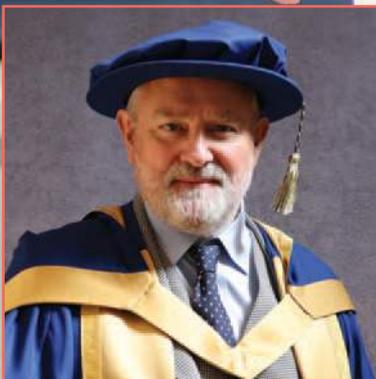




UNIVERSITY OF
CHICHESTER

TEF
2023
Gold Teaching
Excellence
Framework

ANNUAL
REVIEW



CELEBRATING OUR
HONORARY GRADUATES



STUDENT
SUCCESSES



CONSERVATOIRE
HIGHLIGHTS



Professor Symeon Dagkas

WELCOME

to our Annual Review

I am delighted to have been appointed the new Vice-Chancellor of the University of Chichester, taking the reins from Professor Jane Longmore, who presided over the University for seven successful years.

It is with great enthusiasm and a profound sense of responsibility that I embrace this opportunity, having already witnessed the vibrant and remarkable community of staff, students, and wider friends of the University that defines this exceptional institution.

I want to take a moment to acknowledge some of the University's key achievements over the past year. There is much to celebrate.

Alongside the prestigious TEF Gold for Teaching Excellence and an 'Outstanding' rating from Ofsted for Primary and Secondary Teacher Training, we ranked in the top 20 for Teaching, Feedback, and Assessment in the NSS 2024. Furthermore, I am delighted the University has secured a spot in the top 26 of *The Guardian* league table, with four subjects in the top 10, as well as a 'good' rating from Ofsted for our Degree Apprenticeship provision. Our enduring community partnerships, support for future workforce needs and growth of skills-based apprenticeships providing real-world experience are all real strengths to take pride in.

We continue to commit to providing more nursing and healthcare professionals in the area, and I was pleased to see that in September our first intake of 22 student nurses graduated. These trailblazing professionals will take on roles in hospitals and healthcare settings across the region,

ready to begin treating and caring for people immediately.

With a growing research portfolio and recent successes in the Research Excellence Framework (REF), highlighting the outstanding work across all disciplines continues to be important. Our strong community connections remain a source of pride, as we strive to be a university that not only achieves academic excellence but also enriches the lives of those around us.

I'm excited to make a start in building upon the University's strengths of research-led teaching quality, student experience and student engagement. Drawing upon these strengths and the University's heritage and values, I hope to work with our community to promote the University on the national and global stage.

Professor Symeon Dagkas
Vice-Chancellor





Learning Resources Centre, Bognor Regis Campus



University House, Chichester Campus

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CELEBRATING OVER
180 YEARS
 OF HIGHER
 EDUCATION

It's been an outstanding year for the University, with 2024 seeing a change of leadership, league-table success and the opening of a new heritage garden on campus.



New Vice-Chancellor



In November we welcomed our new Vice-Chancellor, Professor Symeon Dagkas, who joined from St Mary's University. He took over from Professor Jane Longmore, who retired after a successful seven-year period.

League table success

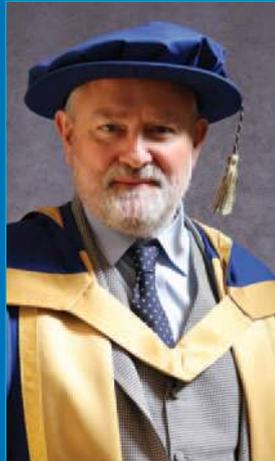


We celebrated an excellent result in *The Guardian* University Guide 2025, rising 12 places to come in at number 26. This marks the fifth year in a row that the University has been featured as a top 40 UK institution.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

Honorary graduate: Hugh Bonneville

Acclaimed *Downton Abbey* actor and West Sussex resident Hugh Bonneville was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Theatre in September.



Law courses take top spots



For the second year running, our Law courses ranked number 1 in the UK out of 112 other UK universities in the National Student Survey (NSS), a fantastic achievement. Law was also ranked 1st for student satisfaction in the Complete University Guide League Table 2025.

New heritage garden

A new garden was opened on the Bognor Regis Campus, paying homage to the walled garden which the land was once used for. The sustainable green space includes a small orchard and herb garden, providing bee and insect-friendly plants to attract pollinators and improve biodiversity in the area.



Carbon Literacy accreditation



We are proud to have been accredited as a Bronze Carbon Literate Educator by the UN-recognised Carbon Literacy Project. This prestigious award recognises our commitment to embed climate education and action into our University ethos.

