

DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING



Academic Assembly

Tuesday 3 May 2022 at 12.30pm

Virtual meeting via TEAMS

Present:

Dr Alan Hayes, Chair and 47 members

Attending by invitation:

Hannah South, Head of Library Academic Services

Karina Bradshaw, Faculty Librarian

Secretariat

Dr Caroline Harris, Secretary

Introductory items

742 - Welcome and Quorum

The Chair welcomed attendees and new members.

743 - Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

744 - Minutes of the Previous Meeting - Paper AA21/22-004

The minutes of the previous meeting of Academic Assembly held on 27 October 2021 were approved.

745 - Actions and Matters Arising

Reflection on Return to In-Person Teaching (minute 740)

Chair to raise matters with appropriate people. *A well-received and constructive Ask Me Anything session with the Chief Operating Officer and Deputy Director Safety & Wellbeing Services was held on 13 December 2021. **Complete***

Part I

746 – Relevant decisions of Senate

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

November 2021:

- In relation to Curriculum Transformation:
 - The development and roll-out for adapted postgraduate taught (PGT) regulations and the implementation of the 50% FHEQ level 7 passmark for PGT courses

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- Specific proposals for the 50% passmark module result mark scheme
- The adoption of standard conventions for variants of undergraduate courses
- Changes to relevant undergraduate course titles and available course variants in keeping with these conventions, with effect for new students joining in 2023/24
- The establishment of an Education Board and associated education governance changes; the dissolving of the Resilient Curriculum Project Team and EQSC sub-groups to be stood down
- The proposed approach to the renewal of exchanges to allow routine renewals, which pose no risk, to be approved by Heads of Departments, or the Associate Dean (Learning & Teaching) in the School of Management, as appropriate
- The signature by the University of Bath of the QAA Academic Integrity Charter
- The academic year dates for 2023/24 and amendments to assessment period dates in 2021/22
- A new online MSc Engineering Business Management course for 2022/23 entry, on the recommendation of the Courses and Partnerships Approval Committee
- Amendments to the Terms of Reference of the Board of Studies (Doctoral)
- New Criteria for Honorary Masters' Degrees; The introduction of a Master of the University (MUniv) award; The award of honorary degrees to named individuals.

February 2022:

- To recommend to Council, subject to consultation with the campus trade unions, that the University proceeds with the creation of the new Department of Life Sciences, merging the Departments of Biology & Biochemistry and Pharmacy & Pharmacology
- A set of rules for postgraduate taught assessment and award
- To recommend to Council the updated institutional Degree Outcomes Statement
- Two new course proposals:
 - the MSc Football Medicine in association with FIFA, with Postgraduate Diploma exit award, to commence in 2022/23
 - the MSc Clinical Associate Psychology (Adults) and MSc Clinical Associate Psychology (Children and Young People) degree apprenticeship courses to commence in 2022/23.
- The introduction of a specific set of questions for professional doctorates and changes to questions for students on placement
- A change in the dates of award ceremonies for 2022 Finalists and consequential adjustments to the timing of meetings of the Finalist Boards of Studies and the Continuing Boards of Studies
- The dates of ceremonies planned for graduates from 2020 and 2021 who have not yet attended an award ceremony and the proposal that planned ceremonies will be held in Bath Abbey assuming circumstances, including public health guidance, allow
- Amendments to the Terms of Reference of Faculty/School Research and Knowledge Exchange Committees, a change in the name of Department Research Committees to Department Research and Knowledge Exchange Committees and amendments to the Terms of Reference of Department Research Committees

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- Changes to the membership of the University Doctoral Studies Committee and the Board of Studies (Doctoral) and the Godfrey and Sue Hall Postgraduate Research Student Prize Committee
- A recommendation on the conferment of titles and on the appointment of a University-nominated Trustee to the Board of the Holburne Museum.

