experience and take advantage of the many benefits it brings. Lisa spent the first ten years of her career in Product Management in the travel industry and has travelled the world extensively.



**Simon Jenkins**  
**Head of Student Recruitment**

Simon joined Edge Hill in June 2017 after spending two years as UK Student Recruitment Manager at Keele University. Prior to joining Keele, he worked within the Student Recruitment team at The University of Nottingham, where he led on the University's work developing relationships with schools and colleges across the UK. After graduating from Durham, he began his career there, working on widening access schemes to help raise participation in higher education. A regular speaker at sector wide conferences for teachers and advisers, Simon also finished a two year term as Midlands Group Chair of the Higher Education Liaison Officers Association shortly before commencing his role at Edge Hill.



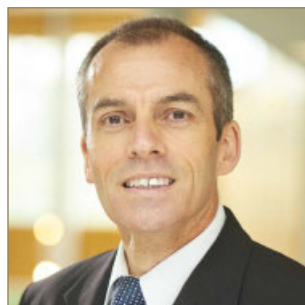
**Dr Carol Kelly**  
**Head of Applied Health and Social Care**

Carol has recently been appointed Head of the Department for Applied Health and Social Care after working as a Senior Lecturer within the Faculty of Health and Social Care's Postgraduate Professional Education team. She qualified as a registered nurse in 1983 and worked as a Respiratory Nurse Specialist for several years. Based in higher education since 2003, Carol principally teaches respiratory care and research methods, and has published widely on these topics. She collaborates on several projects with the Association of Respiratory Nurse Specialists and is a member of the British Thoracic Society Emergency Oxygen Guidelines Group.



**Rod Nicolson**  
Head of Psychology

Rod joined Edge Hill in May 2017 after 20 years at the University of Sheffield where he was Professor of Psychology, Head of Department, Dean of Faculty, and Director of the Institute of Work Psychology. His interests lie in human learning and potential, both for children and adults, and he has had opportunities to develop these interests both in research and practice. One of his major research areas is dyslexia, where he has pioneered the approach of treating dyslexia as a learning difference. He applies the Positive Psychology of human change and growth to his research and to his management, where he aims to inspire colleagues to work to their 'motives, strengths and passions'.



**Michael Peppin**  
Head of Estate Management

After working for Lancashire County Council as Building Surveying Manager, responsible for over 700 buildings and 640 schools, Mike made the transition into higher education when he joined Edge Hill in January 2017. Fellow member of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and with over 20 years' experience in surveying, Mike is now responsible for enhancing and developing the campus. He has managed high profile projects, such as the refurbishment of the Ashton Memorial in Lancaster, and the £4m refurbishment of Liverpool Town Hall and £15m refurbishment of St Georges Hall, Grade 1 listed flagship heritage buildings in Liverpool.



