

Exeter

The magazine for Alumni and supporters | 2023 issue



Driving change

Taking actions that change the world

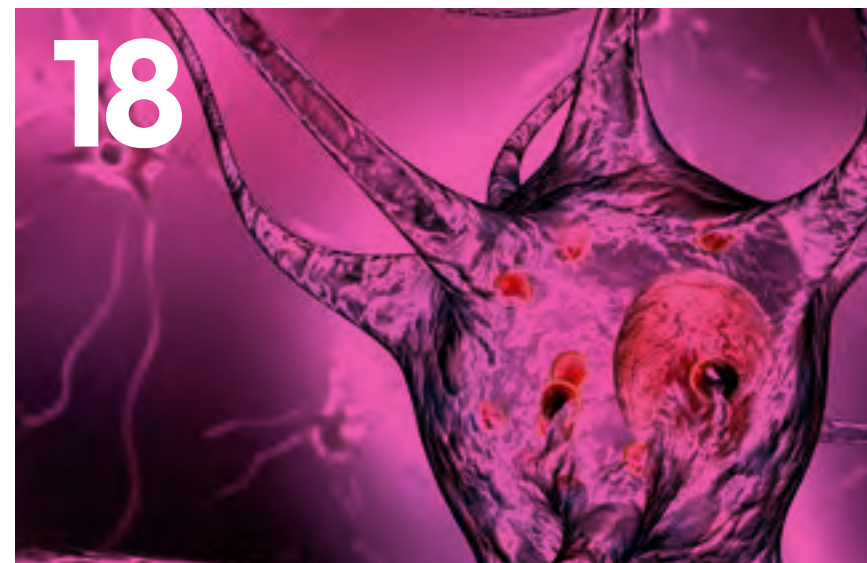
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A new look and a new structure

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Keeping people with Parkinson's moving

Around 1 in 500 people are affected by Parkinson's disease. There is currently no cure, but drugs and other interventions can help reduce the main symptoms and maintain quality of life.



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Contact the editor and submit your story ideas: alumni@exeter.ac.uk

Welcome



We saw excellent results in the National Student Survey, ranking as the top Russell Group university for overall student satisfaction.”



I would like to wish everybody in our alumni community a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

This is an exciting time for the University, as we continue to emerge from the pandemic. We have bounced back very positively from the last two years to see our overall income grow to its highest level ever, driven by significant increases in research and tuition fee income.

In May we were rewarded with an outstanding performance in the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2021. REF is a national assessment of UK research strength, and the results showed that more than 99% of our research is of international quality, ranking Exeter 18th in the UK for research power. Highlighting the real-world difference we make, 94% of our research has internationally excellent impact, placing us 11th in the UK for our impact, up from 48th in 2014, the largest gain in the Russell Group. Ten of our disciplines are now in the Top 10 for overall research performance, including number one spots for Sports Science and Theology & Religious Studies, and a second place ranking for Area Studies, in which our research into the Arab and Islamic world is the best in the country.

In the latest Times Higher Education World Rankings, we have moved up to 137th in the world (from 174th two years ago), a great recognition of our world-leading research, education, and partnership work. Finally, in July we saw excellent results in the National Student Survey, ranking as the top Russell Group university for overall student satisfaction. This all adds up to a tremendous 12 months.

Following the launch of our Strategy 2030, we have reorganised our University into three academic faculties, to enhance interdisciplinarity, remove barriers to collaborative working, and improve our resilience. Our new structures enhance agility and support larger, empowered and connected academic departments, giving us the strongest possible foundations on which to build for the coming decade. Each faculty champions one of our strategic missions (Environmental Sustainability, Health, Social Justice) and will lead our approach to tackling these big societal challenges.

As you will see in this magazine, we recently completed a rebrand of the University to accompany our new strategy and structures. We knew we needed an update that reflected our global position, research strengths and heritage, as well as something we could use across the evolving digital landscape. We consulted with colleagues, students, alumni and external partners on this, and I would like to thank everybody in our alumni community who helped to create a brand that signifies our future ambitions.

As I write, one of the most pressing concerns we face is the cost of living crisis, and its impact on our students. We recently invested more than £3m to ensure that students in financial difficulty have the help they need, on top of the £5.5m we have already put into bursary support for underprivileged undergraduate home students and students without family support. On top of this, we have included financial circumstances as a reason for mitigation for assessments and exams, and our efforts, alongside other universities, have resulted in a 13% rise in the stipend for PhD students. Working closely with the Students' Guild and Students' Union, I am proud of our leadership in providing this important support.

I hope you enjoy this edition of our Alumni Magazine, which gives a snapshot of some of the amazing things happening across our University. You can read about research in areas as diverse as blue marine, cell renewal, and our Evidence Based Justice Lab, showing how we are leading the way on our quest for a greener, healthier and fairer future.

Thank you for your ongoing support in helping our University to achieve its ambitious goals, I look forward to meeting many of you at events around the world over the coming year.

Professor Lisa Roberts FRSA
Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive
University of Exeter

News

- Lady Mireille Gillings • Tipping Point • Sir Steve Smith Building
- Cornish scholarship fund • Anglo American donation • Volunteer Awards
- Honorary Graduates • THE Business School of the Year • Black British Researchers
- The Bill Douglas Cinema Museum • Exeter to fight “next global pandemic”
- Volvo Environment Prize • Exeter delivers life-saving medical aid to Ukraine



Lady Mireille Gillings opens Neuroimaging Centre

Global business leader and philanthropist Lady Mireille Gillings, PhD, Hon DSc, officially opened the cutting-edge new imaging centre which bears her name on International Women's Day 2022.

The University of Exeter Medical School's new Mireille Gillings Neuroimaging Centre was funded by part of a £10 million donation from the Dennis and Mireille Gillings Foundation. The gift also funded three Mireille Gillings Fellows in Health Innovation, supporting female academics in leadership roles. Two years on, each of the three Fellows appointed is in a senior leadership position.

The new building, located at the Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust (RD&E) site, will help accelerate clinical trials for potential dementia treatments over the next five years. The centre is the latest example of the close partnership working between the University of Exeter and the RD&E.

Lady Mireille Gillings, PhD, Hon DSc, is the founder, Chief Executive Officer and President of HUYABIO International, a global leader in accelerating development of biopharma innovation from China. She unveiled a plaque at the new facility, saying: “This exciting state of the art neuroimaging centre will transform clinical research across South West England. It will enable Exeter to compete with advantage on the worldwide research stage to advance therapies for Parkinson's Disease, dementia and other debilitating conditions.”



Major new tipping points initiative launched at conference

Efforts to activate “positive tipping points” to tackle the climate crisis have been boosted by a £1 million (US\$1.15m) grant from the Bezos Earth Fund.

A team – led by the University of Exeter and including Systemiq and the Systems Change Lab – will use the funding to “improve the assessment, forecasting and activation of positive tipping points” and produce a first “state of tipping points” report. The new initiative was launched at a major tipping points conference hosted by the Global Systems Institute (GSI) in September 2022.

A tipping point occurs when a small change sparks a rapid, often irreversible transformation – and positive tipping points could transform human societies to protect the planet. Exeter researchers have helped to highlight the threat of climate tipping points – with a recent study showing five could be triggered at current levels of global warming – so the need for positive tipping points is increasingly urgent.

University of Exeter announce the Sir Steve Smith Building

The substantial contribution made to the University by Professor Sir Steve Smith during his tenure as Vice-Chancellor has been celebrated, with the LSI Building being renamed in his honour. As part of the renaming, an official portrait of Sir Steve will reside in the communal space of the building.

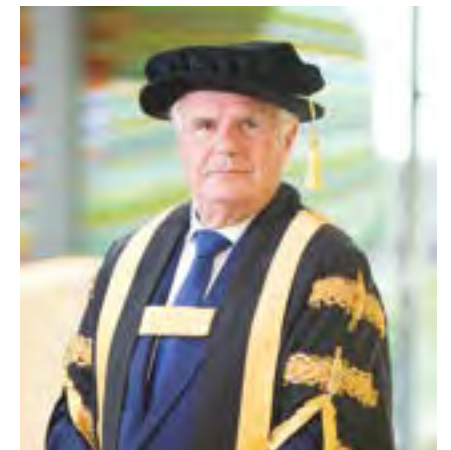
Professor Sir Steve Smith became Vice-Chancellor of the University of Exeter in October 2002. Under his leadership, Exeter became one of the UK's top universities, with a rapidly growing global reputation including making it into the global top 100 in the University's Diamond Jubilee year in 2015.

His vision saw the creation of the University of Exeter Medical School, the joining of the Russell Group in 2012, achieving TEF Gold, the creation of Exeter Science Park, and the establishment of the GW4 Alliance. In the UK higher education sector, Professor Sir Steve took on many key roles including Chair of the 1994 Group of universities, Chair of the UCAS Board, and President of Universities UK between 2009 and 2011. His achievements saw him knighted in 2011.

Speaking at the event, Professor Sir Steve said: “It is a great honour that the University has paid me, and I must confess that I am delighted it has decided to name this building in my honour. So many of us worked so hard to get this project completed, and it typifies our commitment towards interdisciplinary research, and to developing a truly bench-to-bedside approach to link the research base with impact on patients and thus the local community. But although this building may have my name on it, it represents colleagues who transformed this university into what it is today.”



Lady Smith, Professor Sir Steve Smith, Professor Lisa Roberts, Mike Shore-Nye



Lord Myners' legacy honoured with Cornish scholarship fund

Lord Myners, former Chancellor of the University of Exeter, who sadly passed away in January 2022, has been honoured with a new scholarship that will support talented students from his native Cornwall for the next three years.

The Lord Myners of Truro Scholarships will support an undergraduate student from a disadvantaged background, beginning their studies in each of September 2022, 2023 and 2024. Each student will be a top performer from our Widening Participation Pathways programme and the scholarship will be worth £12,000.

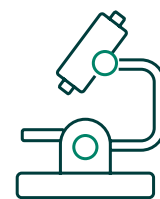
Lord Myners was a passionate believer in the power of education and at the heart of everything he did was a desire to help others. He was a proud Cornishman and a great supporter of the University who presided over the graduations of 20,000 students during his time as Chancellor until he retired in 2021.

TOP 150

TOP 150
in the Times Higher
Education (THE)
World University
Rankings 2023.

**RUSSELL
GROUP**

1st amongst **RUSSELL
GROUP** universities for
overall satisfaction in the
National Student Survey
(NSS) 2022.



99.3% OF OUR RESEARCH is
rated of international quality in
the latest Research Excellence
Framework (REF 2021) with **12 OF
OUR SUBJECTS IN THE TOP 10**
for world-leading impact.

TOP 15

TOP 15 in the Guardian
University Guide 2023 and
The Times and The Sunday
Times Good University
Guide 2023.

Philanthropic donation will help achieve a sustainable future for mining

Anglo American, one of the world's leading mining companies, has made a transformational donation to support sustainable mining research and education at the Camborne School of Mines, University of Exeter.

The £3.5 million donation will fund a research programme combining the study of mining engineering with environmental and social sciences and include interdisciplinary and policy-related work. It will include a Professorial Chair and a cohort of post-Doctoral Fellowships.

The 'Mark Cutifani Anglo American Chair in Mining Innovation' will honour the achievements of Mr Mark Cutifani, Chief Executive of Anglo American, who retired in June 2022 after nine years. The position will reflect the ambitions set out in the company's sustainable mining plan and recognises the need to approach mining activity responsibly. The successful candidate will establish a research group for the future of mining with an emphasis on the proactive development of new technologies, taking into account their technical, social, environmental and governance impacts. The new Chair will promote creative and inter-disciplinary research collaborations between Anglo American, Camborne School of Mines researchers and educators, and the wider stakeholder communities.