April:

- Proposals for PGT Individual Mitigating Circumstances; and proposals for rules for PGT exit awards
- To recommend to Council amendments to the Procedure for Inquiring into Allegations of Misconduct in Research and Scholarship
- To recommend to Council the report on PGT outcomes and completion rates in 2020/21
- To recommend to Council the disbanding of Council, Senate, Students' Union Committee
- To recommend to Council a new policy and procedure for handling non-academic student appeals
- The regular attendance of the Academic Lead for the Curriculum Transformation Project Team at Senate effective from the start of the 2022/23 academic year for the duration of the Curriculum Transformation project and the amendments to Standing Orders necessary to affect this change
- The delegation of the power to expel a student to the Vice-Chancellor
- To recommend to Council the Calendar of Meetings of Statutory Bodies for the 2022/23 academic year, noting the dates at the end of the academic year which were subject to the agreement of dates for award ceremonies in 2023
- A sabbatical year for the incoming SU Community Officer
- Individuals for the award of an honorary degree and the award of the Chancellor's Medal 2021
- The appointment of a University-nominated Trustee to the board of Designability
- The suspension of Regulation 16.5e to enable a second extension of registration of four months to be granted to a PhD student.

747– Elections

Academic Assembly noted Senate representatives elected to serve for a period of three years from 1 August 2022 to 31 July 2025.

748 – Vice-Chancellor's Statutory Address

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

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

The synergy between placements and degree apprentices was queried, as placements had reduced in companies wanting degree apprentices. The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education) responded that the University had not lost placements, with strong students helping to

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develop good employer relationships. The aim was for a large number of apprentices in a small number of companies, but this was a work in progress with level 7, Masters level currently covered. It was noted that the relationship between apprentices and knowledge exchange/Research & Innovation Services was critical.

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

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

749 – Academic Assembly Update on Implementation of Review Recommendations – Paper AA21/22 – 005

The Chair introduced the paper updating on the review actions. The following points were made during discussion:

- The action to explore expanding membership to a subset of Professional Services colleagues, looking at representation, would be taken forward.

Action: The Chair to explore expanding membership to a subset of Professional Services colleagues

Action: The Chair/Secretary to Invite the Vice-President (Community & Inclusion) to an Ask Me Anything session

- The Assembly feedback on the Ask Me Anything session on the proposal on changing the make-up of Council was provided to Council but it was suggested that further deliberation was needed.

Action: The Chair/Secretary to invite the Chair of Council for a follow up session on the make-up of Council

- One Assembly member had asked for in-person meetings. Data on attendance would be reviewed.

Action: The Secretary to review the mode of attendance for future meetings

- The input of the Assembly to the Boards, such as the Staff Experience Board, was queried; the Chair advised that they were not invited to sit on any Board. It was noted that the Assembly should be involved in Boards affecting the strategic direction of the University.

Action: The Chair/Secretary to investigate a future agenda item or Ask me Anything session to provide information on the VC's advisory groups

750 – Standing Orders – Paper AA21/22 - 006

Academic Assembly approved the revised Standing Orders.

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Part 2

751 – Programme of Meetings for 2022/23

Academic Assembly noted the programme of meetings:

- Wednesday 26 October 2022 at 1.15pm, by Teams
- Tuesday 2 May 2023 at 12.30pm, by Teams, to include the Vice-Chancellor's statutory address.

752 – Any Other Business

No matters were raised.

The meeting closed at 13:35

Please contact the Governance Team if you require any further assistance regarding this meeting.

Academic Assembly

3rd May 2022



Ian White



Our University
Our Future:
Connected



UNIVERSITY OF
BATH

Introduction

Globally

- The global Covid-19 pandemic
- Cyber security
- Ukraine

Domestically

- Significant political change in the wake of Brexit
- Major reviews within the Higher Education sector
- Impact of inflation



Coronavirus: Awards to the University



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

Shortlisted Entries

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

[#BelongatBath](#)



2021 International CASE Silver Award: Together, We Belong Award:

[Circle of Excellence Together, We Belong | CASE](#)

