



BIRMINGHAM CITY
University

Annual Review

2008/09

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Vice-Chancellor's Introduction

The period 2008-09 was one of progression for our University, when we built upon our existing successes. This time last year I stated how proud I was of the University as it entered a new era in its history. As we have witnessed our University embrace change and push forward I continue to feel proud.

There are many things for us to be proud of. The 2008 Research Assessment Exercise resulted in an impressive set of results for the University (see page 7). One fifth of our research was given world-class ranking, which is more than any other modern university. Building on this success we have set out a five-year plan to evolve and increase our participation in research. However, our ambitions don't lie just with research. Teaching will always remain at the heart of our University and we are introducing innovative methods of enhancing the learning experience of our students. With an emphasis on real world experience and a track record of collaboration with business and industry we continue to produce graduates who have the skills and aptitude that employers desire.

Our University doesn't exist in isolation and contributes to the local community. We work with local schools to encourage the widening of participation in higher education and our new sports centre based at our City North campus provides state-of-the-art sporting facilities for local people, as well as staff and students.

During the past three years we have created a strong foundation on which to build future successes. The University has many friends both locally and nationally and I hope you will continue to be associated with us as we move forward.

Professor David Tidmarsh
BSc (Hons), PhD, CEng, FIMechE, FCMI
Vice-Chancellor



Professor David Tidmarsh
Vice-Chancellor



Millennium Point



Seacole Building

// Birmingham City University undergoes a transformation

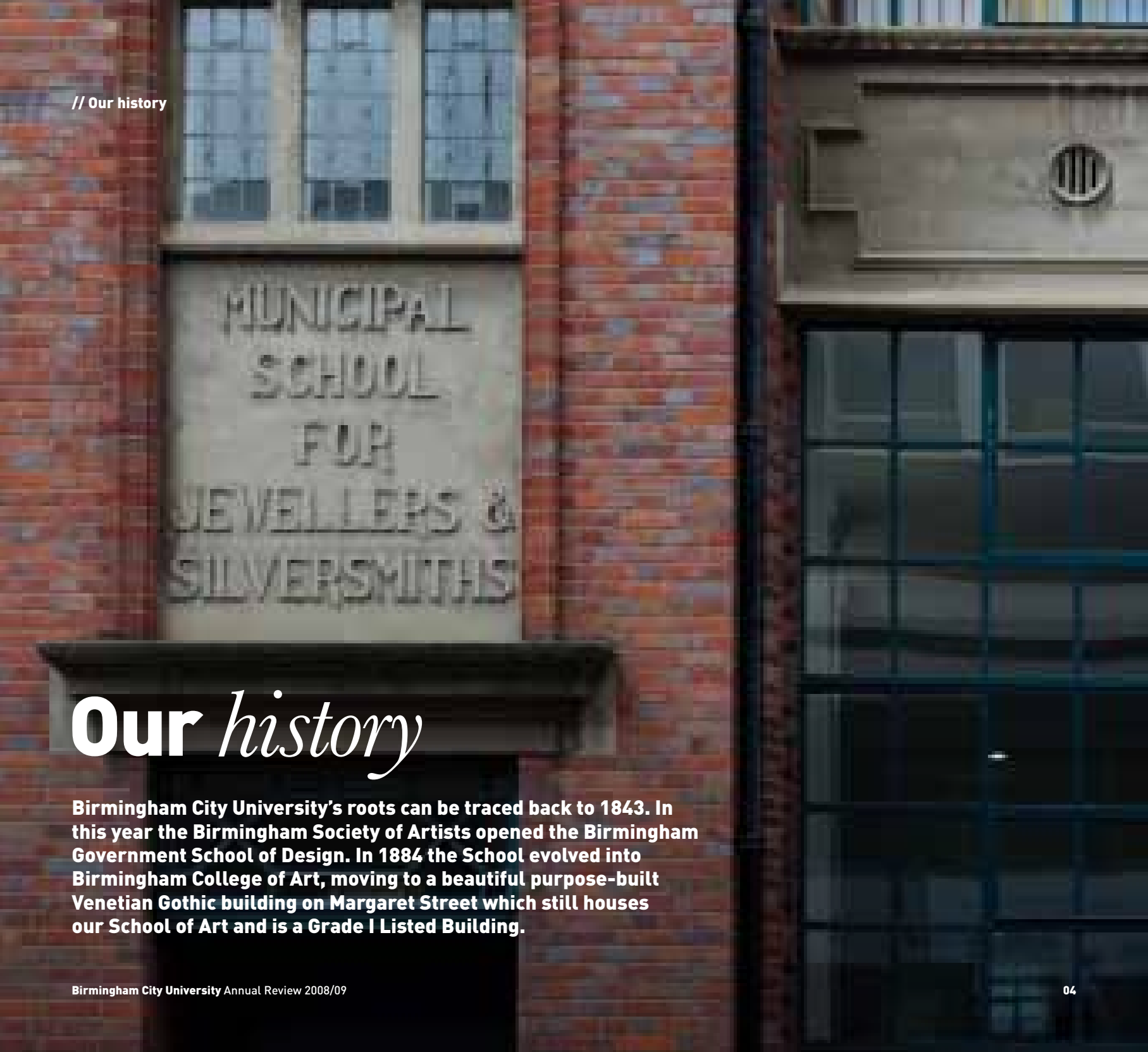
Birmingham City University

undergoes a transformation

// Birmingham City University undergoes a transformation

Over the past three years Birmingham City University has undergone a transformation. Following 2007's rebranding, the University has found itself in the enviable position of being a university of choice. In 2009 applications increased by 24 per cent; this compares very favourably to the national average of just 8.2 per cent.



The background image shows a red brick building. On the left, there is a stone plaque with the inscription 'MUNICIPAL SCHOOL FOR JEWELLERS & SILVERSMITHS'. Above the plaque are three small, multi-paned windows. To the right of the plaque is a large, dark-framed window with multiple panes. The overall tone is historical and academic.

// Our history

Our *history*

Birmingham City University's roots can be traced back to 1843. In this year the Birmingham Society of Artists opened the Birmingham Government School of Design. In 1884 the School evolved into Birmingham College of Art, moving to a beautiful purpose-built Venetian Gothic building on Margaret Street which still houses our School of Art and is a Grade I Listed Building.

// Our history

In 1888 **Birmingham School of Jewellery**, which was based in Ellen Street, became a branch of the College of Art. Two years later a new building was opened in Vittoria Street (pictured opposite) which has been the School's home ever since.

The School of Architecture was established within the College of Art in 1909 and won Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) recognition in 1923 and 1930 to become one of the UK's major schools of architecture. On entry into the Polytechnic, the School became a leading department of the Faculty of the Built Environment.