Exeter alumni celebrate winning volunteer awards



Two Exeter alumni won our Alumni Volunteer of the Year Awards 2022 for their efforts supporting students and alumni.

Sanjana Chopra, a 2014 graduate in Management with Marketing, won the Debbie Hill Award for the Exceptional Support of Students, while Jamie Cole, who graduated in 1987 with a degree in Maths, was awarded the Nicholas Bull Award for the Exceptional Support of the Alumni Community.



Sanjana received her award for volunteering her time with the Career Ready Programme, helping the Indian Exeter Alumni Association committee, supporting employability events and pre-departure events, as well as participating in the Business School's EQUIS reaccreditation. Jamie was recognised for volunteering his time to supervise MBA projects, providing guest lectures on modules, helping steer Exeter's relationship with IBM and his role as chair of the MBA Corporate Advisory Board as well as supporting IIB in the development of new data opportunities. Both were chosen by a panel of University staff, students and fellow alumni.



Acclaimed musician and social justice campaigner Stormzy among Honorary Graduates at 2022 ceremonies

Influential musician and social justice campaigner Michael Owuo Jr praised the "guts, grit and dedication" of students as he was awarded an honorary degree from the University of Exeter for his work to promote education and fighting racial inequality.

As well as being an acclaimed musician Stormzy has been an inspiring spokesman for black empowerment and social activism. In his speech to graduates Mr Owuo said he felt "extremely blessed and grateful" to receive his honorary degree and joked about how pleased he was to be known as a philanthropist.

Others honoured at the summer ceremonies included journalists Lyse Doucet OBE, Krishnan Guru-Murthy, Isabel Hardman and Carrie Gracie; former Royal Marine Mark Ormrod MBE; alumna and author Dolly Alderton; scientist Professor Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell DBE; philanthropists André & Rosalie Hoffmann; human rights campaigner Zrinka Bralo; and alumni Nicholas Bull, Henry Staunton and Andrew Brownsword CBE.

Alumni Dominic Scriven OBE and James Goulding were also inducted into the College of Benefactors in recognition of their exceptional support of the University.

University of Exeter Business School wins THE Business School of the Year in industry "Oscars"

The University of Exeter Business School was named Business School of the Year in the 2022 Times Higher Education Awards, known as the "Oscars" of higher education, in November 2022.

The accolade is among the most prestigious in the industry, in recognition of the Business School's commitment to addressing the climate crisis. The School has made sustainability a major focus of its strategy and mission through research, education and partnerships, in line with its strong belief that business has a crucial role to play in tackling the global climate emergency.

Professor Lisa Roberts, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Exeter, said: "I'm so delighted with this outstanding and well-deserved recognition of our Business School as the leading light in taking meaningful action on the climate crisis. It's an incredible testament to our staff, who are pioneering research that changes the culture and practices of business, while maintaining high standards of student satisfaction and training the next generation of global business leaders. I'd like to extend a huge thanks and congratulations to all our staff, students and supporters for this tremendous achievement."



We contribute more than **HALF A BILLION POUNDS** annually to the regional economy and support more than 12,000 jobs.



We're home to the **UK'S TOP FIVE MOST INFLUENTIAL CLIMATE SCIENTISTS** – the only UK climate scientists to secure places in the global top 21 – according to The Reuters Hot List.



WINNERS of the BUCS Super Rugby Championship 2022 and **TOP 5** in the 2021/22 British University and College Sport (BUCS) league.

THE AWARDS 2022

Our Business School has been named **BUSINESS SCHOOL OF THE YEAR** in the 2022 Times Higher Education Awards.

Alumni establish PhD scholarship programme for Black British students

A new scholarship programme that will support Black British PhD students has been launched thanks to philanthropic donations from Exeter alumni.

The University of Exeter PhD Studentships for Black British Researchers will cover full fees, stipend, training grant and a short internship or placement for successful candidates in subjects across the academic spectrum.

The scholarship programme has been established by founding donors Sarah Turvill, the University's former Chair of Council; environmental philanthropist Roger De Freitas; and private equity fund manager Wol Kolade CBE.

A minimum of eight scholarships will be awarded over the lifetime of the scheme, with the University's three faculties match-funding the support.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Lisa Roberts, said: "We are thrilled to be able to launch this new scholarship scheme thanks to the generosity of Roger, Wol and Sarah. Through these generous donations, we can significantly enhance the commitment in our strategy to support talented individuals from all backgrounds to thrive and to foster a truly inclusive research culture here at Exeter. There is no doubt that there are very few Black Professors in the UK, and this scheme is just one way in which we are acting to change this at Exeter, by creating a talent pipeline from PhD to senior leaders."

For the first year, one PhD scholarship will be recruited to each of the University's three Faculties – Environment, Science and Economy; Health and Life Sciences; and Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences. In addition to the financial package, successful students will also receive mentoring and support specific to their degree.

Sarah, an alumna of the University's School of Law, served as the Chair of Council for a decade from 2012-2022. Speaking of her donation of £500,000, and the creation of the new scholarship programme, she said: "As an Exeter graduate, and someone proud to have served as Chair of Council for ten years, I've seen the profound difference that higher education can make to a person's life. So, I am deeply honoured that my donation should be used in this way to open a pathway into research for talented, black postgraduates."



The Bill Douglas Cinema Museum celebrates quarter of a century milestone



One of the country's largest and most respected collections of material and memorabilia relating to cinema and the moving image in Britain celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2022.

The Bill Douglas Cinema Museum has amassed more than 86,000 artefacts in the quarter of a century since it opened its doors to the public – from rare 18th century prints and an original 1896 Lumière Cinématographe, to a treasure trove of exhibits relating to stars such as Marilyn Monroe and James Dean and memorabilia from the latest blockbusters. The museum, based on the University of Exeter campus, welcomes thousands of visitors a year and is free and open to all.

To mark the anniversary, the museum hosted selected guests for a special event, including its patron, the film-maker Carol Morley, and Peter Jewell, whose joint collection of film-related items, amassed with his friend, the renowned filmmaker Bill Douglas, helped found the museum.

Exeter awarded £14 million to fight "next global pandemic"

The University of Exeter and collaborators have recently been awarded £14 million for antimicrobial resistance (AMR) research – widely acknowledged as the "next global pandemic".

AMR occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites evolve to become resistant to commonly used antimicrobial drugs making infections harder to treat and increasing the risk of disease spread, severe illness and death. As well as the threat of a lack of treatments for conditions from sepsis to malaria, AMR infections are also a threat to crops and livestock impacting food security.

Five million deaths worldwide are already associated with AMR infections caused by bacteria, and it has been predicted that AMR infections will be the leading cause

of death by 2050 with a cumulative cost to society of \$100 trillion.

With nearly 400 experts working together, Exeter is at the forefront of developing solutions that could benefit the global population and stop deaths. Recently funded projects included a £9 million Horizon Europe project on AMR and climate change, focusing on AMR evolution, ecology and epidemiology in coastal environments and a £5 million UKRI funded project focusing on molecular and evolutionary mechanisms that can be used to control AMR in microbial communities.



Exeter extreme medicine experts deliver £890,000 in life-saving medical aid to Ukraine

World Extreme Medicine, which partners with the University of Exeter to deliver the Extreme Medicine Masters programme, made a delivery more than £890,000 worth of life-saving medical supplies, including a major donation from one of Exeter's graduates to the frontline of the Ukrainian war zone.

A series of convoys, known as Medics4Ukraine, was co-ordinated by a team of medical professionals and extreme medicine experts from its network, carrying highly specialised and focused medical equipment. The "trauma boxes" delivered to Ukrainian troops are designed to contain everything needed to keep a casualty alive until they can be transported to a hospital. The donation includes supplies bought through a fundraising campaign, and around £400,000-worth of QuikClot, a combat gauze which creates immediate clotting on application to a wound, often stopping the casualty from bleeding to death.

Volvo Environment Prize 2022 awarded for world-leading microplastics research

Professor Tamara Galloway from the University of Exeter has been awarded the Volvo Environment Prize 2022, for her pioneering work to alert the world to the devastating impacts of plastic pollution in the environment.

Professor Galloway was one of three world-leading scientists from the South West region – along with Professor Richard Thompson and Professor Penelope Lindeque – to win the 2022 accolade, marking their role at the global forefront of marine litter research and education for the past two decades. They have also helped to bring about changes in global policy, with their work central to international government legislation and influencing the United Nations Treaty on Plastic Pollution, signed by 175 nations earlier this year.

In selecting the three laureates for this year's award, the jury for the Volvo Environment Prize acknowledged that their work "has been instrumental in providing societal awareness of plastic pollution as an emerging global challenge and triggering policy actions". The Volvo Environment Prize has been awarded annually since 1990 and has become one of the scientific world's most respected environmental prizes. This is just the fourth time in its history that it has been awarded to scientists from the UK.

A new look and a new structure

In the last edition we shared our new strategy for the University, Strategy 2030, which set out our ambitions for the next ten years as well as outlining our strategic priorities and commitments.

Our Progress

Since then we have made progress in several of our key priority areas, for example we:

- Launched the Future 17 – Sustainable development goals challenge program pilot
- Took part in Glastonbury 2022 in the Green Futures Field with a new Science Futures area
- Launched the Transformative education framework which focuses on advancing social justice through education and research
- Formed our Wellbeing, Inclusion and Culture committee which has already focused on our Race Equality Charter, a Leadership programme and a first draft of our mental health strategy
- Created an Exeter Civic University agreement with another two to follow with Cornwall and Devon & Torbay.

Our Structure

To support Strategy 2030 we have also made changes to our University structures, moving away from our six colleges to three faculties, each championing one of our strategic goals:

- The Faculty of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences
- The Faculty of Health and Life Sciences; and
- The Faculty of Environment, Science and Economy.

Our professional services directorates have also been combined to form eight larger divisions that are better aligned to our strategic priorities.

The change in structures will build our resilience in the Higher Education sector, empower academic departments with clearer accountability and local decision-making. We hope this will lead to a more inclusive learning community, a better student experience and vibrant research culture.

Our Brand

The third part of the process was our brand. Last year we consulted with our community of staff, students and alumni, receiving thousands of comments and other pieces of feedback to a selection of potential designs. Common themes that emerged included a desire to celebrate our heritage crest, agreement that green is the right colour to represent us going forward and a need for our identity to reflect our status as a global institution. Thank you to all alumni who shared their opinions with us!

The final, successful brand design was launched in September of 2022.

To ensure we manage the process in the most sustainable way possible, updates will be made over time so you may still see the old logo occasionally at alumni events during the next year as we naturally replace assets.

You can follow all the latest updates on our progress as well as read more about our commitments and plans on our website: exeter.ac.uk/about/strategy2030





Our campuses provide vibrant, engaging, inspiring spaces with exceptional facilities that promote greater learning, innovation and collaboration and are used and enjoyed by students, staff, the local community and visitors. The next ten years will see us invest £428.5M in our campuses, estate and infrastructure. Here are a few of the new projects you'll see on our Streatham Campus when you next pay us a visit.

1 Multi-faith Centre

Soon to start is a project to build a new, flexible and inclusive Multi-Faith Centre in the heart of Streatham Campus. The proposal is to build a dedicated Multi-Faith Centre to replace the existing Muslim prayer rooms and multi-faith spaces in the Old Library and to create a new space for quiet reflection and multi-faith activities, which promote respect, community and inclusion. This project will be on the grassed area opposite the South Piazza of the Forum. It will also house communal meeting space, a kitchen, a dedicated office for the Multifaith Chaplaincy Team and an external terrace area. This project is due to start work in summer 2023.