**Matthew Greig**  
Associate Head  
Sports Therapy



**Dr Paula Keating**  
Associate Head of  
Nurse Education



**Andrew Kirk**  
Associate Head  
Paramedic Practice



**Charles Knight**  
Associate Director  
(Learning, Teaching)



**Mary McAteer**  
Director  
Professional Learning  
Programmes



**Tom Wilcock**  
Deputy Head  
Customer Support



**Carol Wilson**  
Associate Head  
Applied Health  
and Social Care

# Facts and Figures

## Financials<sup>1</sup>

**£127**  
MILLION

INCOME

**£20**  
MILLION

SURPLUS

## Accommodation

**182**

Additional student  
rooms built

**2,401**

Total student  
rooms

## Clubs and societies

**68**

SOCIETIES

**34**

SPORTS CLUBS

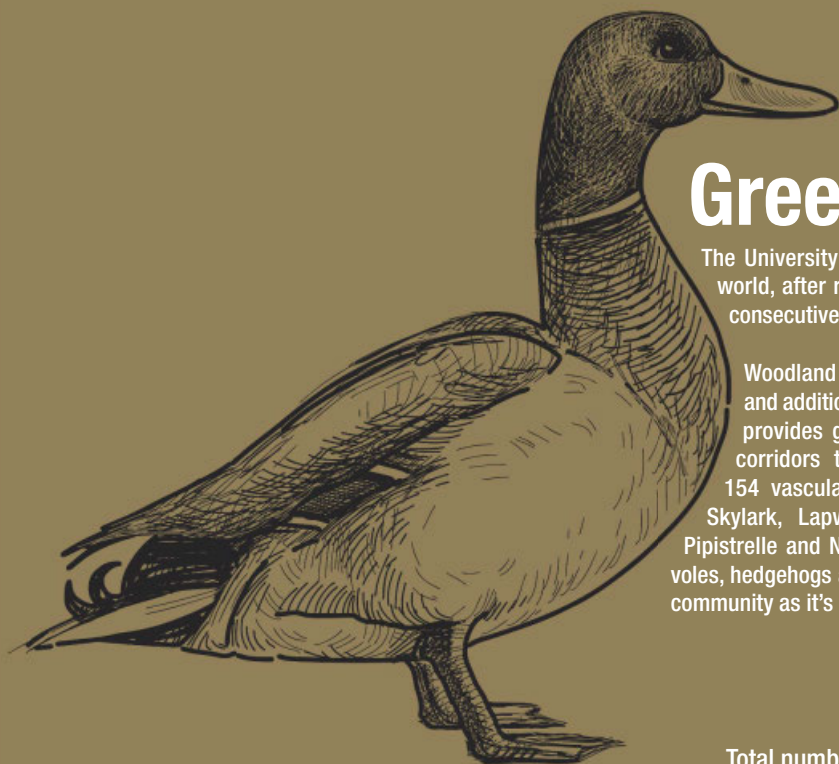
**132**  
TREES  
PLANTED

<sup>1</sup> Total income and surplus for the year based on the 2007 SORP for 2013 and 2014 rounded to the nearest million.

<sup>2</sup> Based on HESA Student Record

## Awards





## Green is Good

The University is recognised as one of the best green spaces in the world, after receiving the prestigious Green Flag Award for the sixth consecutive year.

Woodland of Beech, Sycamore, Wych Elm and Silver Birch trees and addition of a variety of new woodland, of mixed age and species, provides greater ecological benefit and extends existing wildlife corridors through the site. There are four ponds on campus, 154 vascular plant species, numerous types of birds, including; Skylark, Lapwing, Mallard, Moorhen, Canada Goose and Coots. Pipistrelle and Noctule bats along with our great crested newts, water voles, hedgehogs and rabbits prove that Edge Hill has as thriving a wildlife community as it's students' one.

## Students

Total number of students of the University<sup>2</sup>

**15,218**  
TOTAL

**11,477**  
FULL TIME

**3,741**  
PART TIME

## Satisfaction

**Top 5**

National Student Survey 2016  
Overall Satisfaction  
(English Universities)

**Top 10**

for Teaching Quality  
Times/Sunday Times  
Good University Guide

## Employability

**95.5%**

Graduates in work or further  
advanced study six months  
after graduation  
HESA Destination  
of Leavers Survey

# Principal Officers

## CHANCELLOR

Professor Tanya Byron

## PRO CHANCELLOR & CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Professor Clive Edwards

## VICE-CHANCELLOR

Dr John Cater CBE

## DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR

Steve Igoe

## PRO VICE-CHANCELLOR (EXTERNAL RELATIONS)

Mark Allanson

## PRO VICE-CHANCELLOR (STUDENT EXPERIENCE) AND UNIVERSITY SECRETARY

Lynda Brady

## PRO VICE-CHANCELLORS AND DEANS OF FACULTY

Seth Crofts (Health and Social Care)

Professor George Talbot (Arts and Sciences)

Dr Lynnette Turner (Education)

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Lesley Munro

## ACADEMIC REGISTRAR

Helen Smallbone

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JJ Waller p38-2



# Edge Hill University

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