Birmingham School of Music developed as a department of the Birmingham and Midland Institute around 1859. The first phase of the present building, which houses Birmingham Conservatoire, in Paradise Circus was opened in 1973 by HM The Queen Mother.

Birmingham College of Commerce was established in the early 20th Century and became a branch of Birmingham Central Technical College (CTC) with its main teaching centre in Edmund Street. A new CTC at Gosta Green was formally opened by HM The Queen in 1955 and the College of Commerce moved to the site in the early 1960s. In 1961, the CTC's technology divisions became the UK's first College of Advanced Technology which, in 1966, became Aston University. The College of Commerce remained separate, however, before becoming part of the Polytechnic.

South Birmingham Technical College opened in 1961 on a site now occupied by Bournville College of Further Education. The site was vacated in the early 1970s, when the College's departments moved to new buildings at City North Campus.

North Birmingham Technical College was created in 1966 when Aston Technical College moved to new premises at Perry Barr. New buildings for the college still form part of City North Campus.

Birmingham Polytechnic 1971-1988

The City of Birmingham Polytechnic was designated in 1971 by then Education Secretary Margaret Thatcher.

In 1975 a further three colleges were incorporated into the Polytechnic – Anstey College of Physical Education, Bordesley College of Education and City of Birmingham College of Education.

Bournville College of Art, which was founded in the early 1900s, merged with the Faculty of Art and Design in 1988 to create the Birmingham Institute of Art and Design.

Incorporation and independence 1989-1992

Since its designation in 1971, Birmingham Polytechnic had been part of Birmingham Local Education Authorities provision. However, on 1 April 1989 the Education Reform Act made all polytechnics independent corporations with charitable status. The same year saw Birmingham School of Music being renamed Birmingham Conservatoire, with Sir Simon Rattle as the Conservatoire's first President.

University status 1992-2007

On 6 March 1992, the Further and Higher Education Act gave all polytechnics the power to adopt the title of 'university'. The new name, 'University of Central England in Birmingham', was approved by the Privy Council on 16 June 1992.

Also in 1992, work commenced on refurbishment of the School of Jewellery, which was opened formally in March 1995 and is the largest School of Jewellery in Europe. During the summer of 1995 the University merged with the Birmingham and Solihull College of Nursing and Midwifery, and the West Midlands School of Radiography. New accommodation was opened on Edgbaston campus in summer 1998, enabling all teaching of nursing and midwifery to be concentrated there.

In 2000, the Technology Innovation Centre (TIC) was created from the former Faculty of Engineering and Computer Technology. The next year it moved to the new Millennium Point campus and the Faculty of Education took up TIC's old premises at Perry Barr. In 2001, The Defence School of Health Care Studies joined the Faculty of Health.

Birmingham City University 2007- present

In 2007 the University changed its name to Birmingham City University and received a new logo, a reworking of the tiger crest used by the University of Central England in Birmingham, which itself originally came from the Birmingham College of Commerce, one of the Polytechnic's founder institutions.



Seacole Building



Millennium Point

// Forward-thinking Research

Forward-thinking *Research*

In 2008/09 Birmingham City University celebrated the fruits of a five-year investment programme in research development. This period saw the launch of its forward research strategy which will examine the ‘big challenges’ facing society, including sustainable economies, the digital experience, health care and the ageing population, to name just a few. The University is confident it can help find solutions in these important areas as a leader among the modern university sector after its flagship provision was recognised as being ‘world class’.

This impressive status was based on a national audit of UK research excellence – the Research Assessment Exercise 2008 (RAE-2008). The RAE-2008 was a significant milestone for the University's research profile:

- Nearly one-fifth of the total submission received was recognised as “world-leading”, more than any other modern university.
- University's pioneering research in art and design was ranked among the top 10 submissions in the country.
- Birmingham Conservatoire was ranked as one of the top three in the country and the best outside of London.
- The results pushed the University up 26 places in the research excellence league tables.
- The Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) recognised the University's success by granting it a share of a £200 million funding pot, with Birmingham City University being one of only four modern institutions eligible to apply for this support for postgraduate arts students.

“The University has made an unprecedented commitment to research, marking a new era in its history. Research ensures that our teaching programmes include the most up-to-date knowledge, increases our capacity to undertake third-stream activities with business and the community such as knowledge transfer and enterprise engagement and contributes to the intellectual and academic wellbeing of the University.”

Professor David Maguire, Pro Vice-Chancellor for Corporate Development, who joined the University in December 2008 and is steering the University's ambitious research

// Forward-thinking Research



Student adjusting the x-ray unit



Students in the TV Gallery



Dr Mervyn Morris (far right, bottom row) and a delegation from Belgium

As well as prestige, the University's success in the RAE-2008 attracted significant government funding which has been directly invested to help double the University's research community marking a new era of excellence. For the first time in its history, the University is investing in an ambitious five-year growth strategy for its research provision and will be investing more than £2.5 million per year over this period.

New Centres of Excellence have been set up to drive forward the University's research, innovation and enterprise agenda. These centres reflect the University's research strengths, much of it having regional, national and international impact. The 12 centres are:

- Applied Criminology
- Business, Innovation and Enterprise
- Research in Education
- Design and the Creative Industries
- Institute for Digital Experience and Applications
- Fine Art Research
- Environment and Society Research
- Centre for Low-Carbon Research

- Health and Social Care Research
- Music and Performance
- Research in English Studies

The Centres of Excellence will involve more staff in high-quality research, increase the numbers of research students and improve both the quality and quantity of our research, for the benefit of all our stakeholders.

Research benefits our students by ensuring our teaching programmes include leading-edge knowledge. It underpins the intellectual and academic rigour of the University, and it increases our capability and capacity to deliver meaningful knowledge transfer and enterprise activities with external organisations. The University is funding 36 full-time PhD studentships to catalyse the expansion of its research community.

Birmingham City University is involved in a range of research projects that are helping to make a real difference in the real world.

// Forward-thinking Research

A three-year groundbreaking mental health care project in Norway is being run in collaboration with Professor Mervyn Morris from the University's Centre for Health and Social Care Research at the Faculty of Health. The scheme's aim is to develop a community-based mental health service, particularly for people with longer-term mental health problems to promote recovery through independent living and self-care. The Norwegian Directorate of Health turned to Professor Morris to work in collaboration on the project because of his experience and reputation in this field.

Birmingham is world-renowned for innovation in community-based mental health care and Professor Morris has also worked in other countries to support comparable developments.