2 Forum Kitchen

The Forum Kitchen is the newest outlet on Streatham Campus. It is a unique multi-purpose space for students, staff and visitors to meet, socialise, eat and drink. It is located on the South Piazza of the Forum and features a range of food and drink concepts. It is supported by independent local traders which provides a street market atmosphere. This provides a great menu choice as dishes change every time a new trader takes over a pod. The space can also be hired out for private events or student society socials.

3 Creative Quadrant

A brand-new creative space has been built in the southeast courtyard of Streatham Court, at the University of Exeter Business School. The new creative space demonstrates the School's commitment to providing a world-class entrepreneurship business education. It aims to enhance the students' learning journey by providing space to develop contemporary business skills in creative problem solving, technology, and the circular economy, and supports them in growing vital entrepreneurial skills to enrich their future career prospects. The flexible new space will adapt to multiple requirements and new tools allow the students to experience different learning methods which will assist with educational delivery.

4 CREWW

CREWW is a new purpose-built facility for the Centre for Resilience Environment, Water and Waste, a partnership between the University of Exeter and South West Water (SWW).

Part funded by a £10.5M grant from Research England and investment from both partners, CREWW will be the first purpose built, transdisciplinary research centre in the water sector.

CREWW will combine expertise in Geography, Biosciences, Engineering, Economics, and Psychology at the University with SWW industry colleagues to develop solutions to some of the most pressing environmental challenges of our time. Including how best to manage our finite natural resources in sustainable ways, and how to protect and adapt those communities and habitats which are vulnerable to climate change and population growth.

The new centre will accommodate state-of-the-art, specialist laboratory facilities, and designated space to encourage collaborative research and training between academics and experts from the water industry, government and NGOs.

South West Water will play a leading role in the development and success of the new centre, investing over £20million into the collaborative programme over the period of 2020-25, and beyond.

Developments are also taking place in Penryn, Truro and St Lukes, which we will keep you updated on throughout the year in our email newsletters.

Alumni are always welcome to visit our campuses and take a look at how things have changed since graduation; campus tours are also available if of interest and can be booked online.

Find out more about our Capital Strategy and keep up to date with project news: exeter.ac.uk/about/vision/capitalstrategy



CELEBRATE 100 YEARS OF THE LAW SCHOOL

This year we are celebrating the centenary of the University of Exeter Law School! Students have studied law at Exeter since 1923 with the inaugural lecture taking place in December of that year.

Over the past 100 years many great legal minds have passed through Exeter. Our alumni have helped shape the law and led the profession with great distinction, while others also used their legal training to build successful careers in other professions. Our research has changed the landscape of legal practice and impacted society in and beyond the UK. Our law community now stretches across the globe, with students coming to study at Exeter from across the world at an undergraduate and postgraduate level.

Throughout 2023 we will be celebrating the achievements of the past 100 years and set out our vision for the Law School going forward. We will be hosting several in person events, in Exeter, but also in London and abroad to give our law community the opportunity to celebrate with fellow alumni. We will also be hosting a series of

virtual events that showcase our research, highlight our impact on legal practice and on society, resonate with the global law agenda and harness support for our vision – so keep an eye out for more news and invitations.

During the Law Centenary year one of our goals is to raise funds to secure 100 Scholarships to enable students to attend University who otherwise simply couldn't have afforded to come. Awards of £12,000 over three years will support scholars' living and study costs, enabling them to complete their studies without undue financial worries.

Scholarship awards will be made by the University's Widening

Participation team and will be based on established and robust measures of disadvantage which include living in a low-income neighbourhood, being eligible for receipt of free school meals, living in care, and measures of disability. Awards are also merit based, with scholarships awarded based on students' academic attainment.

The Fund has been launched thanks to founding donations from alumni Peter Baldwin (History, 1991), Steve Edge (Law, 1972 & Hon LLD, 2012), Professor Vanessa Knapp OBE (Law, 1978), Charles Platt (Law, 1974), and Nigel and Sara Tozzi (both Law, 1979), along with Nicholas Cheffings, who is a member of the University Council.

If you would like to support the fund please visit:
exeter.hubbub.net/p/exeterlaw100



Keeping people with Parkinson's *moving*

According to the NHS around 1 in 500 people are affected by Parkinson's disease. There is currently no cure, but drugs and other interventions can help reduce the main symptoms and maintain quality of life.

Parkinson's disease is a neurodegenerative disorder caused by a loss of nerve cells in a specific area of the brain called substantia nigra. It is unclear exactly what causes this loss of nerve cells, but it leads to a reduction in a chemical called dopamine in the brain. Dopamine plays a vital role in controlling your body's movements and this reduction is responsible for many of the symptoms of Parkinson's disease.

One of the most debilitating symptoms is called freezing of gait – a feeling that your feet are stuck to the ground. Up to half of people with Parkinson's will experience freezing of gait and the impact of it can be severe.

Dr Will Young, Senior Lecturer in Rehabilitation Psychology at the University of Exeter, is leading a research programme designed to help people with Parkinson's get moving again. He says: "Freezing of gait is one of the most debilitating motor symptoms associated with Parkinson's. It often looks like the person affected isn't trying to take a step, which can result in other people getting impatient in queues, or busy places. Freezing is anxiety-inducing, and unfortunately that actually worsens the problem. It gets to the point where people don't want to go out and ends up reducing their ability to live their lives as they want to." Fear of falling can add to overall

anxiety and make people even less inclined to venture out.

Freezing of gait also makes it more likely people will fall over as they try to force their feet to move, or when freezing happens suddenly and there is still momentum from a previous step.

The ultimate aim is to develop training that anyone can access freely

Will and the project team (including researchers and an advisory group of people who experience freezing, their family members and also Parkinson's specialist clinicians) have been developing a training programme in partnership with Parkinson's UK to help people overcome freezing, and while testing is not yet complete he has so far seen a substantial improvement in participants' ability to step from a freeze.

He says: "Most of us move without really thinking about it but there are different elements to taking a

step and people with Parkinson's will sometimes find their brain misses one of these elements or become fixated on one element in particular. This can ultimately make moving more difficult.

"What we do is create an activity in a part of the brain not impacted by Parkinson's that allows people to pause, reset and then move on. We now know of a number of techniques that show promise in reducing freezing of gait and we're currently running some trials using Virtual Reality. This means we can recreate any environment and make sure that situations are safe for people taking part."

The research has been taking place in the University of Exeter's VSimulators facility, with participants wearing a virtual reality headset and a body suit with sensors at key points. They navigate their way around a platform that can detect changed in motion, track freezes and also monitor any changes that occur following training to step from a freeze. This helps to determine which interventions will be most helpful in different scenarios.

The ultimate aim is to develop training that anyone can access freely to help both people with Parkinson's and those around them who provide support. It will be available via Parkinson's UK and the University of Exeter in the coming year.

Noah's legacy helps to save lives



Research is what Noah's Pink Balloon Leukaemia Fund is all about and is the key to preventing what happened to Noah happening to others in the future.

Noah Tesselaar was a happy, healthy child and in his first year of primary school when, out of the blue, he was diagnosed with a rare form of leukaemia. This type of leukaemia (acute lymphoblastic leukaemia Philadelphia Chromosome positive), which is more common in adults, is considered a higher risk blood cancer because the likelihood of achieving remission is 60 to 70%.

Despite a courageous fight, during treatment, Noah's immune system was too weak to fight off an infection and he died of an invasive fungal infection, Mucormycosis, in June 2020.



In July 2021, Noah's parents founded Noah's Pink Balloon Leukaemia Fund with a focus on medical research to help alleviate the suffering of other children and their families. The charity supports the underfunded areas of leukaemia research to help clinicians improve the early diagnosis and treatment of fungal infections and advance treatment options for leukaemia.

In 2022 Noah's Pink Balloon Leukaemia Fund funded the Noah's Pink Balloon Fellowship, based at the University of Exeter's MRC Centre for Medical Mycology. This Fellowship, under supervision of Professor Adilia Warris and Dr Liz Ballou, will research Mucormycosis, a complication that occurs in patients undergoing chemotherapy for leukaemia, or in those with a weak immune system. It is the second most common mould

infection in patients with cancer leading to excessive destruction of organs, blood vessels and has extremely high mortality rates. The World Health Organisation has recently designated fungi causing mucormycosis as 'high priority pathogens' needing urgent attention.

The researcher appointed to the Fellowship post is Alyssa Hudson, a registrar in medical microbiology at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital. She says: "Mucormycosis is incredibly difficult to diagnose, particularly at an early stage when it is most treatable. It is caused by fungi that are all around us in the environment – we will frequently be breathing in their spores and coming into contact with these fungi. In healthy people this is not a problem, but in those with a weakened immune system it can cause an invasive infection that the body cannot fight. Patients with cancer or who have had an organ transplant are particularly vulnerable.

"Mucormycosis can be treated with anti-fungal drugs but there are limited options and unfortunately because it is so difficult to diagnose, treatment is often started too late to be successful. For this reason, around 80% of people with this infection will die."

The Fellowship aims to improve this prognosis by researching how to diagnose the fungal infection earlier, so it can be treated in time. Currently cases are diagnosed with a tissue sample, but this is invasive and requires a small operation. Professor Chris Thornton, Professor of Fungal Immunology at the University of Exeter has developed a rapid blood test for detecting the fungus *Rhizopus arrhizus*, a main cause of mucormycosis. Alyssa's research will build on his work by looking at how this might translate in infected patients and increase

understanding of how the fungus changes during infection.

She says: "Having access to a test like this will enable doctors to diagnose patients as soon as there is suspicion of infection, allowing appropriate treatment to start earlier and thereby reducing the mortality rate."

Susan Tesselaar, Noah's mother and Chair of Noah's Pink Balloon Leukaemia Fund, says: "We are delighted to have appointed Alyssa as Noah's Fellow and look forward to seeing the impact of the research.

"A test like this could make all the difference as doctors treating Noah were unable to identify that Mucormycosis had taken hold until after his death. Research is what Noah's Pink Balloon is all about and is the key to preventing what happened to Noah happening to others in the future. I would like to thank the University of Exeter's MRC Centre for Medical Mycology for partnering with us and we look forward to working together in a bid to bring urgent attention to invasive fungal infections and subsequently saving lives."





Turning back TIME

Whether we choose to embrace it or fight against it, ageing is a fundamental and unavoidable part of human life. However for many people ageing doesn't just bring a slower pace and few extra wrinkles, it brings serious, life-altering degenerative disease.

Thanks to innovative new research into gene expression, this may no longer be the case for future generations. And as an aside, it might also do something about those wrinkles!

University of Exeter Professor of Molecular Genetics, Lorna Harries, has been researching ageing and degenerative disease for more than 20 years and during that time discovered a new mechanism by which cells age.

As we age some cells become what's known as senescent. Senescent cells differ from others because they eventually stop multiplying but don't die off when they should. Rather they remain and continue to release chemicals that can negatively impact the healthy cells around them. Ultimately this can affect a person's ability to fight illness and, depending on where the cells are in the body, can lead to degenerative disease.

Until recently research in this area focused on the removal of such cells, which has been shown to be capable of bringing about 'rejuvenation' of function in people and animals. However Lorna and her research team have discovered a new and druggable means to reverse senescence through modulation of RNA splicing. RNA is a nucleic acid present in all living cells and RNA splicing involves the removal or 'splicing out' of certain sequences within the cell and then putting them back together in a slightly different way.