c/o Corinne Evans

Rankings and Reputation

National Rankings and Awards



8th in the UK in
The Guardian University
Guide 2022
13 subjects in the top 10



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



9th overall for 2022
Top university in the South West
17 subjects in the top 10



1st in England and 2nd in UK
6 courses achieved satisfaction
ratings of 100%



Gold Award
Teaching Excellence
Framework 2017



2 Queen's
Anniversary Prizes

International Rankings



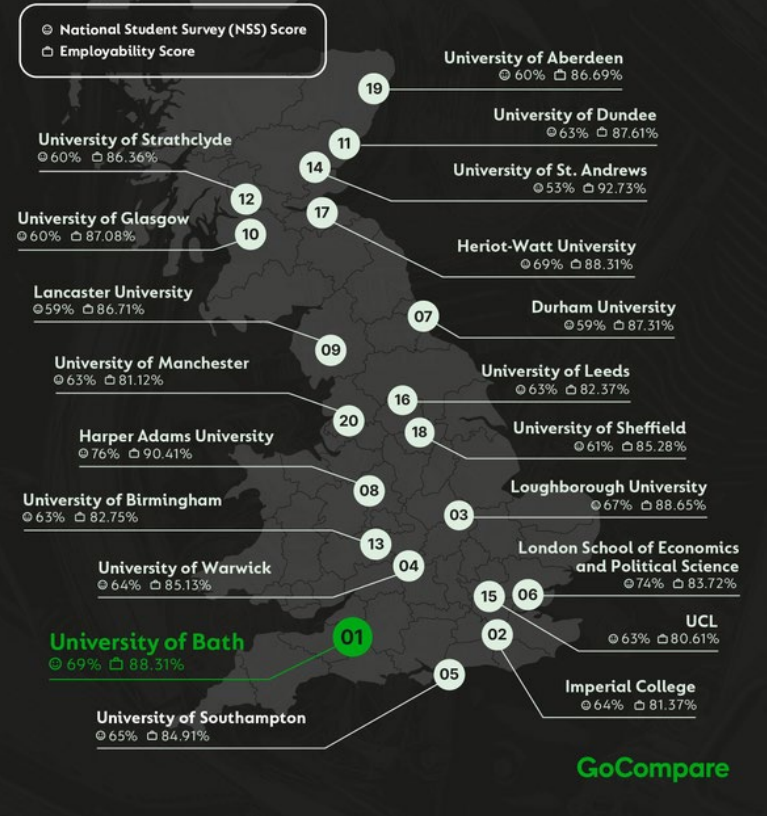
166th/1,300 for 2022
93rd in the QS Graduate Employability Rankings