A pioneering research project saw Mark Addis, Professor of Philosophy, and David Boyd, Professor of Construction, collaborating with construction companies to generate creative solutions in the face of challenging economic times. A leading expert in analytic philosophy, Professor Addis took on the role of Philosopher in Residence for construction firms Mouchel, Thomas Vale Construction and Rider Levett Bucknall. Under the scheme, Professors Addis and Boyd examined company practices and shared their expertise to encourage new ideas which helped companies sharpen their competitive edge. They set up the project and the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) funded it by awarding them a £34,000 Knowledge Transfer Fellowship grant.

Professor Philip Smallwood of the University's School of English led a celebration to mark the 300th anniversary of the birth of the West Midlands' second most famous literary son, Dr Samuel Johnson. The celebration included a rare opportunity to view an early copy of the William Kenrick Library's *A Dictionary of the English Language* which the Library had never exhibited in public before. Professor Smallwood, who has taught and researched Dr Johnson's work at the University for 34 years, also co-edited a volume of essays for Cambridge University Press, *Samuel Johnson After 300 Years*, to tie in with the tercentenary year celebrations.

Driven to improve biofuels

The pressure to reduce the environmental impact of powerful truck engines has driven the direction of the research at the Faculty of Technology, Engineering and the Environment (TEE) into the testing of non-fossil oils.

The work focuses on heavy duty diesel engines that power commercial vehicles and electrical generators. Biofuels potentially offer significant opportunities to reduce the net CO² production from internal combustion engines – but, at the same time, present major technical challenges to engine makers.

Because some biofuels have very high viscosity and complex chemical composition there are both combustion and component wear issues that were previously unknown.

The work within the Faculty has helped to identify the impact of a range of high percentage biofuel blends on engine performance, component wear rates, fuel injection characteristics and combustion performance.

These studies have helped users make appropriate changes in fuel preparation and engine operation.

Initial work was undertaken at customer diesel generator facilities but, due to significant investment in the Faculty's own laboratories, future work can be undertaken at the new

Heavy Duty Engine Research and Development Cell. This facility is considered to be one of the few state-of-the-art facilities of its kind within the country.



Students working on an engine in our Heavy Diesel Test Cell



// Innovative Teaching

Innovative *Teaching*

Our innovative teaching, particularly in the areas of creative and professional practice, and our track record of being a leading practitioner of business and industry collaboration are widely recognised by employers.

// Innovative Teaching

Students have access to excellent teaching facilities, some of them world-class, and their ability to apply their knowledge to professional practice is honed through a variety of mechanisms such as case studies, group case studies, group work or exposure to computer-generated environments.

This excellence is supported by the Centre for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching (CELT), the University's own learning lab, where a team of dedicated and visionary experts design and implement some of the UK's most advanced higher education teaching methods. CELT also hosts the University's Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL), a £4.2 million HEFCE-funded initiative which has a University-wide role to support innovative learning and teaching.

One of the main vehicles used to enable students to become key stakeholders is the Redesign of the Learning Experience (RoLEx) project which involved students in the review of all undergraduate course provision at the University with the aim of better meeting the needs of students and employers. In addition, a cross-faculty team is spearheading work to find alternative and innovative ways for the University to better engage students in creating a true learning community. The work is being undertaken in partnership with the Students' Union and is informed by advice from collaborations with the Copenhagen Business School and the University of Pittsburgh.

In the Faculty of Health, innovative work has led to a collaboration agreement with Laerdal Medical Ltd, one of the world's largest manufacturers of simulation-based products. The latest simulation facilities are now available for student learning within a newly-designed simulation facility that will inspire students as they prepare for the practical elements of their health and social care courses. The University joined forces the medical schools at Birmingham and Warwick universities to lead a project and produce a joint report, on the future of clinical skills and simulation for the future education of the health care workforce.



Virtual Solicitor's Practice, Shareville

Bringing learning to (virtual) life

CELT has supported partnership projects such as those in the School of Jewellery, with students working directly with employers from the precious metal industry to design new jewellery products, and the School of Law to develop a Virtual Solicitor's Practice which offers students a virtual insight into how a solicitor's practice operates as a commercial enterprise.

The Practice now forms one of a number of installations within our own three-dimensional virtual town, Shareville. This provides an environment in which real life scenarios can

be explored and has attracted national recognition through the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC).



// Graduates equipped to achieve their full potential

Wondu Mekonnen receives his award from the then
Minister of State for Housing, Margaret Beckett

Graduates

equipped to achieve their full potential

We're proud of our strong partnerships with industry and the professions, as they ensure that every aspect of our courses is designed to equip graduates with the skills and qualifications needed in today's job market.

In fact, many of our courses involve work placements, making our graduates highly employable.



Steven Spencer



Jabbar Khan

“ I signed up for the course at Birmingham City University because I knew it would have a real, practical use in my business. It was a great opportunity to see brilliant minds coming together and the lecturers genuinely understood where I was coming from and what I wanted to achieve. Speaking to them really unleashed my ideas and thought processes. ”

Jabbar Khan
Director of award-winning restaurant, Lasan

MA Visual Communications graduate Steven Spencer won the national Royal Television Society Student Television Award for his short animated film, *My Brown Friend*. Thirty-year-old Steven made the film, which was inspired by a close friend's experience, in 2007 as his graduation project. Steven is now setting up his own studio in central Birmingham. He said: "I've spent several years living in London but now I want to stay true to my roots, and help support the local film-making community in Birmingham."

Another successful graduate who has remained true to his Birmingham roots is Jabbar Khan, Director of Lasan, the restaurant that took the UK's Best Local Restaurant award on Gordon Ramsay's Channel 4 cookery programme *The F Word*. Jabbar, a former Entrepreneurship postgraduate student has been listed in the *Who's Who of Britain's Young Business Elite* and won the Institute of Directors' Young Director of the Year Award, while Lasan has topped the bill for the British Best Curry Awards three years in a row.

One of our prize-winning students achieved outstanding success despite having to face major challenges in his life. Postgraduate Diploma and MA Housing graduate Wondu Mekonnen scooped the Student of the Year Award from the Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH). Wondu, originally from Ethiopia, was granted asylum in the UK in 2004 and has worked as a volunteer ever since, helping asylum seekers and refugees settle into their new community. Wondu became interested in working in housing during his involvement with the Refugee Council in Coventry in 2003 and 2004. Throughout his time at Birmingham City University he took a series of short-term contracts to finance his studies. He also continued to do voluntary work with the Ethiopian Community in the West Midlands, advising and supporting refugees and asylum seekers on immigration and housing matters.

For two years running the Chartered Institute of Public Relations (CIPR) Midlands Student Of The Year has been awarded to a graduate of Birmingham City University.

In 2009, Jonnie Hill, who gained a first class BA (Hons) Media and Communications (Public Relations), received the accolade. Jonnie was nominated by his tutors, who were impressed with the work he produced while studying. He also worked part-time during his studies for NHS South Birmingham's Communications and Public Involvement Department.