Lorna says: "When genes are switched on, they produce a message (mRNA), containing the instructions to make whatever the cell requires, and most genes can make more than one type of message depending on the needs of the cell. The decision about what is needed is made by a group of proteins, called splicing factors. These get turned

off as we age and that means your cells cannot adapt to their environment, compromising our ability to carry out this 'fine tuning' of gene expression. This is a fundamental reason why cells become senescent.

"Our research has demonstrated that restoration of splicing factor levels to those seen in younger cells is able to effectively turn back the ageing clock in old cells, bringing about reversal of senescence."

Is this the start of being able to live forever?

This ability to essentially reset 'failing' senescent cells could be transformative for many degenerative conditions such as osteoarthritis, hypertension and even dementia. It could eventually provide solutions for almost any disease caused by ageing.

In 2020, along with two partners, Lorna founded SENISCA, a biotech spinout from the University of Exeter that is developing new approaches to reverse this cellular senescence (senotherapeutics). There are three strands to the work:

1. Data – looking at each cell type to determine which messages are driving change in different situations. Essentially developing a 'bar code' for each type that other researchers can read in support of further research.
2. Therapeutics – the team have found 26 targets for their oligonucleotide-based approaches and will be testing the impact treatment can have. Oligonucleotides are short RNA molecules used in

genetic testing that tweak how genes are turned on, without interfering with DNA.

3. Skin – the aesthetic aspect helps to fund future research and development into other areas.

Lorna says "There is huge potential for the future. We will be able to use this to treat, not just the symptoms, but the causes of many degenerative diseases. Ultimately it could even provide a cure for some conditions and may remove the need for things like hip replacements and lung replacements.

"At the moment we are focusing on three main areas – osteoarthritis, Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis (IPF), and age-related macular degeneration. This is because there is a huge unmet clinical need in these areas but also because there are clear ways we can help with our research at this stage. Once we can see impact in these areas we will look to expand into other conditions."

There's an element of this research that can sound almost like science fiction. If we can keep resetting cells to be more youthful, will that result in defying the ageing process altogether? Is this the start of being able to live forever?!

"Absolutely not!" says Lorna. "It's important to remember that this is not about extending life. This is about improving quality of life. Ageing is programmed into all of us, no matter what we are all going to die one day and we are all going to see some deterioration over time. But what might not be inevitable in future are some of the serious degenerative diseases that impact so many people as they age, and that is not just good for individuals but for healthcare services, wider society and the economy as well."

Saving our seas



*Our work in places
like Gabon has shown
how important marine
protected areas can be
for protecting rare and
endangered species”*

Since 2003, research led by the University of Exeter, along with international collaborators has led to both legislative change and the designation of more than 495,000km² of marine protected areas (MPAs). This equates to nearly 70 million football pitches!

In Gabon, research mapping both marine biodiversity and ocean users recommended areas for the designation of nine new marine parks and 11 aquatic reserves. Marine parks allow recreational activities, such as boating, snorkelling and sport fishing, whereas in aquatic reserves no fishing or development can take place.

These recommendations were accepted and led to the establishment of the first comprehensive MPA network in Central Africa, covering 56,000km² or more than 7.8 million football pitches. This increased the proportion of Gabon's territorial waters under formal protection from less than 1% to more than a quarter (26%).

Now experts say Gabon's network of MPAs could provide a blueprint to be used in many other countries. Global MPA coverage is still short of a 10% target set in 2010, partly due to limited progress in many low-income and middle-income countries. However, a few of these countries – including Gabon – have met or exceeded international commitments on land and sea.

One of the lead researchers on the programme, Dr Kristian Metcalfe, Senior Lecturer in Marine Conservation Science at the University's Centre for Ecology and Conservation, says: “A combination of factors made this MPA network possible, but a crucial first step was the creation by President Ali Bongo Ondimba of a government-led initiative called ‘Gabon Bleu’ in 2013.

“This sent out a clear signal that the Gabonese government wanted to develop an MPA network and ensured all sectors – from government agencies to ocean resource users – were engaged in the planning process. This in turn gave confidence to external funders and the private sector to support the research needed.”

MPAs are created based on detailed evidence, resulting in an inter-connected network tailored to protect important habitats. In Gabon they protect globally important populations of sea turtles and marine mammals, with protected zones extending from north to south, and from coastal waters to 200 nautical miles offshore.

Since the MPAs in Gabon were created further research is being undertaken to ensure they are effectively managed.

Kristian says “We always work with local communities and organisations when conducting our research into potential MPAs. As well as using the latest tracking, at-sea surveys, acoustic and video surveying to map marine biodiversity, we also run socio-economic studies that consider ocean user groups like fishers and how to encompass their needs and behaviour in marine planning.”

Gabon has now committed to the 30x30 pledge, a campaign founded by University of Exeter Professor Callum Roberts, to protect 30% of its oceans by 2030.

Gabon is not the only success story for Exeter research. Further down the coast in the Republic of Congo, three new MPAs were created in 2022 that will protect more than 4,000 square km. The area includes globally important nesting grounds for leatherback turtles, and critical migrating and breeding habitats for marine mammals including Atlantic humpback whales. The new MPAs are also home to more than 40 species of sharks and rays, including the world's largest fish, the open ocean whale shark. Research in this area began in 2013 and there was a detailed process working with local fisherman, government and environmentalists to ensure appropriate decisions were taken.

Research at Ascension Island has supported the development of new protected areas legislation, as well as a biodiversity action plan. As a result, the three main marine turtle nesting beaches and a major seabird colony were designated as national nature reserves. Researchers also provided data on marine biodiversity hotspots and co-wrote a policy report providing recommendations for the designation of a Large Scale Marine Protected Area (LSMPA). In 2019, the UK Government designated 100% of the territorial waters of Ascension Island as a LSMPA, an area of 441,658km², the second largest no take MPA in the Atlantic Ocean.

Additionally, research into the legal turtle fishery in the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) led to amendments which increased protection for marine turtles, with both a closed season and size limits to protect breeding adults. This allowed the depleted nesting populations a greater chance of recovery.

Kristian says: “Our work in places like Gabon has shown how important MPAs can be for protecting rare and endangered species, as well as preserving critical habitats. The ocean covers 70% of the world's surface but right now less than 3% of it lies within a highly protected zone. The more we can increase this number, the greater the impact we can have on marine biodiversity, climate change, and the blue economy sustained by our oceans.”

Decarbonising heat and YOU

Heating is responsible for around 45-50% of UK energy consumption, 80% of home energy consumption, and one third of all UK emissions.*



Decarbonising heat is seen as essential to the UK meeting its targets for net zero, however efforts are way behind electricity – about 41% of UK electricity came from renewables in 2021, while only about 7.3% for heat[▲].

Heat is widely seen as harder to address. Most of the changes to electricity generation don't really impact on the consumer. They happen at a distance and from the consumer perspective of just flicking the switch. The exception is solar PV panels, which some readers will have on their own roofs.

Professor Peter Connor is Associate Professor in Sustainable Energy Policy at the University of Exeter and Project Lead on the SHIFFT project (Sustainable Heat: Implementation of Fossil Free Technology). He says: "Regarding heat, any change will need to happen at the level of your community, your street and your house. Whatever system you use now, a change will be local."

"Whether you are one of the 85% of consumers on the gas grid, or if you use bottled gas, wood, oil or coal at home, a low carbon system is going to have to be fitted locally. Even a change to hydrogen would mean a new local network and new boilers for everyone if its supply is going to be at 100%, and there are a lot of other issues to consider with that option."

It may surprise people who have seen the decades long rise of solar and wind energy to overtake fossil fuels as the cheapest electricity sources, but the key technologies for decarbonising heat already exist and have done for years. The key issues for the UK are the upfront cost, helping people come to trust them as reliable providers of heat in the winter, and scaling them up as fast as possible. But what are the options?

Peter says: "The first step is reducing waste through optimising energy efficiency. Retrofitting existing homes (and building new homes) with high quality insulation and controls to improve their

energy performance is essential. These are 'no regrets' measures which enhance comfort and cut costs whatever the future zero carbon heat source – particularly as the UK housing stock performs poorly compared to other European countries.

"District heating (DH) pipes waste and other heat to buildings, in the UK this is largely confined to institutions like hospitals, but elsewhere cities like Copenhagen and Reykjavik supply hot water for washing and space heating to hundreds of thousands of homes, most of it waste heat from local power stations. DH is best suited to high density living in cities, but as we have seen in the city of Bruges, a key partner on SHIFFT, this can mean houses and not just apartment blocks.

"Regarding heat, any change will need to happen at the level of your community, your street and your house. Whatever system you use now, a change will be local."

"You may already have heard of decarbonising heat via electrification; primarily this means installing a heat pump in individual homes or shared buildings, such as flats. Heat pumps work like your fridge, but instead of creating a

cool space for food and dumping the excess heat out the back, they take heat from underground or outdoors and bring it into your home. Doing this can mean that using 1kWh of electricity can add 3-4 kWh of heat inside your home, giving an efficiency of 300-400%. You can also combine heat pumps to add heat to district heating to scale up the demand that can be met."

The SHIFFT project is an INTERREG 2 SEAS project which has been looking at how to encourage faster uptake of low carbon heating options. The team used a co-creation approach – working with different members of local communities – to determine preferred technologies for pilot installations, but also to get their input into devising and testing a general approach to creating city low carbon heat strategies.

Peter says: "We produced a guide to making a city heat strategy and then tested it in four European cities (populations varying from 8,000 to 118,000), feeding back into and amending the structured approach based on that experience. This has led to the adoption of heat strategies in the four cities, and to us producing a four-module guide which breaks down the key areas for action that towns and cities need to understand in order to develop their own local strategies.

"These are an overview of the technologies and how to choose between them, the range of financial and non-financial policy instruments that can be applied to inform and support adoption of efficient, zero carbon heat, and finally the co-creation methodology, aimed at helping towns and cities to include their own citizens in decisions about actions to decarbonise homes and shared community spaces."

The overall approach and the four modules are free to access and available at shiffproject.eu and the team have been running events to share their knowledge with interested authorities across Europe.

Understanding and preventing miscarriages of justice

A University of Exeter database is providing data and evidence to help improve the legal system and increase accuracy of convictions.

The Evidence-Based Justice Lab, based at the University of Exeter Law School, is a research group working at the intersection of cognitive psychology, data science, and law. The group's focus is on better understanding how law and policy interact with human decision-making, for example by examining how law and policy can be used to protect people from pleading guilty when innocent, to enhance evaluations of eyewitness testimony, and to limit the spread of fake news.

A significant part of the team's work has involved building the UK's largest database of miscarriages of justice, including case details of almost 500 individual miscarriages of justice over the past 50 years.

Dr Rebecca Helm is an Associate Professor at the University of Exeter Law School and a UKRI future leaders fellow, who has been leading on the project. She says: "It began as a summer project to build the registry, going through legal databases, court reports, and press reports to find information on people who had potentially been wrongfully convicted. Each case was coded in a range of ways, including how the person was convicted and how they successfully appealed, to make searching the registry easy. This means you can easily search the database to find miscarriages

of justice with particular characteristics, for example involving a particular cause, a particular offence, or a guilty plea.

"The database is used by legal organisations to help with representation of clients or when mounting campaigns, and also by people who believe they have been wrongly convicted or their family members, to inform their legal challenge."

The registry helps to build up an understanding of why miscarriages of justice happen so that, where possible, processes and procedures can be changed or created.