201-250 in THE World
University Rankings 2021

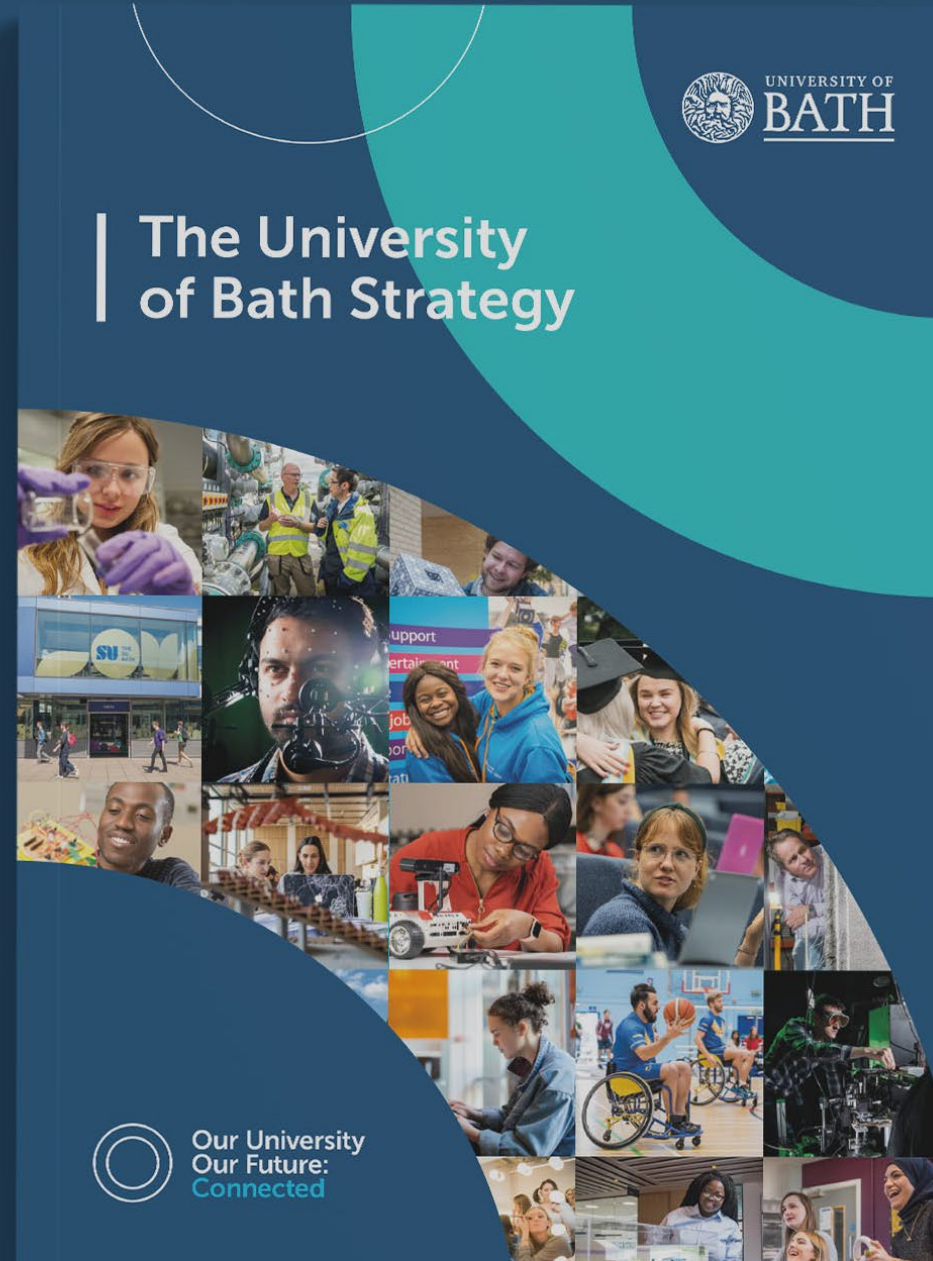
The UK University Ivy League

The top 20 according to their NSS and employability score



Our Strategy 2021-26

Our Vision is to be an outstanding and inclusive University community, characterised by excellence in education, research, and innovation, working in partnership with others for the advancement of knowledge, in support of the global common good.



Our University Strategy...

...at a glance



Our Values



Delivering quality and excellence, whilst being quick to listen and learn



Nurturing high aspirations, for the benefit of all



Aspiring to the highest standards of scientific, ethical and professional integrity, whilst supporting the freedom to challenge received wisdom



Supporting a sustainable community and adopting best environmental practice



Fostering inclusion, equality, diversity and accessibility where the unique value of each individual is recognised as we build a community of trust and care by treating each other with respect

Our Mission is to deliver world-class research and teaching, educating our students to become future leaders and innovators, and benefiting the wider population through our research, enterprise and influence.

Our Vision is to be an outstanding and inclusive University community, characterised by excellence in education, research, and innovation, working in partnership with others for the advancement of knowledge, in support of the global common good.

Senior Management Team



Professor Ian White, Vice-Chancellor

Professor Phil Allmendinger, Deputy Vice-Chancellor

Professor Sarah Hainsworth, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research)

Professor Julian Chaudhuri, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education)

Professor Cassie Wilson, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Student Experience)

Professor Rajani Naidoo, Vice-President (Community and Inclusion)

Professor Jonathan Knight, Vice-President (Enterprise)

Keith Zimmerman, Chief Operating Officer

Martin Williams, Director of Finance

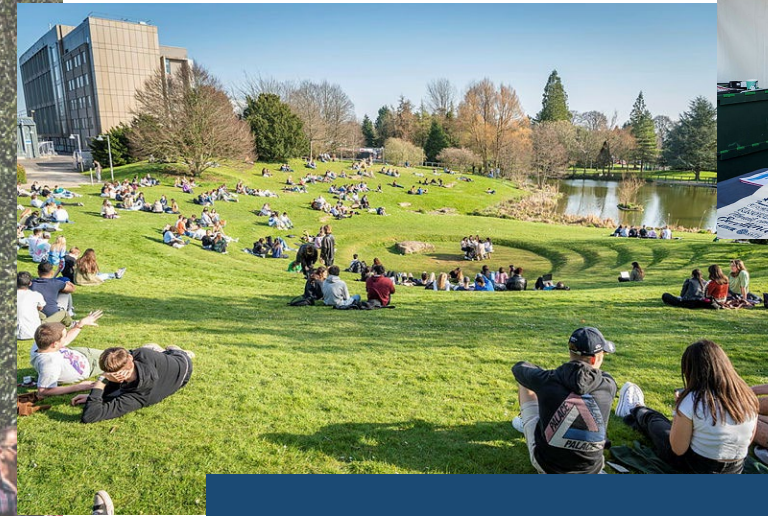
Nicky Kemp, Director of Policy, Planning and Compliance