Jonnie Hill (centre)



// Excellent track record of real-world engagement

Excellent *track record of real-world engagement*

Birmingham City University has an excellent track record of real-world engagement, of helping businesses and supporting them to develop and grow. We have more than 10 years of experience offering valuable expertise and implementing practical solutions to firms of all sizes – from the smallest SMEs to leading FTSE 100 companies such as Cadbury and Marks & Spencer. With most of our academics continuing to work within their fields of expertise, businesses can tap into some of the keenest and innovative minds in the country.

Launch of Foundation Degree in
building in association with Jewson

// Excellent track record of real-world engagement

During the economic downturn the University has helped businesses not just to stay afloat but also to thrive. In 2009 the University was awarded £330,000 to help businesses through this difficult financial period. The money was given by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) to enable the University to support a range of industrial sectors through the recession. Participating companies were expected to match-fund some projects or make negotiated contributions in kind for training and mentoring which meant that the HEFCE allocation was doubled to a total investment of £660,000. One of the companies Birmingham City University worked with was pub and restaurant group Mitchells & Butlers, for which the University developed a strategy and leadership programme.

“ We are delighted to receive this funding and it reflects our commitment to supporting local businesses. Ultimately this allocation will be good news for the region’s economy, as Birmingham City University encourages firms to re-think the way they work in a fast-changing world and give their staff the skills and training to help futureproof their company’s development. ”

Michele Mooney, Director of the University’s Research, Innovation and Enterprise Services, who led the bid for funding to help businesses

Jewson’s - The UK’s first ever Foundation Degree in Builders’ Merchunting

The UK’s first ever Foundation Degree in Builders’ Merchunting was developed by Jewson and Birmingham City University in order to give the company’s new and existing branch managers the skills and knowledge to further their careers and the business alike. Students are supported by Birmingham City University lecturers and the Jewson training department, culminating in a major project presentation where students will be required to demonstrate creative thinking that has benefited the business. Further cementing its relationship with Birmingham City University, Jewson also launched a Postgraduate Diploma in Leadership and Strategy to run in tandem with the new Foundation Degree.

The University has helped companies not only develop their staff, but also increase their turnover. A Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) with an engineering firm led to the company achieving international leadership in its field and winning a £20 million contract. West Midlands firm Mechatherm International Ltd worked with the University to increase its design competence. Mechatherm was able to produce aluminium furnace designs in a fraction of the previous time and as a result won its biggest-ever design and installation contract worth £20 million, prompting recruitment of more staff and achieving 50 per cent turnover growth. In addition to the financial gain, the partnership was judged “outstanding” and awarded the highest national accolade by KTP assessors on behalf of the Technology Strategy Board.

Cube Precision Engineering

University experts steered another firm, Cube Precision Engineering through an accreditation process which helped secure jobs. Cube, which manufactures jigs and fixtures gained the international accreditation ISO 9001-2000 in just two months; the process normally takes six to 18 months. As a result of this the company now gains orders of around £50,000 per month and has secured the jobs of its 10 employees.



Cube Precision Engineering



M&B Area Managers (l-r), Martin Nelson (Country Dining) and Gary Loader (Crown Carveries)

// Excellent track record of real-world engagement

Surgeons Headgear

Helping surgeons save lives

High-tech headgear designed at Birmingham City University will make it easier for surgeons to perform lifesaving operations on babies and small children.

The device, which is designed for surgeons to wear in theatre, is 70 per cent lighter than those currently in use. In addition the kit is wireless, which means surgeons won't have lots of cables trailing behind them while they carry out intricate procedures. The new headgear features magnifying lenses, camera and lights which are aligned in seconds

to the surgeon's head by using a 3D scan; current models can take up to 15 minutes to be fitted correctly, adding extra time to vital operations. This innovation received national acknowledgement when it was shortlisted for the Times Higher Education Awards 2009 in the category of Outstanding Contribution to Innovation and Technology.

International *student community*

The University is truly global, with a unique multicultural and cosmopolitan atmosphere, situated in the heart of a vibrant, diverse and modern city. Our reputation around the world continues to grow, through our international alliances and our ever-expanding international student community, with a student population coming from over 70 different countries outside of the EU.

One of the University's successful international partnerships is with Tunku Abdul Rahman College (TARc) in Malaysia. Birmingham City Business School signed a progression agreement to provide opportunities for TARc's students who had successfully completed their Advanced Diploma in Commerce (Financial Accounting) to join the six-month intensive MSc Accountancy and Finance top-up programme. The course was delivered at the University's City North Campus from July to December 2009. Soon after the agreement a total of 41 TARc students enrolled on the MSc top-up course in 2009. So far the first cohort of 20 students have passed and 19 of them received commendations or distinctions. The course will run again in 2010, allowing Birmingham City Business School to build on this partnership with the college which has a long tradition of providing high-quality higher education programmes.

In China, the University has provided teacher training which has improved the skills of 200 teachers and benefited thousands of students. The University's School of Education was invited by the local government in Henan Province to train its secondary English teachers in order to improve the quality of English teaching in secondary education.

Osundolire Ifelanwa Oladapo, British Council winner

The University has also been helping talented Nigerians gain skills to use in their home country. The University is one of six higher education institutions involved in the British Council-run competition, 'Innovation 360 degrees', which was established to find "great minds with great ideas". Students compete to study for a postgraduate qualification in Britain, with the understanding that they return to Nigeria at the end of their courses to contribute to their country's development. Osundolire Ifelanwa Oladapo, who gained a scholarship at Birmingham City University, had previously been accepted on four courses in the UK but had not been able to fund his education. He said: "I thank the British Council and Birmingham City University for this opportunity. This might be just another scholarship slot from the British Council, but for me, it is an opportunity of a lifetime."

The University's Shanghai Liaison Office

In 2009 the University's Shanghai Liaison Office relocated from a University Partner to the City Centre of Shanghai, close to international companies such as Sony. The office successfully completed registration to become the University's second independent office.




Overseas students, Mohammad Hariri Abdullah and Noohayati Saad, receive their research degrees



Osundolire Ifelanwa Oladapo, British Council winner





// Enriching the Local Community

Enriching *the Local Community*

Birmingham City University recognises the contribution it can make to enrich the local community. The University is involved in a number of projects designed to enhance the lives of people who live in and around the city.



Our new £8 million Doug Ellis Sports Centre boasts an 80-station fitness suite, an eight-court sports hall and workout and spinning studios. The centre is open to the public, as well as to University staff and students. It offers state-of-the-art fitness training equipment and plenty of room for team sports including five-a-side football and cricket. Staff are on hand to offer advice and the gym is accessible for disabled users, with changing facilities that include disabled access, as well as team changing areas. An all-weather pitch adds the finishing touches to the centre, which is located close to our City North Campus.