Rebecca says: "You can see certain patterns in the data. For example, there used to be much higher numbers of recognised wrongful convictions resulting from false confessions, but as interrogation procedures have changed this number has dropped. We know through extensive research that false confessions are much more likely to occur when defendants have been subject to custodial and interrogative pressure, and are even more likely in juvenile defendants. Over time more is being done to reduce this risk.

"On the other hand, an increasingly important contributor to wrongful convictions is digital forensics. The use of this evidence has increased

exponentially over the last twenty years, and lawyers, judges, and jurors aren't always well equipped to critique it. For example, in the Post Office scandal cases, the Post Office consistently said there couldn't be a problem with the Horizon computer system (which it later turned out there was a problem with) and defence lawyers didn't have sufficient access to information to challenge this conclusion. Other types of digital evidence that are often used and are becoming increasingly important in wrongful convictions are cell-site evidence and evidence from text messages or social media, particularly when some messages have been selectively deleted and are not recovered. Being able to see these sort of patterns helps us to develop protocols to prevent the same things happening in future."

Following the Post Office scandal, Rebecca, along with Professor Richard Moorhead, Professor of Law and Professional Ethics at Exeter and Karen Nokes, a Lecturer at UCL, are examining, in detail, problems in civil and criminal justice procedures that allowed the scandal to occur. In 2021, it was recognised that a significant number of sub-postmasters and sub-postmistresses (SPMs) had been blamed for accounting shortfalls that had been generated by errors in the Horizon computing

system. These errors had led many SPMs to lose their livelihoods, and even to be convicted of criminal offences and spend time in jail.

The cases raised a number of concerns relating to governance and management at the Post Office and Fujitsu, the conduct of their lawyers, and the operation of the criminal and civil justice systems, including criminal defence practice.

Rebecca says: "The cases offer a seminal opportunity to examine important issues in corporate governance, criminal justice, and professional regulation, as well as government and parliamentary accountability. We have been

investigating and analysing all the issues raised, gathering and understanding evidence, and working to ensure that the concerns identified are taken seriously by regulators and policy makers. Some of our initial findings have been influential in the ongoing inquiry into the scandal."

The Lab's database has been compiled on the basis of extensive research, but there are wrongful convictions not yet listed, either due to a lack of available information or simply because they have not been discovered yet. Researchers are growing the repository over time and there is the option for lawyers and others to suggest

cases to be added if they have information.

Rebecca says: "When people discuss miscarriages of justice in the UK, they often refer to famous cases such as the Guildford Four or Birmingham Six. However, these cases represent the tip of the iceberg and miscarriages of justice still occur quite frequently. Using data from existing miscarriages of justice is important in identifying problems with evidence evaluation and legal procedures, and in protecting those interacting with the criminal justice system in the future."

evidencebasedjustice.exeter.ac.uk

Providing a new home and future

In 2019 the University of Exeter became part of the University of Sanctuary network, a UK-wide initiative aiming to ensure that universities foster a culture of welcome and inclusion for asylum seekers and refugees.

"The war in my country broke my career and spirit. The Sanctuary Scholarship helped me rebuild my career and gave me hope for future by enabling me to pursue a PhD degree. The scholarship improved my circumstances and diverted me from the trauma I experienced during the war. The scholarship provided me with a unique and unprecedented opportunity which is preparing me for a career in the increasingly important and rapidly expanding field. Having completed a Masters in Genomic Medicine, I was supported and recommended by the programme lead and therefore the process of applying for this scholarship was straightforward."

"The sanctuary scholarship helped me live a normal life again where I can focus on being the best version of myself. As an asylum seeker, the process is daunting and as a result I suffered with my mental health. The scholarship offered me a life changing opportunity to attend university and have hope for the future, whereby I can have meaningful and positive contribution to this nation. This wouldn't have been possible without your generous and continuous support, and I am forever grateful."

"As a recipient of the Sanctuary Scholarship, it has been a lifeline for me to access higher education, a triumph in the face of adversity, and the opportunity that means I can achieve my dreams and fulfil my potential. This scholarship is of great importance to me, and I'll be forever grateful to the University of Exeter and all the sponsors, as it is because of their generosity, that I can undertake my undergraduate law degree, which will open great doors and mean that I have access to a brighter future, and I am one step closer to being a solicitor."

"The sanctuary scholarship changed my life in a way I could never imagine. It gave me a sense of purpose, safety, and financial independence. Now, I can rebuild my life in a safe environment provided for the University of Exeter and with my hard work and research contribute to society. Again, thank you very much for believing in us, because without you, transforming lives couldn't be possible."

In 2020 this magazine shone a spotlight on some of the first students to begin their studies thanks to our Sanctuary Scholarship scheme, a programme which enables individuals seeking asylum and refugees who are not able access student finance to study at the University of Exeter.

Since that point a total of 24 students from 12 different countries have received the scholarship so far, and five have now successfully graduated and joined our alumni community.

Many alumni have donated to the scheme since its launch, helping to support these students to achieve their dreams. The University waives the tuition fees for successful applicants, but funds are also needed to cover living costs while the students cannot access employment or student finance. The impact of these donations has been significant as you can read about in anonymous feedback from Sanctuary Scholars on the previous page.

Just this year, the war in Ukraine has displaced millions of people, including tens of thousands of university students across the country.

Watching the news unfold, alumnus Danny Masters (Physics, 1984) wanted to make a difference and committed to fund an individual impacted by the war in Ukraine, through the Sanctuary Scholarship scheme.

Danny says: "Both my company, Coinshares International, and myself were moved by the plight of the Ukrainian people. As an alum of the University of Exeter I had supported students in the past via the Widening Participation programme. While some possible channels of support for Ukraine where stalled by bureaucracy, Exeter moved swiftly to enable direct support to Ukrainian refugees looking for educational opportunities abroad. I was delighted to find that the university was able to swiftly locate a worthy candidate who has now been afforded a new opportunity set thanks to our joint efforts."

Danny's donation provided a scholarship for Mykyta Isagulov, who was forced to flee his home

and university last summer. He says: "As I come from Ukraine and fled my home in June 2022, this scholarship has allowed me to find a new home in Exeter, leave all the stress behind, and fulfil a long and ambitious dream of doing a PhD research degree in English, researching an interdisciplinary matter that is at the border of literature, arts, media and cultures."

"The Sanctuary Scholarship provides me with a unique opportunity to dedicate all of my time to the research in question, integrate closely into the University community and become an active part of its social life, without the need to worry about part-time jobs and securing other sources of income. This financial support also stimulates me to develop as a researcher and participate actively in international conferences and seek publications in respected academic journals."

In 2020 alumnus Paul (Languages, 1984) was one of the first alumni to fund a Sanctuary Scholarship for an MSci Nursing student, who had to leave their homeland.

He says: "It has been so rewarding, supporting the scheme. My wife and I feel very much invested in our scholar's success and love to receive the updates each year. We feel incredibly proud of everything they are achieving and look forward to watching them graduate and build a successful nursing career."

The recipient of Paul's scholarship is now in their third year of study and has started volunteering as a peer mentor for other Sanctuary Scholarship recipients. They wish to remain anonymous but say that the scholarship has been life-changing for them:

"Being a Sanctuary Scholar means a lot to me as it has given me hope and a chance at a brighter future. It has given me the opportunity to acquire the qualification I need to pursue my future career in nursing. Getting this scholarship just goes to show that you shouldn't let your situation define you. I am happy that I found this opportunity and I am more than ready to show that I deserve to be here."

"For my first placement, I worked at the Nightingale Hospital in

Exeter which was mainly for COVID patients at the time. Initially, I felt terrified for my first placement and care experience to be with COVID patients, however, it was an experience that brought out my humanity, challenged certain skills such as communication and observation skills and it also enlightened me more on the role of nurses in patient's care. I also worked at the vaccination centre where I was able to vaccinate people after taking online courses and working hand in hand with the nurses and vaccinators.

"The Sanctuary Scholarship continues to give me the motivation I need to excel, getting this support greatly eases my financial burden and enables me to focus fully on my degree and getting the most from this opportunity. I do appreciate this kind gesture toward my education, as without the support I wouldn't have had the opportunity to apply to university and achieve my ambition of becoming a nurse."

To learn more about the Sanctuary Scholarship scheme or to make a donation visit: exeter.hubbub.net/p/sanctuary



Supporting students through the cost-of-living crisis



The cost-of-living crisis continues to have a significant impact on households around the UK, and students are feeling the pinch.

The Institute for Fiscal Studies estimates that household income for the poorest home undergraduate students has reduced in real terms by £1,200 this academic year due to increases in the maintenance loan of just 2.3% falling short of inflation.

In a survey conducted by the NUS of 3,500 students and apprentices, nearly a third of respondents reported being left with just £50 per month after paying rent and bills. Save the Student's latest money survey reported high levels of financial difficulty with 82% worrying about making ends meet; 59% reporting related mental health concerns and 31% saying their grades had suffered as a result. Average spending for students was £924 a month (up by 14% on the previous year and considerably higher than the average maintenance loan of £485 per month) with the South West the most expensive region outside London.

In response the University has invested around £3.1m in an emergency support package to help reduce the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on students.

A cross-university working group involving the Student Unions was set up in September to identify a package of potential measures to mitigate the crisis. Mitigation is based on the following principles: a) targeting funding support for those most in need and vulnerable to the cost-of-living crisis; b) minimising living and academic costs through the provision of low-cost alternatives wherever possible; c) building resilience and helping students cope.

In November 2022 all undergraduate home students with a family household income of less than £30,000 were automatically granted a £150 Winter Support

Bursary to help with escalating costs. By providing our lowest income students with more money upfront to support them over the costly winter period, we may be able to alleviate some of the stress of falling into debt; reduce the need for hardship funds; and provide early meaningful interventions to those most vulnerable to the impact of inflation.

The University's Success for All Fund continues to be the main source of financial help for students in crisis.

The University has also matched the 10% increase by UKRI to its minimum postgraduate research stipends to offset the cost-of-living impact for our 1,100 UKRI or Exeter funded students. A further £250,000 has been set aside on top of the extra £1m in hardship funds allocated for this year to support self-funded PhD students finding themselves in financial crisis.

In addition to providing extra funding for students, providing access to free or low-cost alternatives to food, groceries and other products has been identified as an important contribution to alleviating the impacts of the crisis. The University has invested in a range of initiatives including providing daily nutritious hot

food options, cheap grocery products, and providing warm places to study and socialize on campus 24-7.

We have also partnered with national debt charity Step Change to provide help and advice for students and staff worried about debt. The charity provides a range of online support and tools for people in debt and runs a helpline. Staff training and a referral system for colleagues to signpost students in debt have also been put into place.

The University's Success for All Fund set up during the COVID pandemic continues to be the main source of financial help for students in crisis. More than 900 applications for support have been received so far this term, with annual applications now estimated at around 3,000. Financial assistance is being provided to support with accommodation, household bills, fuel bills and IT.

The Success for All Fund has been widely supported by alumni over the past few years and we are incredibly grateful to everyone who has donated to help students during this time. All donations, regardless of size, have been greatly appreciated. It has made a huge difference to students who are struggling – decreasing anxiety and reducing serious financial hardship.

If you are in a position to support us and would like to donate to the fund, please visit the website.

exeter.hubbub.net/p/studenthardship





Graduation 2020-22

Following postponements due to the COVID pandemic, in summer 2022 we were finally able to celebrate with the classes of 2020, 21 and 22!

Thank you to all our alumni who sent memories, photos and messages to help make it a day to remember.