Corinne Evans, Director of Strategic Communications and Engagement

Richard Brooks, Director of Human Resources

Outstanding and inclusive community: update

Colleagues and our students hold dear the spirit of community here at Bath. We endeavour to build an inclusive community of respect and two-way engagement.

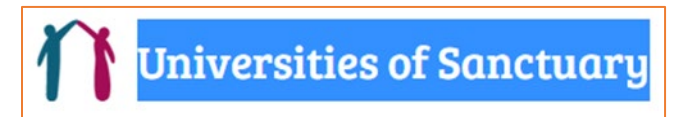


We will encourage a culture that celebrates multiple approaches and points of view.

Key Milestones achieved:

- New equality, diversity and inclusion initiatives – Athena Swan Silver Award
- Race Equality taskforce focussed on action to promote gender equality among students and staff
- Vice-President (Culture & Inclusion), held by Professor Rajani Naidoo
- Staff Experience Board
- Climate Action Framework initiatives
- Internal communications including virtual Town Halls and 'Ask Me Anything' sessions;
- More regular staff surveys –Reward, Hybrid Working, Wellbeing, Workload

- Student Inclusion - Living Ambassador scheme



Widening Participation

The University continues to attract a growing number of high quality applicants:

- We have seen a significant increase in the number of UK students from Widening Participation backgrounds opting to put Bath as their Firm choice; almost one in three (33.5%) of the WP applicants that we have made offers to this year have made Bath their Firm choice

The University's **Gold Scholarship Programme** won the Highest Impact University Initiative Award at the 2021 upReach Student Social Mobility Awards.



Driving Excellence in Education: update

Bath Education must continue to be distinctive in providing students with the range of educational activities. We recognise the importance of maintaining and improving the student experience here at Bath.



We are inspired by the opportunities emerging technology brings both to enhance existing provision and the ability to reach new and diverse audiences with learning and teaching.

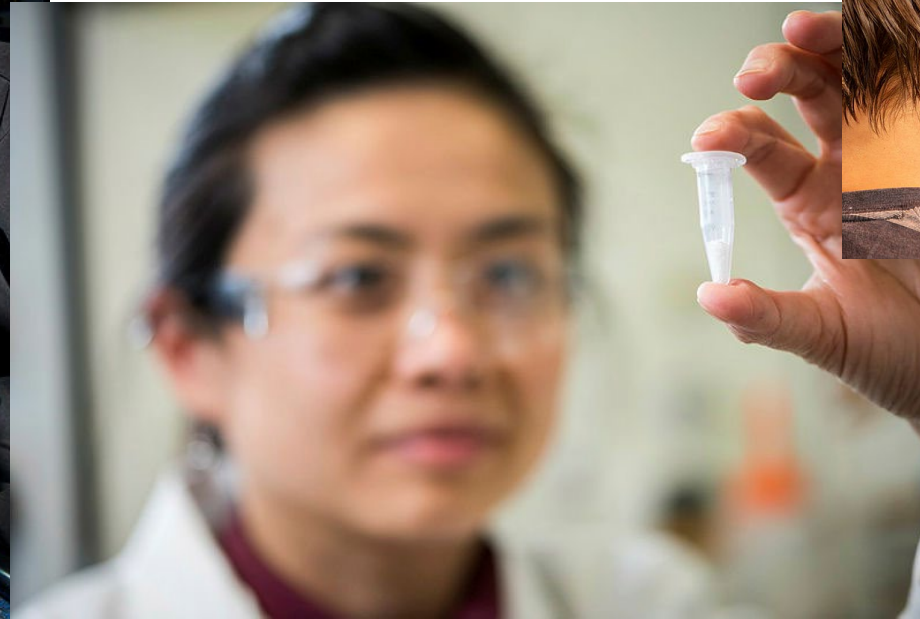
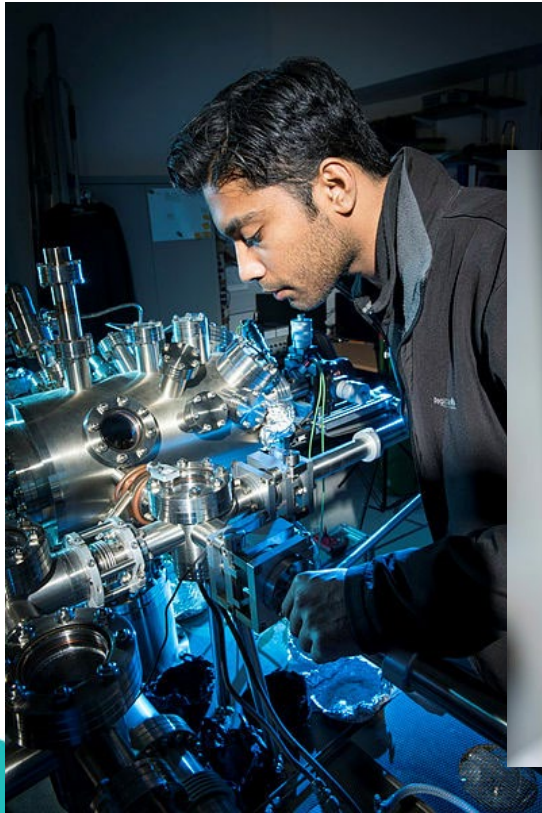
Key Milestones achieved:

- Initiatives in collaboration with the SU, including SU-led Arts activities at The Edge
- New anti-harassment initiatives under 'Be The Change'
- Student Policy and Safeguarding office
- Enhanced sport-related activities across the University
- Started planning a series of new initiatives through the newly established Student Experience Board

- Return to more in-person teaching on campus, post-pandemic
- Creation of a Department of Life Sciences
- Appointment of Director of Education & Student Services
- Curriculum Transformation: completed Phase 2, Phase 3 underway, early adopters programmes ready to launch
- Development of an Education Strategic Implementation Plan is underway
- New initiatives for international admissions

Driving High Impact Research: update

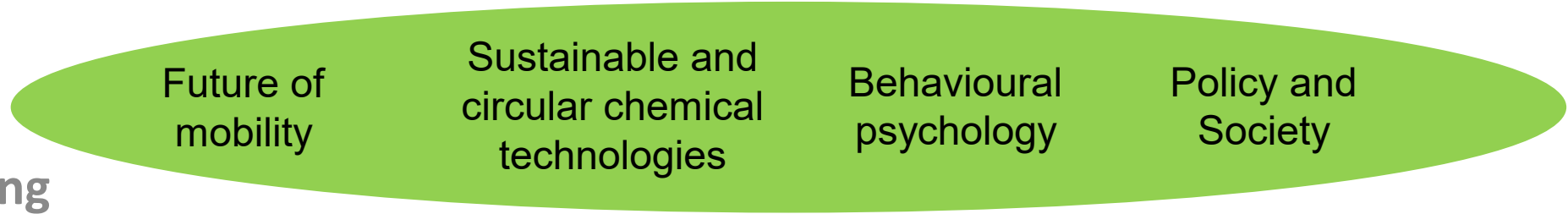
We have serious ambitions to grow our research impact, through new initiatives, our three thematic areas, the new Institutes and the Bath Beacons.



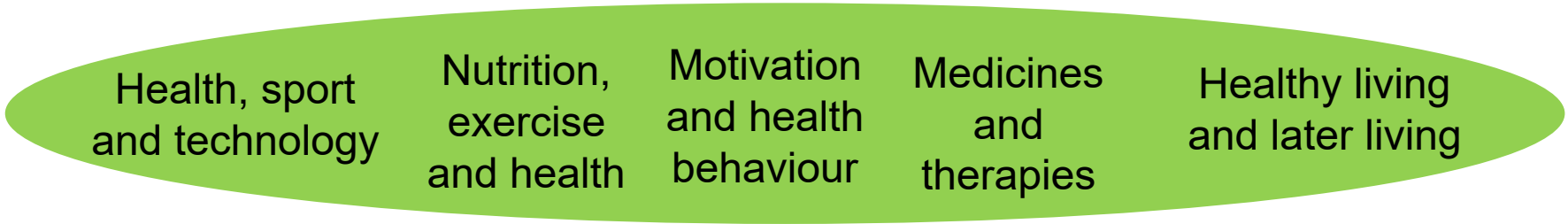
We have identified three primary institutional research themes for collaborative working across disciplines: Sustainability; Health & Wellbeing; and Digital.