Looking to preserve and champion Birmingham's musical heritage, the University is supporting a web-based project which highlights the role of Birmingham popular music from the past six decades. Funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, academics at the University's Centre for Media and Cultural Research have been working with local creative entrepreneurs and businesses to create the Birmingham Popular Music Archive. Set up to position Birmingham on equal footing with other centres of popular music culture like Manchester and Liverpool, the archive encourages members of the public to "tell us what you know" by sharing their stories, memories and memorabilia.

The University has close ties with a number of local schools and colleges and is involved in a number of projects to promote education and encourage participation in higher education. The University leads the Birmingham and Solihull Aimhigher Mentoring and Associates which aims to widen participation in higher education. The project brings together the five higher education institutions from across the city to raise the aspirations of pupils who have the ability to achieve entry to HE but do not feel it is an opportunity for them. In 2009, 500 pupils benefited from the project. The University has also worked with local schools to open up the possibilities of studying subjects young people may have previously dismissed. Teachers and pupils alike experienced 'hands-on' engineering experience at workshops run by the Faculty of Technology, Engineering and the Environment (TEE).

“ It is highly valuable for pupils to be given access to, and experience using, Birmingham City University's excellent resources. ”

John Townend, Teacher at Handsworth Grammar School, who led the largest visit to the engineering workshops

Run in collaboration with global product design-software leader PTC Inc, the workshops were designed to support the national 'STEM Agenda' which promotes interest in studying science, technology, engineering and maths in secondary schools. They also helped to equip regional schools to enter the national Scalextric4Schools competition, which required them to design, build and race a miniature car.

The University has been helping to boost art and design education by working with some of the most prestigious arts facilities in the country to get pupils out of the classroom and into galleries. Educators from Tate Britain, The Royal Academy, The Victoria and Albert Museum, The Baltic, The Serpentine and The IKON attended a University symposium which resulted in the recommendation to use art galleries as 'out-of-classroom' learning spaces. The National Lottery-backed symposium provided a pilot forum in preparation for a piece of significant Birmingham City University research into arts education.



TEE's Steve Webb (right) helps pupils work out design details



Centre for Media and Cultural Research

Academic *Leaders*

**Many of our academics are leaders in their fields.
We employ teaching staff who have been recognised
as exemplars in their fields of expertise - expertise
that they pass on to their students.**

// Academic Leaders

As the influence of social media grows, it's fitting that one of the University's top academics is a leader in this field. Paul Bradshaw is best known for his work as publisher of the Online Journalism blog (onlinejournalismblog.com) which is the UK's most popular journalism blog. Posts on the blog have been translated by organisations around the world, and have resulted in invitations to speak in the USA, Australia, Norway, the Netherlands, Austria, Brazil and Ukraine. He has been described as "One of the UK's most influential journalism bloggers" by the Press Gazette and "A very shrewd commentator" by the BBC's Head of Newsroom. In 2009 he was named by the Birmingham Post as one of the most influential people in the city; the newspaper also credited him with turning the University's '...journalism courses into some of the best in the country for students with his focus on the emerging ways social media and the internet are changing the media."

Paul is the School of Media's Course Director for the MA Online Journalism and he also works as a freelance journalist and consultant with a number of media organisations on their online strategy. His research interests include the impact of digital technologies on the media and the development of online journalism as a new form. He has contributed to several books about the internet and journalism, and is currently writing a book about online journalism. After securing funding from Channel 4 and Screen West Midlands he has co-founded *Help Me Investigate*, a citizen-powered investigative journalism site.

The work of the University's Professor of American Public Law, Julian Killingley, earned him the title of Pro-Bono Hero awarded by the Attorney General, Baroness Scotland.

Professor Killingley has worked with the English Bar and Law Society in death penalty cases before the US Supreme Court. Wherever possible he has used law students as research assistants. In 2009 he led a group of seven law students in work on a brief supporting an American teenager sentenced to life imprisonment at the age of 13. The team worked with professors from the University Of San Francisco School Of Law and the Bar and Law Society's International Human Rights Committees.

“ The students on my team gained invaluable experience by being involved in a real-life case and this will help them when they leave university and enter the legal profession. ”

Julian Killingley
Professor of American Public Law



Julian Killingley

Professor Mario Minichiello, Head of Department for Visual Communication at Birmingham Institute of Art and Design (BIAD), is regarded as one of the foremost thinkers and practitioners in his field. On the academic research website, www.academia.edu - which has members such as Stephen Hawking, Noam Chomsky and Richard Dawkins - Mario is the sixth most searched-for name in the USA for his field of expertise.

An illustrator, artist and academic, Mario worked between 1986-93 for BBC Newsnight as a reportage illustrator, making drawings for notable events such as the Spycatcher Trials, pre-television coverage of the House of Commons, the 'Guildford Four' appeals, and 'Beirut Hostage' releases. Mario worked as an artist during the Afghanistan War and his book *The Art of Conflict?* is a record of reportage drawings of the war.

“ Some drawings impress with their emotion and humanity, others impress with their technique; Mario's do both and, what is even better, because of the nature of their questioning, they make even this most cynical old hack want to go out and draw the world afresh. ”

Steve Bell, The Guardian cartoonist

His most recent work for a new war documentary (with Hurricane films) uses sound archives including the testimonies of generations of soldiers. Mario has produced a large body of work illustrating the experiences of those who fought in all the major conflicts since the 1940s, including the war in Afghanistan. Examples of his powerful illustrations are displayed at VORTEX, the war art archive founded by Professor Paul Gough, Chair of the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) 2008 sub-panel 63 - art and design, as well as in other international archives.

Mario is a renowned conferences speaker and a member of the Executive Committee of the influential Lunar Society. He continues to develop his research which is increasingly focused on the creative industries and their potential to revolutionise the economy and deliver a low-carbon future.

// Academic Leaders



Professor Mario Minichiello, Head of Department
for Visual Communication at Birmingham
Institute of Art and Design (BIAD)



Ray's Jeep blown up

//Creativity at the heart of Birmingham City University

Punch

Creativity

*at the heart of Birmingham
City University*



//Creativity at the heart of Birmingham City University

Creativity is at the heart of Birmingham City University. University institutions such as the prestigious Birmingham Conservatoire, Birmingham Institute of Art and Design and Birmingham School of Acting are driven by imagination and inspiration.