Generations at Exeter

The University of Exeter has forever been a place for forging life-long friendships, but for some the connection goes much deeper. We have heard from many in our alumni community about how they met their significant other on campus, or how their time here inspired future generations to follow them. But for some attending Exeter really is a family affair.



One such couple are Patrick McCall and Therese Kelly. They both joined the University in 1984, Patrick studying Economics and Therese to study French, and met during the first week of term when, according to Therese, "Somebody asked me to help move Patrick's room out on to the lawn as a joke!"

So it may not have been exactly love at first sight but not only have Patrick and Therese now been happily married for 27 years thanks to meeting at Exeter, but their two children and other family members have followed in their footsteps.

Patrick says: "We're still mates with so many people we went to Exeter with. We still talk about old stories, we still have a good time together. Exeter has been so significant in my life for introducing me to all these important people."

Therese adds: "Once we left halls a group of us lived in this farmhouse in the countryside. You had to drive down a long farm track to get there – it was properly in the middle of nowhere – and we had to keep all our food in a basket in the middle of the kitchen because of the rats! It was definitely an experience, but thankfully one our children haven't had to repeat!"

Therese and Patrick have had cause to return to Exeter in recent years as both their children, Phoebe and Oscar, also chose to study here.

Patrick says: "We didn't suggest they come to Exeter, it was totally their choice but I guess we made it sound such a great experience! Both studied Sport and Health Science so in a way I was a bit worried about Oscar joining the same university as his parents and same course as his sister, but he loved it."

Therese says: "Coming back and seeing campus has been interesting. Some elements are still the same and some are completely different. The Forum is obviously completely new to us and there are other new buildings, but the Great Hall and the Amory Building is just as I remember it. Although campus looks a bit different, it still has the same feeling when you walk around. It's all reassuringly familiar."

One thing that's very different is that girls now study Sports Science. Patrick says: "It seems crazy but back in the 1980s girls weren't allowed to study Sports Science and now my daughter has graduated in it. I'm very proud!"

Patrick is really excited by the initiatives Professort Lisa Roberts is creating to increase diversity at Exeter. "It's a fabulous university that everyone should have the opportunity to benefit from. We will look back in 30 years and the current situation will look equally unacceptable."

2022 became a big celebration for the family as due to the pandemic, both Phoebe and Oscar actually celebrated their graduation two weeks apart. Not only that but they were joined by their cousin Harry who graduated in Economics at the same time. This makes six Exeter alumni in the family (so far!) as Patrick's brother Will is also a graduate.

Patrick says: "It's funny how one place can be responsible for so many connections and hold so many memories. Exeter made such a difference to my life, helping me kickstart a successful career, make lifelong friends and meet my wife! I hope it continues to be a life-changing experience for graduates for years to come."

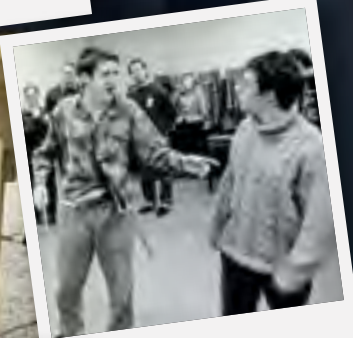
2022



We love to hear about our Exeter family connections. If you met your partner during your time here, or are joined in the community by siblings, children, parents or grandchildren, then please get in touch and share your story: alumni@exeter.ac.uk

Celebrating 25 years with a return to campus

Sports broadcaster Rob Walker graduated in English & Drama in 1997 before spending a fourth 'very happy' year at Exeter as Guild President (97-98) - one of his proudest achievements.



After more than two decades in a very precarious industry, Rob has forged a strong reputation in TV broadcasting and in June 2022 Rob came back to campus with his family and friends as our very first 'VIP alumni guest' to give a speech during the graduation ceremony for English and Drama students.

It's not the first time Rob has returned to Exeter though. He has willingly given up his time to support our current and prospective students in a number of ways over the past few years. Including, just before the pandemic hit, delivering a focused workshop for budding sports journalists alongside Sky Sports F1 reporter, Ted Kravitz.

Rob looks back on his years at Exeter with incredible fondness and is adamant he would not be where he is today without the friends he made at Exeter and his understanding of the written and spoken word which was refined here.

He says: "This is where the journey began for me. I had four of the best years of my life, I made some fantastic friends and when I think about things I've gone on to learn and the principles I've used from my time at Exeter in many ways it was the making of me. It's brilliant to come back and great to have the opportunity to talk to students who are thinking about this industry, to give them an insight into some of the mistakes I've made and fortunate breaks I've had. It's always great to come back to Exeter; I never need an excuse!"

In recognition of all he's done for Exeter, we thought we'd give him an excuse anyway! This summer Rob was invited to give a speech during the graduation ceremony for English and Drama students

and it went down a storm. Taking to the stage on the 25th anniversary of his own graduation, he delivered an inspirational message to the class of 2020 who had waited so long for their celebrations. After congratulating them on "graduating from the greatest university in the world" Rob shared encouragement for all students: "follow your passion for the next 25 years and you will be amazed at where it will take you and who you will meet. It's your turn. Get back out there, seize every opportunity and make the most of every day." Something that Rob has definitely done in his career and life since graduating from the University of Exeter.

After his speech Rob and his guests enjoyed a trip down memory lane with a tour of the drama studios, the English department and of course a few drinks in the Ram bar. He also spoke to the alumni team for a video interview where he talked about how it felt to return to campus and his message for graduates: "Do a job you love. It doesn't matter what it pays you have got to pursue your passion... whatever you do for a living you're going to have to do it for a very, very long time, so you damn well ought to make sure it's something you like."

Rob is a great example of the impact alumni volunteering can have. His 2022 return wasn't actually the first time Rob was involved in graduation. In the summer of 2021 when we were unable to hold in person ceremonies due to COVID-19 restrictions, he recorded a congratulatory video message for our 2021 graduates that was shown at the 'virtual conferment's' alongside other recorded videos from well-respected and well-known alumni.



Also during lockdown Rob gave a virtual talk to local GCSE students to help motivate them to keep going with their studies during that difficult time. He was able to inspire these students with regards to education and developing a passion for their interests. This was part of the University's outreach work to engage local schools with our activities.

Plus he took the time to chat to us about his career in sports journalism and his new online show 'Lockdown Live' as part of our own series of video interviews with University of Exeter academics and alumni which started during the pandemic.

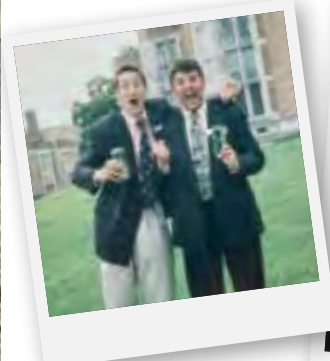
We're exceptionally grateful for the support, time and advice Rob has given to students and fellow alumni over the last 25 years, delighted to have hosted him to celebrate that special anniversary, and look forward to continuing our connection and celebrating his career in the years ahead.

Rob's speeches can be watched online:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y9HBveh-dpQ&t=4790s

and

www.youtube.com/watch?v=SSu2clJK7gM



Behind the lens

There is a point in Toby Amies's latest documentary film, 'In the Court of the Crimson King' where there is nothing but silence for a full minute.

The camera remains fixed on the interviewee, guitarist and band leader Robert Fripp, until he considers and composes himself. It's all rather dramatic and is a sign, if you hadn't already realised it, that this is not your standard music documentary!

"The first rule of cinema is show, don't tell," says Toby. "You want the viewer to experience the story, to feel something, not just passively watch it. We're not really telling the story of King Crimson from the outside, hopefully we're giving people a glimpse into its soul."

'In the Court of the Crimson King: King Crimson at 50' was filmed in 2019 when Toby accompanied the band on their European tour. He knew little about King Crimson when approached by Robert Fripp with a request to make a film with a difference, a film that would tell people, even its enigmatic frontman, something new and meaningful about the band.

Toby says: "King Crimson fans are incredibly dedicated but the point of the film is not to preach to the converted, it's to introduce the band to a new audience. Robert had liked my previous film (The Man Whose Mind Exploded) and thought I could bring the creative direction he was after. He wanted someone with no preconceived ideas about the band."

King Crimson has always been known for the quality of its musicianship, while Robert Fripp has a reputation as a perfectionist and something of a tough taskmaster, and watching the film there are clearly some tense moments between the band members – current and former.

Toby says: "It's a serious business being in King Crimson, that's why they're so good. The reality is that often, to achieve extraordinary results you have to be willing to make extraordinary sacrifices and that is an uncomfortable truth of the film. Sometimes, even though you have achieved something extraordinary, it's not fun, you're acutely aware of the cost."

Some of the most poignant footage is that shot with Bill Rieflin, drummer and keyboard player, who discloses he has stage four

colon cancer during the filming. Sadly he passed away in 2020 before the film was finished.

Toby says: "Bill was the only person who I'd seen before making the film as I'd gone to one of his gigs in New York in about 1999 and we had mutual friends in common. We shared a love of punk and he also had an immaculate sense of humour.

"Despite being in pain he was choosing to spend some of his last moments on Earth touring and that says a lot about the band. For him, and others, playing in King Crimson is life... it is everything. It was the hardest part of creating the film. Nobody ever wants to be editing their dead friend, so I try and look at it a different way – that they get to live on in the film. I hope I've done Bill justice.

"That's the thing about this documentary. The film ostensibly is about King Crimson but it's really about time and death, the pursuit of excellence, and relationships between people."

Toby studied American and Commonwealth Arts at Exeter, graduating in 1990. Part of the same social scene as Radiohead's Thom Yorke and Felix Buxton, who would go to form Basement Jaxx, Toby spent much of his time DJing in nightclubs like the Timepiece.

He says: "I can't play a note but music is my life. I grew up in Worcestershire, just outside the village the Archers is based on, so there wasn't a lot going on. Music was the thing that transported me to other places. One of the things that attracted me to Exeter was actually that at the time it had the biggest collection of American music outside of the States*."

Toby DJ'ed for a number of years in the UK before moving to the US where he worked at an Arizona radio station alongside future late-night TV star Jimmy Kimmel. From there he moved to MCA Records in Los Angeles where his connections ultimately led to MTV, both in the US and Europe.

Toby says: "Where I've been able to, I've got myself into the right place at the right time, and where opportunity hasn't existed, I've done my very best to create it.

* The collection still exists within the library

When I was little I wasn't given pocket money, I was told to pick apples from the garden and sell them on the road with my sister. That meant that she and I started off with a kind of certain degree of entrepreneurial spirit, and that willingness to hustle.

"I was working for a record company in LA, calling round the radio stations promoting the latest tracks, building up relationships with people, and this one year we had the Pulp Fiction soundtrack. Now, not all the records I had to sell were that great, but this was amazing. I really pushed it and we ended up having an event in New York where Quentin Tarantino came and did a Q&A and we got loads of interest.



"At the same time I get a call from MTV saying they were casting for a new anchor and a couple of people in the UK had mentioned me. So we chatted and it all sounded great and then the next question naturally was 'what do you look like?' And I said 'well if you look on p14 of Billboard magazine you'll see'. Of course there was this photo

of me with Quentin Tarantino, and the rest is history!"

Toby continued to live in the USA for a number of years, moving to the east coast for work. Which is how it came to be that on the morning of September 11, 2001 he was stood outside his apartment in Brooklyn watching the planes hit the Twin Towers. A photo taken by Toby of the view downtown was to find its way into news outlets across the world (on the anniversary in 2021, The Guardian ran a piece about the iconic photo).