Our Research Themes

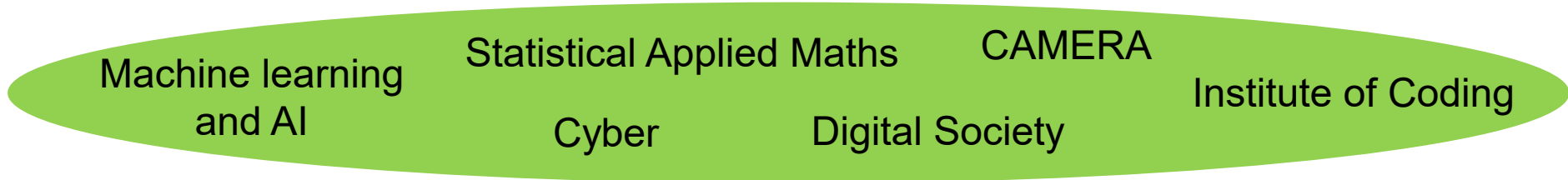
- Sustainability



- Health and wellbeing



- Digital



Key Milestones achieved:

- Initiatives to grow international research reputation
- Initiatives to grow research grant income - Research grant applications project and Bath Beacons
- The appointment of Professor Julie Barnett as Associate Pro-Vice-Chancellor – Research Ethics
- Review of RIS
- REF