One example of this creativity is the University's collaboration with trend prediction company Global Colour Research Mix Publications (international trends prediction agency). Birmingham City University design, textile and interior BA (Hons) and MA students worked with Global Colour Research Mix Publications interpreting their autumn/winter 2010 trends, which were unveiled at the 2009 Interiors Birmingham show held at the NEC. The University has a long-term relationship with the exhibition organiser, UBM Live, which has progressed over three years to unleash talent from the University's Birmingham Institute of Art and Design (BIAD) and shine a spotlight on the University's creative practice. Our students also created a range of work in collaboration with leading industry names including Amtico International and Tektura. This project highlights not only the creativity of our students but also our engagement with industry in which students, academics and business all benefit from each other's skills and abilities during the collaboration.

Opal

//Creativity at the heart of Birmingham City University

Birmingham Conservatoire opera scenes with orchestra.
Photo: Chris Webb



The University continues to engage audiences with Birmingham Conservatoire and Birmingham School of Acting (BSA) events.

One of the many highlights in the Conservatoire's 2008/9 calendar was the UK professional premiere of *I Remember*, a musical interpretation of Anne Frank's life, in an event that brought together art, music and poetry. Vocal students presented *The Magic Flute* and opera scenes with full orchestra

(pictured), while jazz students performed with Dave Holland, the 45-strong Conservatoire Folk Ensemble undertook its third annual UK tour and the Frontiers Plus festival welcomed resident ensembles Chroma and decibel. In July, the Conservatoire hosted 'IDRS 2009' (the International Double Reed Society Conference), welcoming 1000 participants to Birmingham – bringing the event to Britain for the first time in 20 years.

//Creativity at the heart of Birmingham City University



Tina Freeth reads from *Book of Numbers* at the anthology launch (2009).
Photo: Chris Webb

The University's MA in Writing, run in association with the National Academy of Writing (NAW), made critically acclaimed writer Richard Beard its Director in 2009. The MA is designed to encourage and develop the potential of new writing talent from all walks of life, regardless of academic qualifications, and the course includes regular visits by distinguished novelists, playwrights and screenplay writers from among the Academy's body of writer patrons. With publisher and author Ian Trewin as honorary president, the National Academy of Writing is supported by leading professional writers. 2009 saw the launch of *Book of Numbers*, the second in a series of annual anthologies of new works by students and others associated with the course.

“ Students will be thrilled to study with a writer of Richard Beard's calibre, and I am pleased that the National Academy of Writing is able to attract such talent to its staff. ”

Author Ken Follett



Ken Follett

//Creativity at the heart of Birmingham City University

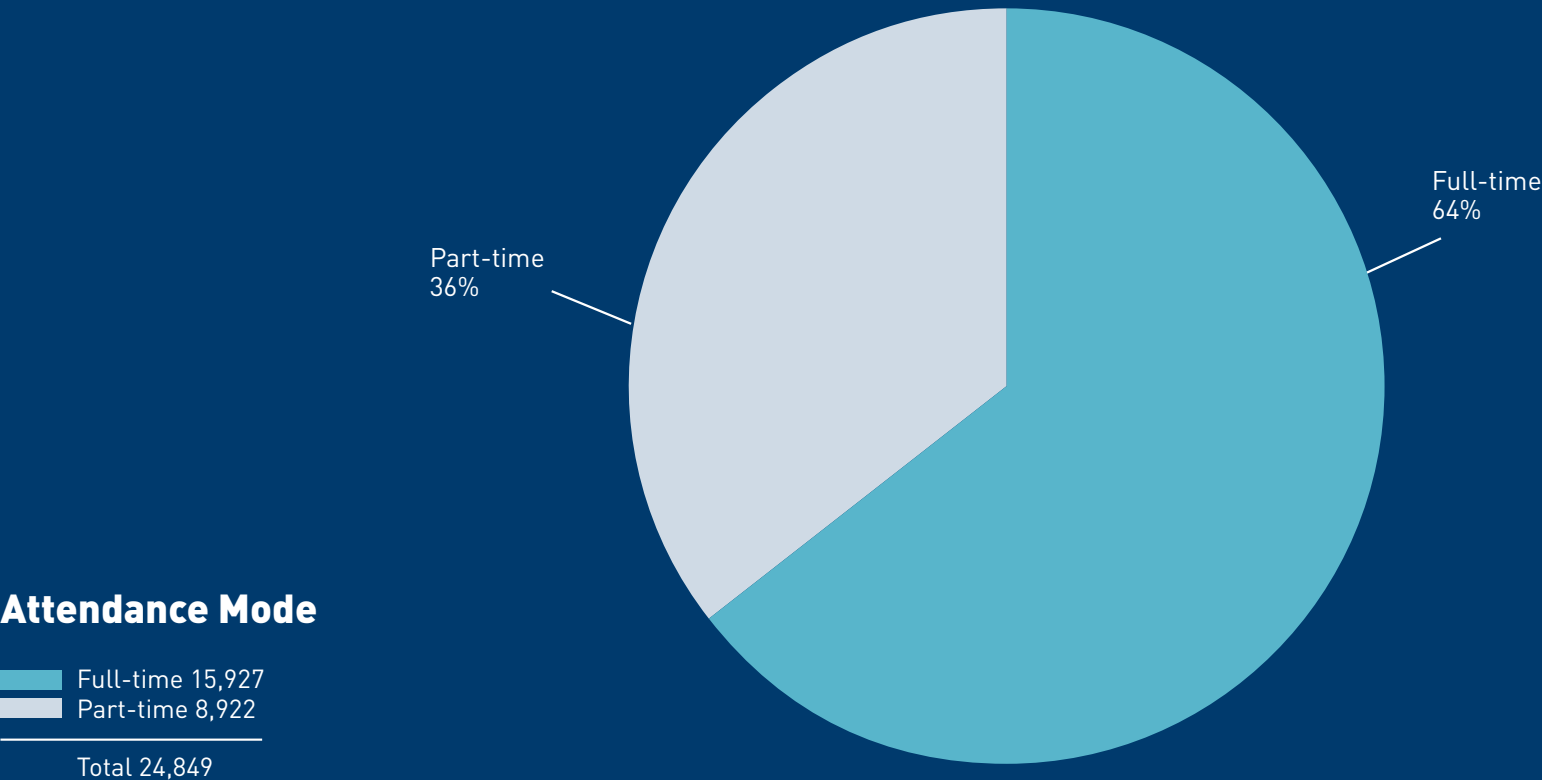


At BSA, final year students presented a diverse season of 12 shows. Directed by professionals from inside and outside the School, the selection of contemporary, classic and complex works included Arthur Miller's *The American Clock*, Simon Stephens' *On The Shore Of The Wide World*, Patrick Marber's *Don Juan In Soho*, Steven Knight's *The President Of An Empty Room*, Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd - The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*, Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Mark Ravenhill's *Mother Clap's Molly House*.