Toby says: "Taking that photo was one of the worst days of my life. But at the same time, my experience was nothing compared to those who lost their lives, who lost loved ones. So it feels almost trivial to talk about my feelings. It's not something you can take pride in. But at the same time, I'm aware that it's an extraordinary photograph.

"The process of photography can often remove you from your direct experience. So I can remember the process of taking the photo but not what was happening. Part of me was thinking 'what the hell are you doing, taking a picture of this?', but good works of art, they cease to become exclusively about the experience of the person who made them. They're more significant as they are. As things that impact the experience and understanding of the people who to look at them."



Alumni making a difference

Our alumni community is made up of amazing individuals who continuously make a difference in the world. Here are some of the headlines from last year.



Deborah James

Deborah graduated in Economics in 2003 and went on to work as a teacher. When she was diagnosed with bowel cancer she recognised an opportunity to help others and her honesty and openness brought awareness to countless people. In doing so, she undoubtedly saved many lives. In 2022 she was appointed Dame Commander of the British Empire in recognition of her incredible contribution. Sadly she passed away in the summer.



Charlie Fleury and Adam Baker

"Emergensea Duo" Charlie Fleury and Adam Baker are both emergency medicine doctors. In 2022 they became the first ever married couple to participate in the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge (TWAC). Following more than seven weeks of rowing (3,000 miles) they finished 1st in the mixed pairs ranking and have raised more than £20,000 for frontline medical charities.

Ed Walker MBE

Ed Walker (Geography, 1998) was awarded an MBE in 2022 for services to homelessness. Ed set up Hope into Action in 2010 when he and his wife used their savings to buy a property to help house homeless people in need. The charity now has accommodation in more than 30 different towns across the country and houses 315 people. Hope into Action helps a wide range of people without a home and specialises in purchasing properties and partnering with churches to offer supported housing to people experiencing homelessness nationwide.

Eliud Kipchoge

Honorary Graduate, Eliud Kipchoge (2019), has made headlines as the greatest marathon runner of all time and in 2022 set a breath-taking new world marathon record of 2:01:09 at the Berlin Marathon. He also broke sub-2 hours for the marathon in Vienna in 2019 and has credited the work of Professor Andy Jones as contributing to his success.



Dr Ann Ralli

Exeter Alumna, Dr Ann Ralli (then Ann Thomas), set up the charity Devon Air Ambulance following the death of her son Ceri in 1986 whom she was told that quicker treatment would have influenced their chance of survival. In 2022 they celebrated 30 years of service.

Dr Martina Cecchetti

Recent PhD graduate, Dr Martina Cecchetti, was one of six scientists to receive a prestigious L'Oreal

Women in Science fellowship in 2022. She was rewarded for her research into the ecology and management of hunting by cats on wildlife, including migratory birds, on the island of Linosa, off the coast of Sicily.

The fellowship, which will provide €20,000 funding towards the research, is a collaboration with Professor Robbie McDonald, of the University of Exeter's Environment and Sustainability Institute.

Rachel Platt

Alumna and garden designer Rachel Platt (Geography, 2018) has been awarded the Royal Horticultural Society's coveted People's Choice Best Young Designer award at RHS Tatton Park for her first show garden titled 'The Covid Recovery Garden'. During the show, which ran from 20 to 24 July, she also won Best Construction, a Silver-Gilt medal and was awarded runner-up Young Designer of the Year.



Ant Wilson

Ant Wilson, the founder of Push Chocolate in Cornwall, a climate conscious confectionary business based in St Austell won two coveted Free From Food Awards after receiving support from the University of Exeter, Cornwall Student Start-up programme.

Ant makes chocolate buttons that are vegan, higher in protein and lower in sugar than normal chocolate, as well as free from all 14 major food allergens. He was awarded Silver and Bronze for his orange chocolate buttons at the Free From Food Awards in 2022.

We'd love to hear more of your stories. Get in touch with alumni@exeter.ac.uk to share your news.

Alumni support contributes to student sporting success



Support is a flourishing aspect of student life at the University of Exeter with a wide range of sports clubs as well as competitive, recreational, and performance sport opportunities. It builds friendships that last beyond graduation, helps students keep active, and gain new experiences and skills.



The donations of time and money from alumni and our supporters help Exeter to be the best it can be and allows all students to have access to these opportunities and below we've shared some highlights of the impact donations to the Alumni Annual Fund and sporting crowdfunding appeals have had recently.

Alumni Annual Fund

The Exeter University Windriders are a joint sports club for Wakeboarding, Windsurfing, and Kitesurfing and in 2021 applied to the Alumni Annual Fund for support to purchase new, smaller boards to increase inclusivity and encourage female participation in the sport (female participation in extreme sports is typically low). The money awarded was spent on new wakeboards and bindings. As well as benefiting current members it also means future members will

no longer be discouraged if kit doesn't fit properly and allows for better progression.

The pandemic highlighted the importance and benefits of being physically active for our mental health and the new equipment and support from the fund means that students benefit from an outlet and break from the stress of student life, new skills, and a social and friendly community to connect with. One student commented: "The lighter boards make trying new tricks much easier and help my progression."

The Exeter University Canoe Club were supported by the Alumni Annual Fund to purchase six new large carbon fibre polo boats in order to improve accessibility, inclusion, and the ability to compete at Canoe Polo. The new boats have been used to enable people who previously would not



have been able to get involved in the game and represent the University of Exeter. This is important for not just the wellbeing of the students involved in the sport but also for the performance of the team. They can now select teams purely on ability not on who will fit in the boats, therefore the team will be much more competitive in competitions including BUCS. A student benefiting from the project said: "Without these boats I would be unable to play polo and I've found it to be so important in my first year at university."

The boats so far have been used to field three teams in multiple competitions including a large national one in Nottingham in which many players were able to play for the first time as they fit into the boats. They've also been used in the Southwest university polo league in Bristol to allow our University of Exeter teams to compete at a much higher standard than in previous years.

You can read all about the Alumni Annual Fund and other projects that have been supported online.

Crowdfunding projects

The University of Exeter Sailing Club is one of the largest and most successful university sailing clubs in the country. The club prides themselves on both their competitive successes and their ability to inspire and encourage a large student body to learn to sail for the first time. In 2020 they launched a crowdfunding campaign to keep up with the pace of change at the club as membership continues to rise year on year and they needed to ensure they had the equipment to allow this to continue. The campaign sought to raise money to start up a rolling replacement scheme and buy a new fleet of six boats. (A rolling replacement scheme allows six boats to be replaced every five years – a scheme that safeguards the longevity of clubs.)

The campaign was successful and raised £6,054 which has contributed to hundreds of sailors being able to get out on the water every week for many years to come. The provision of the boats also encourages young sailors into the sport with beginners flourishing into active sailors.

In 2020 Exeter University Association Football Club (EUAFC) Alumni Network launched a three-year crowdfunding campaign with a target of £15,000 to fund a coach from 2020-23 to help develop football at Exeter. This coaching role was one of the priority development areas for the club and will enable performance to improve by giving them a better chance of success both in BUCS and league competitions.

With more than 500 members and 11 teams, EUAFC is providing the



opportunity for people of all abilities to compete at University level and over the last season have benefitted hugely from the appointment of Head Coach, Javier Martin who took up the post in December 2020. In the first year of this campaign and first full season 2021-22 with an employed coach, the club has had its most successful season for many years. The club are now recruiting for a replacement head coach who will continue in Javier's footsteps in developing a new club philosophy as well as leadership skills and training.

During Javier's time the club celebrated seeing their first EUAFC team win the treble, with the final finishing in a penalty shootout; and in the overall league the men's 1st XI conceded only 5 points all season. A particular highlight was an 8-1 win against Cardiff Met who only five years ago were in the Europa League.

So far, the EUAFC alumni network have raised more than £12,000 of their £15,000 target thanks to donations of all sizes that have added up to make a big difference and are helping to develop football at Exeter and shape the University experience for many students to come.

Thank you to all our alumni and supporters whose donations make a significant impact on students' experience of studying at the University of Exeter by being able to take part in sport.

If you'd like to find out more about how to support sport at Exeter or connect with fellow sport alumni visit our website or contact:

sportsalumni@exeter.ac.uk



SPORT: OUR VISION

Over the next four years our commitments are:



Physical Activity and Wellbeing

- Ensure physical activity is part of everyday life on all campuses at the University and accessible to all within the community; engaging in local and national initiatives to create the most vibrant and active campus/workplace. Establishing targets to measure our inclusive practises.
- Provide an exceptional student experience.
- In Cornwall, create differentiation of our sporting offer to develop a unique offering and facility base for our students.

Competitive Sport

- Possess facilities that are compliant with national standards to sustain competitive sport and increase physical activity across all campuses.
- Build the brand in Exeter through 'BLEED GREEN' for our competitive sports programmes and 'I AM SPORT' to create a sense of community and that sport is for every member of our community.
- Build our pathway for students in Cornwall, who aspire to compete at the highest level and support athletes through our High-Performance department in Exeter.
- Ensure the University of Exeter remains a top 5 UK University for sport continuing our reputation of excellence in sport.
- Ensure Performance athletes are able to access a National Governing Body (NGB), franchise or professional club performance pathway that provides a national level competitive outlet, in addition to BUCS.
- Hold a Top 3 ranking across all performance programmes.



Partnerships

- Drive forward the University's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) vision by challenging cultures and practises, offering a welcoming and respectful environment with a diverse range of engaging activities, accessible to all students and staff.
- Play a key role in supporting the wellbeing of our student and staff population working in partnership with Wellbeing services.
- Develop our work with colleagues in the department of Sport and Health Sciences to deliver an eco-system of research, academic teaching and applied skills across both departments, providing opportunities for our students to maximise their experiences and use our professional staff knowledge and experiences to full benefit.
- Develop meaningful partnerships with key local agencies and governing bodies. Contributing to our society and improve the health and wellbeing of our local community and support the delivery of our Civic agreements.
- Demonstrate our commitment to sustainability through an ECE action plan developed in partnership with our student body.



Tackle by current student Christ Tshiunza (EURFC, Exeter Chiefs, and Wales)



Women's Lacrosse (EULC)



Football (EU AFC)



Hockey men (EUHC)



Sailing (EUSC)



Windriders



Rowing (EUBC)



Boxing (EUABC)

GB representation in the Sultan of Johor Cup 2022 with three Exeter Hockey Scholars

Three University of Exeter hockey players travelled to Malaysia in October 2022 to represent Great Britain U21's in the Sultan of Johor Cup. The trio played against the likes of South Africa, Australia, and Japan over the course of the 8-day tournament.

Ben Fox, Ollie Drummond, and Lewis Wilcher helped the Great Britain squad finish 3rd, turning over Japan 3-1 in the bronze medal game. The squad narrowly missed out on a place in the final after a last-minute equaliser from India in a 5 all draw in their last pool game.

The trio said "The Sultan of Johor Cup was a surreal experience and one we will never forget. We learnt numerous lessons both on and off the pitch playing against challenging international teams with contrasting styles of play. We are happy to be back in Exeter and hopefully be able to use this experience in our BUCS and Weekend Fixtures moving forward!"

University of Exeter Head of Hockey, Harry Jones, added, "We are delighted to have three of our university players representing the Great Britain Elite Development Programme out in Malaysia. It is a real showcase of the talent these players have and also how much we have here at the University of Exeter. We currently have 18 players (Men and Women) representing their different international programmes. It is great to have them back and wearing university colours again as well as imparting all they have learnt from their trip away to the other players in the squad."

Golf: R&A Student Tour Series – France 2022

Eight sub-scratch golfers travelled to Le Golf National in Versailles France to play in the year's second R&A student tour series, playing against the best university golfers Europe has to offer.