- Initiatives to enhance research impact - Enterprise Bath

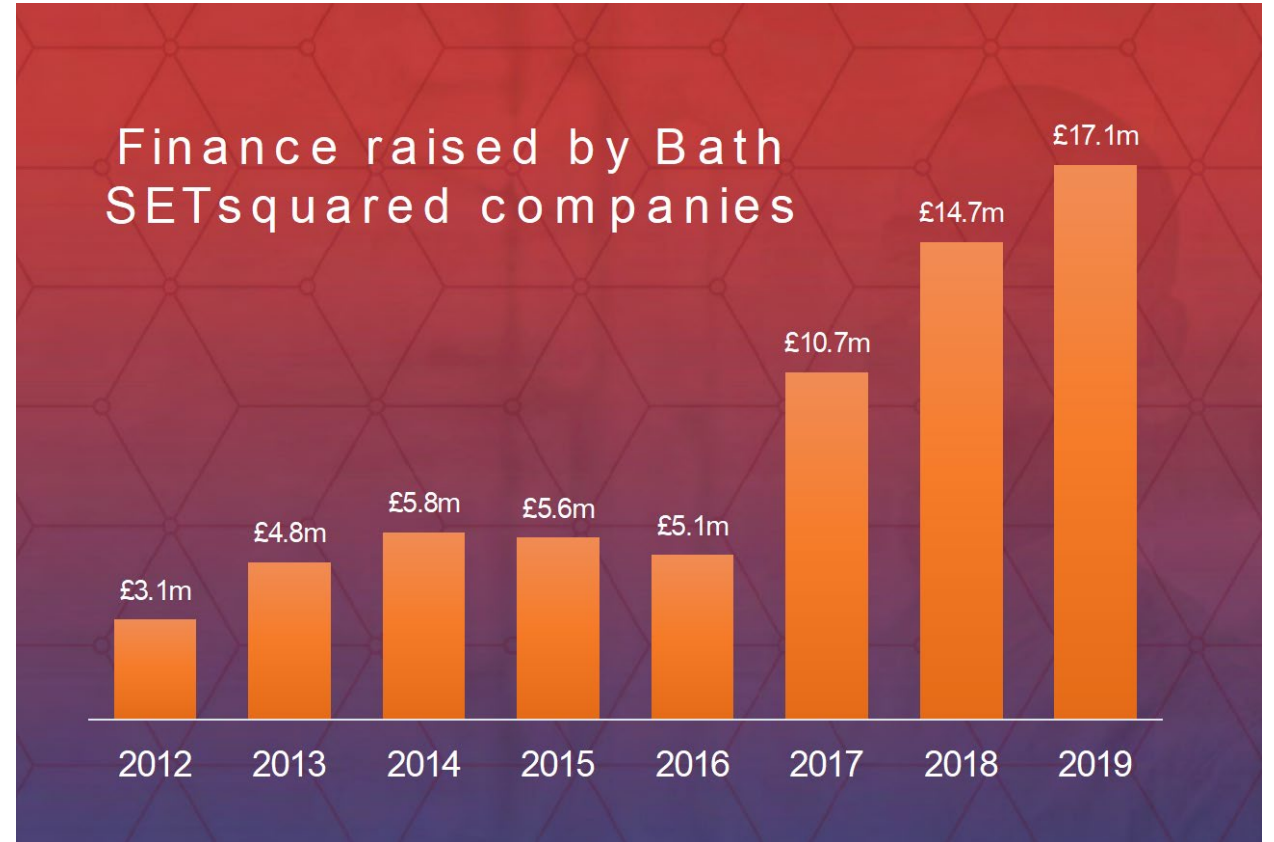
Enterprise Bath: Pandemic resilience

Blended Delivery

- ESP - Virtual Early Stage Pre-Incorporation
- VAMP - Virtual Accelerator Membership Programme
- RAMP - Residential Accelerator Membership Programme

Finance raised in 2020 - £25.5m

Finance raised in 2021 - £20m +



Enterprise Bath – Major Enterprise Spokes underway:



- Institute for Advanced Automotive Propulsion Systems
- Located on Bristol and Bath Science Park
- Major industrial partners, APC, co-located with NCC



- Motion Capture Innovation Studio
- Aimed at Creative/Gaming/Film/Digital
- Broader audience includes Healthcare and Performance Sports



- Innovation Centre for Applied Sustainable Technologies
- To be located in Carriage Works, Swindon
- With Oxford, NCC, CPI, SWLEP

These three projects:

>£140M total investments: £95M of core funding, alongside £31.7M of research support and £15.5M of funding for doctoral training
By 2030 3 business led innovation clusters, generating minimum £1.621bn GVA and creating 6,300 jobs

Enhancing Strategic Partnerships: update

We will focus on creating strategic partnerships with business and industry, growing support for innovation and commercial activities within the University.



We will become more internationally leading whilst staying locally relevant by building stronger and more focussed national and international partnerships.

External Engagement



Recognising the importance of partnership and collaboration...

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

Key Milestones achieved:

- Local plan submission, with discussions to be strengthened through role of Phil Almendinger
- International strategic development led by the DVC working with the International Relations Office and the Internationalisation Board to progress our strategy in this area
- International rankings working group
- Gordon Cox, Director for Development and Alumni Relations, leading new research focus within DDAR

Underpinning the Strategic Pillars:

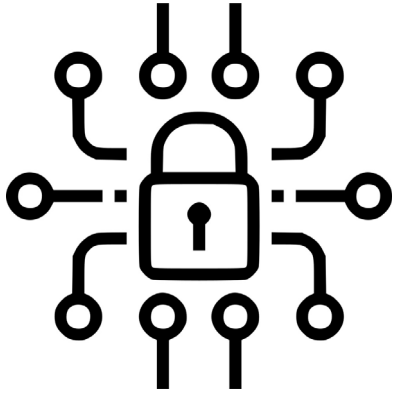
- Development of Board structure and opportunities for rapid consultation
- Revised planning process
- Strategic Projects Office

- New leadership for our Digital, Data and Technology and Estates Departments
- Development of new Digital Strategy
- Estates Master Plan
- Continuing Development of Long-term Maintenance Plan

Thank You



Proposed programmes for the future: Cyber, iSTART



- National academic leadership in online behaviour
- Working closely with Bristol and other national tech/behavioural leaders
- Involved with Business Cyber Center (SWLEP)
- Academic research, high-level training, working with businesses



I INNOVATION

S SKILLS

T TECHNOLOGY

A ARTS

R RESEARCH

T TRAINING

- Regional collaborative project with 3 educational delivery partners & B&NES
- WECA + match funding
- UoB - Research, innovation and enterprise business support along with IoC involvement