University statistics

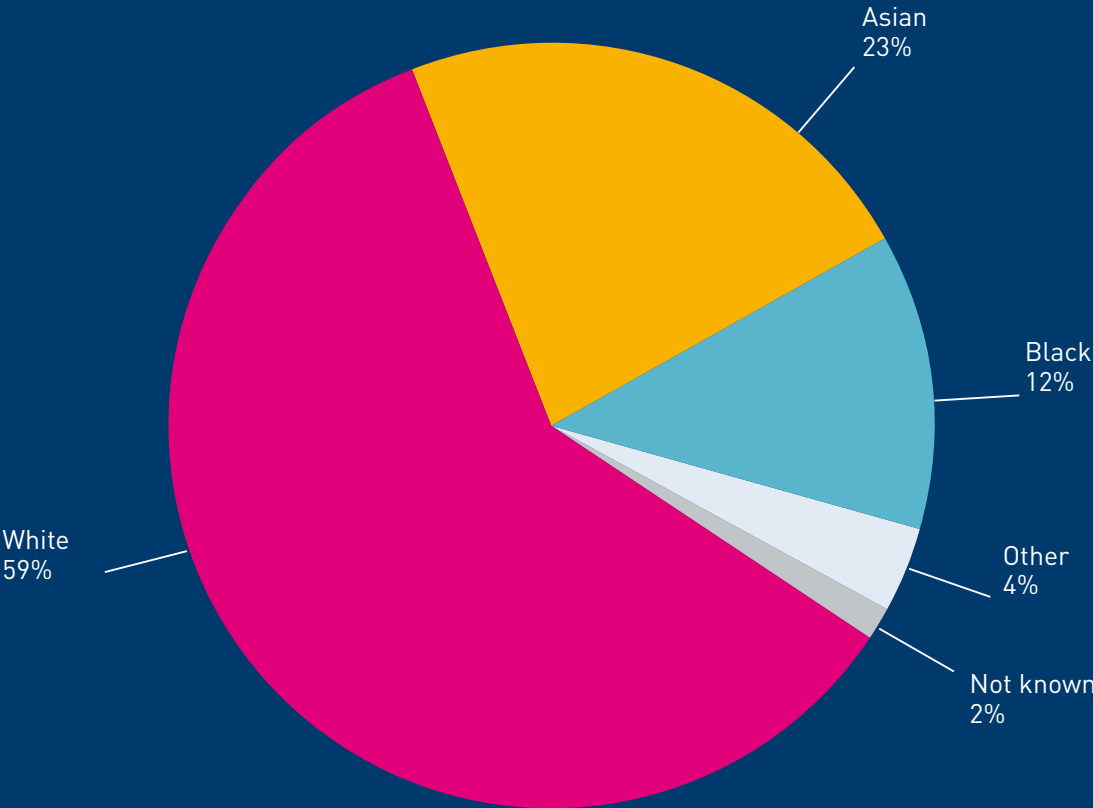
With around 25,000 students, Birmingham City University is one of the major universities in the UK. We offer over 300 courses to students from eight faculties and seven campuses. Of our students, 8,000 study part-time and 2,000 are international students from over 80 different countries outside the EU.



Student Ethnicity

White ethnicity	14,604
Asian ethnicity	5,792
Black ethnicity	3,080
Other ethnicity	957
Not Known	416