Qualifying for the event was the first challenge as the men's field was balloted with a handicap of +0.7 meaning there were seven male golfers and one female representing Exeter. The competition comprised of three rounds in total: two around the Albatross course which was made famous in the 2018 Ryder cup, known for its punishing large greens and many water hazards, and the other was around the Aigle course which provided different challenges with very small tricky greens and tight fairways.

The first day finished with Jake Ball (2nd year) and Harry Butler (1st year) being T14 and Georgia Staroscik for the women being T6. The second day started with the

players' first round of the Aigle course. Ready to bring their A game, Toby Smith had a cracking 4 under par round which bumped him over 10 spaces up the leader board. Steady rounds of level par, +1 for Jake Ball and Adam Tridgell respectively helped continue their journey. Going into the final day all players were looking forward to their final round on Le Golf Nationale's signature course. Due to the outstanding golf being played by the Swedes and Irish, a BUCS title was not quite within reach, but moves were ready to be made up the leader board. Alex Keefe shot a very respectable +3 in his final round to finish the week on a high and Jake Ball held a clutch Birdie putt on 18 to secure his T20 finish for the week.

14 Alumni and Current Students headed to Birmingham for the 2022 Commonwealth Games

The summer of 2022 saw 14 alumni and current students head to Birmingham for the 2022 Commonwealth Games. The Opening Ceremony took place on Thursday 28th July, followed by an 11-day feast of sporting action where our students and graduates represented their countries.

For many of our students, this was not their first time representing their country, but their first Commonwealth Games. As was the case for Clare Jones, co-vice captain for Wales Netball in her first Commonwealth Games. When asking Clare about how she felt ahead of the games, she couldn't be prouder and more excited, as well as thankful for the support she has received from the University of Exeter:

"I am really excited to be representing my country at not only a home commonwealth games but my first commonwealth games. I am an incredibly proud Welsh woman; however, this selection also importantly allows me to represent my family, friends, and all those who have been a part of the journey in getting me to this point of my netball career, which includes the University of Exeter.

I feel so fortunate to have completed my BSc, MSc and now

my PhD at Exeter. If it weren't for the support I've received here, my sporting career would not have been possible."

A sport steeped in history at Exeter is Hockey, where the university has five current students and alumni representing their country. One of those students, Millie Holme, only made her first senior international debut last August and also shared some of her thoughts ahead of her first game for Wales last summer:

"Words cannot describe how excited I am for the Commonwealth Games. I never thought at this stage in my life I'd be selected. I know I'll be nervous, but I can't wait to get started, put my Welsh shirt on, play against some of the top teams and take the whole atmosphere in.

I've really enjoyed being at the University of Exeter this year in all aspects. Hockey commitments and studies are never going to be easier to juggle, but I find hockey a nice way of taking a break from work. I think planning my week beforehand has helped me tremendously. It meant that I wasn't stressing as much, as I'd already sorted out my time and what I had to do for the day."

Ranging from Medicine to Business degrees, throughout their time at



Exeter, each of the students who took part in the games has been supported by the Performance Sport programme.

Through this programme, students access a comprehensive package of support services including state-of-the-art training facilities, expert coaching, strength and conditioning, physiotherapy, sports psychology, performance analysis, and a range of performance-athlete workshops.

Our programmes are generously supported by alumni and donors to the university and we thank them for all their support.

Please see the full list of students and alumni who competed at the 2022 Commonwealth Games below:

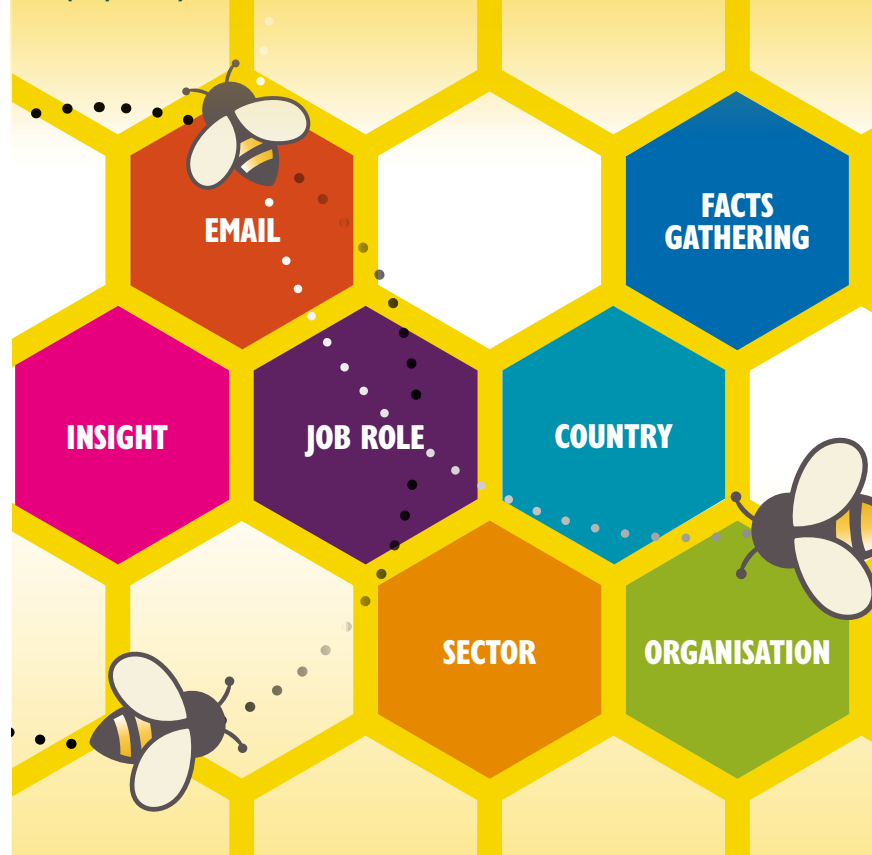
Name	Course	Graduation Year	Sport	Country
Rhys Bradshaw	BSc Mathematics	2022	Hockey	Wales
James Carson	PGCE Physical Education Secondary	2019	Hockey	Wales
Ben Francis	BA Economics with Industrial Experience	2018	Hockey	Wales
Ella Jackson	BSc Exercise and Sport Sciences	2016	Hockey	Wales
Millie Holme	Eng Mechanical Engineering with Year in Industry	Current student (2025)	Hockey	Wales
Betsy Creak	PGCE Biology Secondary	2018	Netball	Wales
Clare Jones	DClinPsy Doctor of Clinical Psychology	2022	Netball	Wales
Christina Shaw	BSc Biological Sciences	2020	Netball	Wales
Merryn Doidge	BSc Exercise and Sport Sciences	2022	Rugby 7s	England
Luke Treharne	BMBS Medicine	2017	Rugby 7s	Wales
Caity Mattinson	MSc Sport and Health Sciences	2019	Rugby 7s	Scotland
Alexander Varley	BA History	Current student (2023)	Fencing	Guernsey
James Le Maitre	MEng Civil and Environmental Engineering	2022	Fencing	Guernsey
Freya Davies	LLB Law	2017	T20 Cricket	England

Supporting your success

On completing your studies you joined a community of University of Exeter alumni, a supportive global network willing to help you achieve your full potential. The careers support you received whilst studying also continues after you graduate ensuring that your employability needs are met no matter where your career takes you. Take a look below at all that's on offer and visit the website for more information.

Ask An Alum

Ask An Alum is a simple and reliable way to connect you with fellow alumni, to gain answers to your careers questions, via a short email exchange. More than 4,500 alumni are signed up to the Ask An Alum scheme, undertaking a variety of job roles and from a huge range of organisations, sectors, and countries. You can find out more information about how to apply, suggestions of what you could ask alumni and what happens after you apply, online: exeter.ac.uk/careers/employability-schemes/aaa



CAREERS

Forever

Career Zone

You can continue to access the Career Zone is exactly the same now that you have graduated, with all the resources, support and latest jobs that you were used to accessing whilst studying. You will be supported post-graduation, whatever stage you are at in your career journey. Careers support for graduates includes careers advice and guidance via 1:1 appointments with trained careers consultants, interview and CV support, access to Handshake jobs listings, careers research and events. You can read more about the support on offer on our webpage:

exeter.ac.uk/alumnisupporters/benefits/careerssupport

Career Mentor Scheme

The Career Mentor Scheme is open to recent alumni who have graduated within the last three years! We have hundreds of experienced professionals offering one-to-one careers advice, support and guidance, to help develop your career. Participants of the scheme are 7% more likely to be in graduate employment after six months than their peers. Even if you have undertaken the scheme before, you can use the scheme again. You can find out more information, including details on how to apply, online:

exeter.ac.uk/careers/employability-schemes/careermentorscheme

International Alumni Support

We also provide specific support to alumni who live internationally, for example through the China Career Ready Programme, and the India Career Ready Programme, and through the support of specific country alumni groups:

China – exeter.ac.uk/alumnisupporters/networks/china

India – exeter.ac.uk/alumnisupporters/networks/india

Amongst many others – exeter.ac.uk/alumnisupporters/networks/international

Enterprise and entrepreneurship support

Are you thinking about starting up your own business or improving your entrepreneurial skills? You can access Enterprise & Entrepreneurship careers support as a member of the Exeter alumni community. This includes 1:1 appointments, webinars, skills sessions and much more. Find out more on the website:

exeter.ac.uk/careers/research/enterpriseentrepreneurship

Events and webinars

As an alum you will receive invites to a variety of events that take place both in person and virtually related to careers and employability both in the UK and internationally. Previous topics have included 'building your personal brand', 'lessons from alumni in business' and 'Job hunting in a difficult economic climate'. A full listing of upcoming events can be found online: exeter.ac.uk/alumnisupporters/events where you can also catch up on recordings of some of our virtual events:

exeter.ac.uk/alumnisupporters/events/eventrecordings

Graduate Business Partnerships

The Graduate Business Partnership scheme helps recent graduates secure full-time graduate roles, with supportive employers in the South West. So, if you are missing Devon or Cornwall and you would like to start your career in the South West read more about the scheme on the GBP webpage and sign up for the weekly vacancy bulletin to see all the great opportunities you can apply for:

exeter.ac.uk/careers/internships/gbp

Networks

We have a wide range of alumni networks both in the UK and internationally to support you through your social life and professional career which also run a series of events. Our groups help you connect with others in your area or who share similar interests, and we also have a flourishing alumni sport community. Find out more online:

exeter.ac.uk/alumnisupporters/networks

Postgraduate/Further study

Postgraduate study, both research and taught, is a popular choice for Exeter graduate and alumni can benefit from alumni scholarships and a 10% discount on some fees. If you're considering further study we have information on our website to help with your research and about the options that are available to you. Take a look: exeter.ac.uk/careers/pgstudy

You can find all of this and more summarised on our Careers Support for Graduates webpage:

exeter.ac.uk/alumnisupporters/benefits/careerssupport

KEEP IN TOUCH!

WHY?

We love to hear from our alumni.

Let us know your contact details so that we can:

- Keep you informed of what's happening at Exeter
- Invite you to our events
- Let you know about your alumni benefits, such as discounts, access to journals and careers support.

HOW?

There are lots of ways to contact us:

- @ alumni@exeter.ac.uk
- +44 (0)1392 723141
- www exeter.ac.uk/alumni
- @exalumni
- /exeteralumni
- @exeter_alumni
- /company/university-of-exeter-alumni
- search ExeterAlumni
- Global Advancement, Northcote House, The Queen's Drive, Exeter EX4 4QJ





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