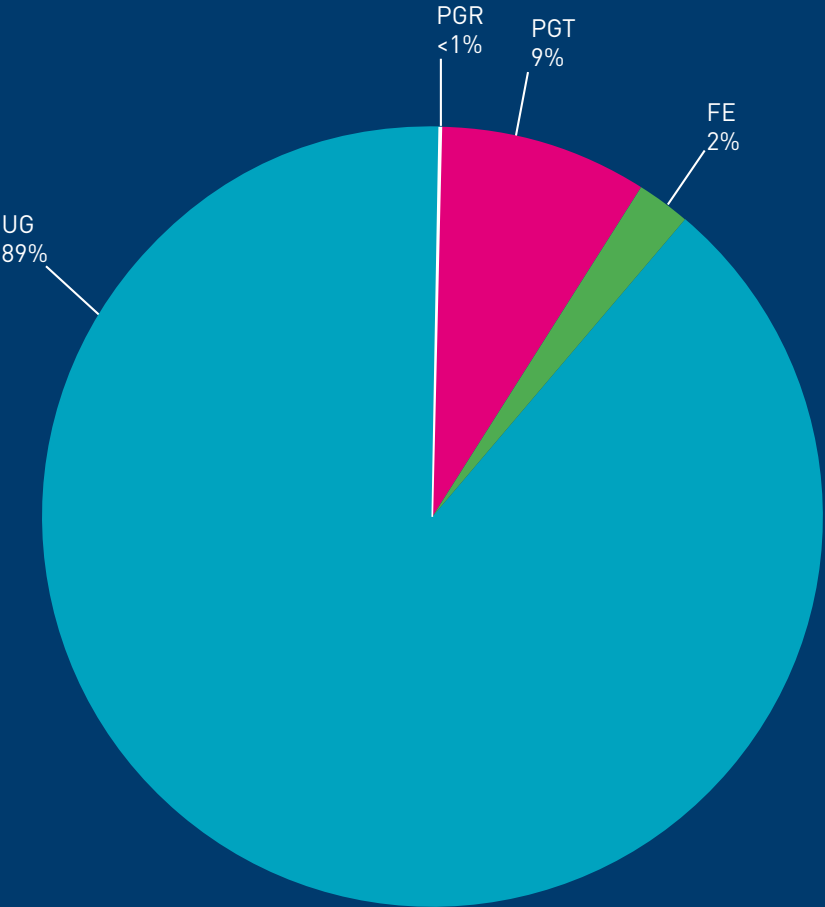
Total 24,849



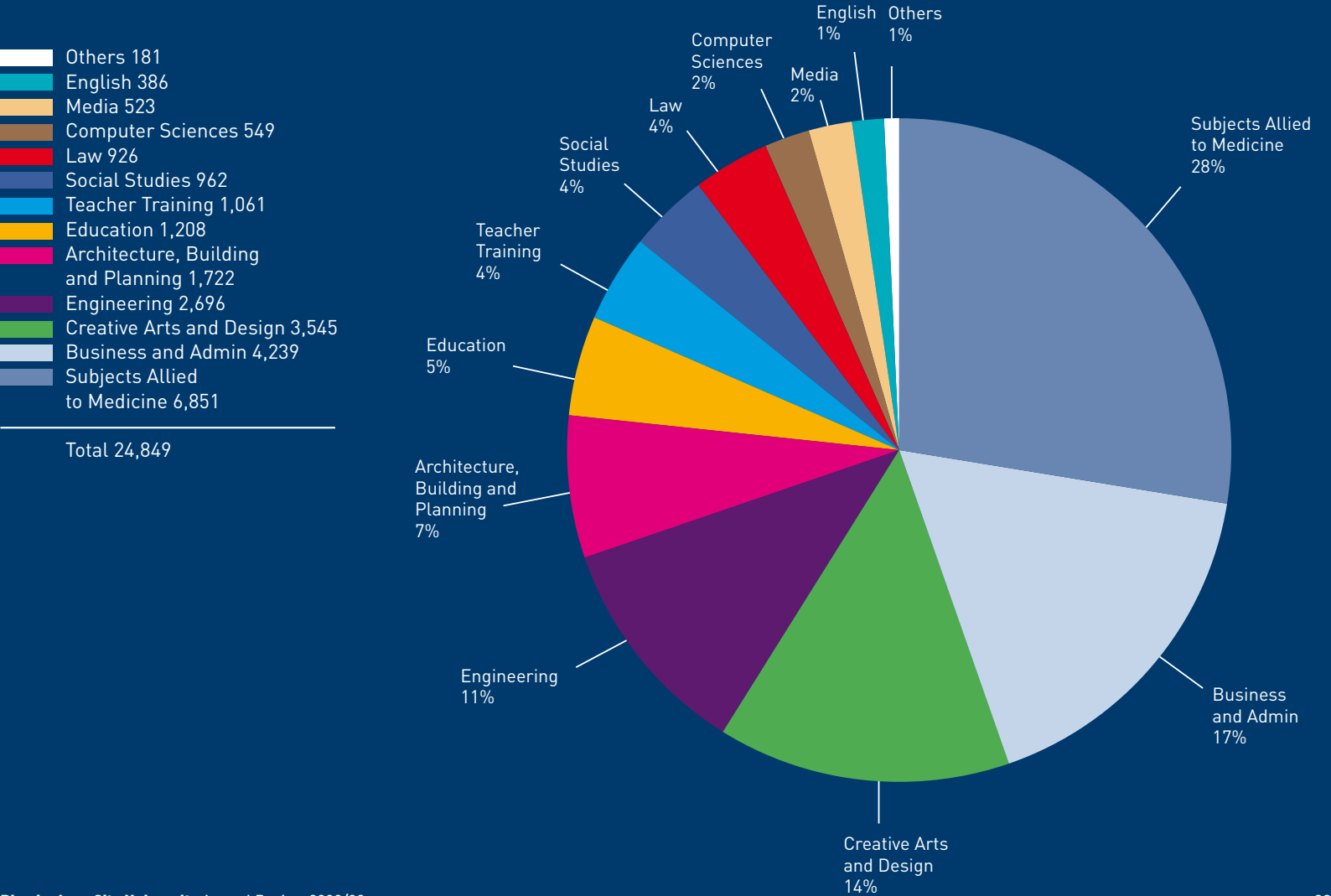
Full-time Students
by level of course

- Further Education 328
- Undergraduate 14,218
- Postgraduate Research 31
- Postgraduate Taught 1,350

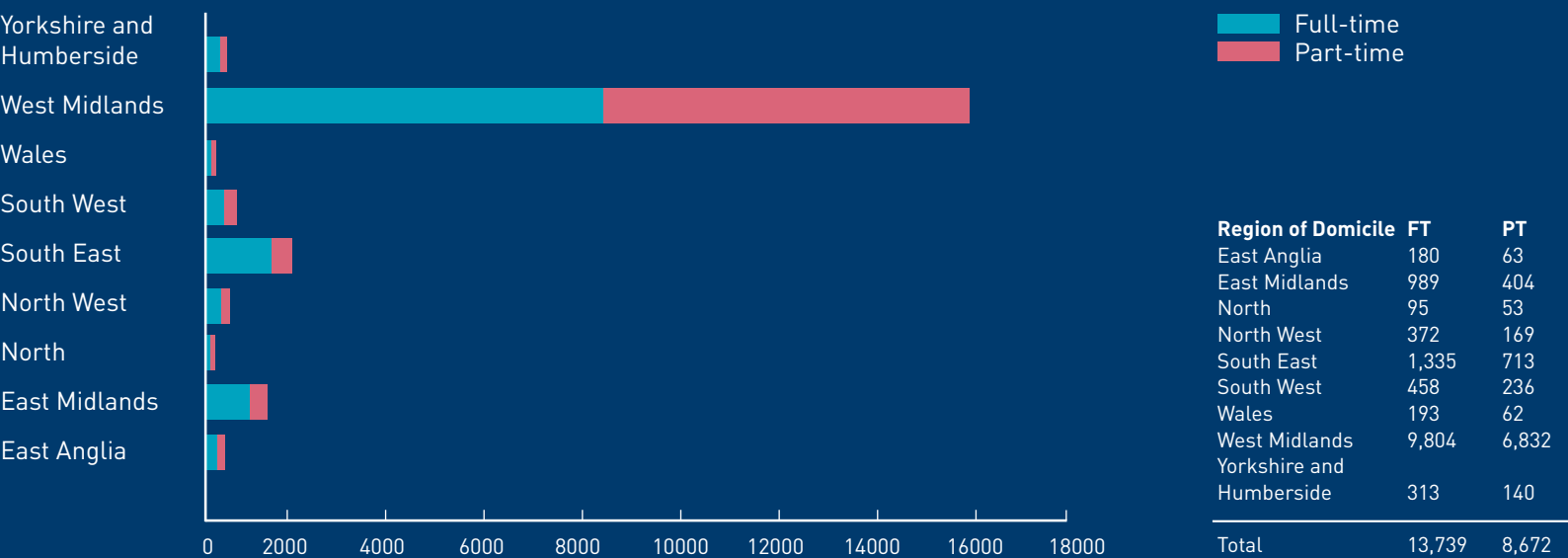
Total 15,366



Choice of study subject



Region of Domicile
(England and Wales only)



Board of Governors/External membership of Board Committees/ List of senior staff (who held office during the 2008 - 2009 academic year)

Board of Governors

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(to 31 March 2009)

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DDH, DDPH. RCS. (Eng)

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(from 20 October 2008)

Mr Oliver Hetherington
(to 30 June 2009)

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Mr Joe Kelly, FCA, MBA
(from 1 April 2009)

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Ms Jenny Loynton, LLB (Hons)
(from 1 April 2009)

Mr Howard Marshall
(to 31 March 2009)

Professor David Saint, BA, BMus, FRCO

Mr David Slade

Mr Tom Thompson (from 1 July 2009)

Professor David Tidmarsh, BSc (Hons), PhD,
CEng, FIMechE, FCMI

Dame Janet Trotter, DBE, BD, MA,
MSc, DTec (Hons)

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