Silver medal in European Youth Brass Band Championships



Our talented musicians took the silver medal in the prestigious 'Brass Band Euros' last May, travelling to Palanga in Lithuania to represent England against tough competition from across Europe.

Apprenticeships rated 'good' by Ofsted

Ofsted inspectors rated our provision of higher and degree apprenticeships as 'good', saying: "Leaders and governors have put in place a well-considered and ambitious curriculum. They work well with employers to ensure the apprenticeships they offer are relevant to the needs of businesses, align with identified skills priorities and provide progression opportunities."



Shaping WEST SUSSEX



New nursing graduates prepare for local hospital roles

The first-ever cohort of 22 nursing students graduated from the University in September and are now taking on jobs in hospitals across the region.

Professor Jane Longmore, former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Chichester said: *"I am very proud of the class of 2024's success and it is especially pleasing to see our first group of nursing students graduate. They will be going on to serve their local communities in a rewarding and worthwhile profession."*

The nursing students will be going into a variety of roles in hospitals across the region in partnership with University Hospitals Sussex.

Graduating alongside the first cohort of adult nursing students, Dr Maggie Davis, Chief Nurse at University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust (UH Sussex) was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Science, and said: *"It is such an honour to celebrate our fabulous student nurses who graduated this year during an inspiring partnership between the University and hospital trust, I feel hugely privileged to be part of it."*

Raymond Resurreccion, who graduated with a degree in Adult Nursing said: *"I had a fantastic time as a nursing student at the University of Chichester. I felt supported throughout my learning by the lecturers and I took on the philosophy of good evidence-based nursing practice taught in the classroom, which helped me develop into a professional nurse. I feel that I have been rewarded for the sacrifices I made to attain this degree."*

For more information about nursing and our other health degrees, go to www.chi.ac.uk/health.

When I joined the course, I was in middle management. During that time, I've been promoted twice. I think the University pathway I took was absolutely pivotal to my career progression.



Gary Ball, Area Manager at West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service (WSFRS)

Degree apprenticeship helped fire service manager produce research with real world impact

Research by a fire service officer who completed a degree apprenticeship at the University of Chichester will make real changes for retained on-call firefighters in West Sussex.

Gary Ball, an Area Manager at West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service (WSFRS), took on a four-year apprenticeship achieving a BA (Hons) in Management at the University, with a final-year project looking at how the service could attract and retain on-call firefighters.

"You cannot operate the fire service in West Sussex without the on-call staff," Gary explained. "We rely on on-call firefighters to just drop what they're doing and get to the fire station within four minutes to respond to an emergency. It's a post-World War Two model but people's availability has changed quite considerably since then. People do not necessarily work in the villages they live in as people are commuting more to work. We need to do something to make it more flexible and attract people who maybe haven't considered it in the past."

Gary's final project looked at a new approach for on-call retained firefighters – which feeds into the fire service's strategy going forward.

"It lined up quite nicely with the areas I am responsible for looking at on-call retained duty systems within West Sussex."



Gary Ball – Area Manager at West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service (WSFRS)

He surveyed members of the fire service – and was appointed to the National Fire Chiefs Council – so had access to 40 other fire and rescue services to see how they manage the retained service.

"I looked at people's reasons for joining and leaving. In West Sussex, it is driven quite financially because of the cost of living and of course people wanting to serve their local communities," said Gary.

"Doing it through an academic body gave the project more credibility. It definitely helped get people more engaged with it. We had a 65% return rate on the survey, and I ran seven focus groups in person."

The research gave recommendations on new contract agreements, remuneration packages and flexible arrangements for retained firefighters. It has been discussed at the fire service scrutiny committee and will inform the service's future strategy.

"It will improve their experience coming into the fire service, flexibility, wellbeing, doing the job while mitigating the impact it has on their personal circumstances."

Gary shared how taking the course has impacted his career, and said: *"When I joined the course, I was in middle management. During that time, I've been promoted twice. I think the University pathway I took was absolutely pivotal to my career progression. I can combine my lived experience with academic research in leadership and business management which helped me progress."*

Gary was the first in the fire service to take the course, and now WSFRS is looking to explore putting more of its staff through the apprenticeship.

David Goodman, Senior Lecturer in Leadership and Management, said: *"As a teaching team at Chichester we are committed to develop our students and apprentices far beyond basic skills and we focus on providing individuals with opportunities to expand their knowledge alongside critical thinking. Through this approach we believe students can thrive in their organisational lives, in times of change and uncertainty, and I think Gary typifies this. His own development within this project highlights the difference he is making to his team and within the wider fire service."*

To find out more about the Chartered Manager Degree Apprenticeship, visit: chi.ac.uk/apprentice

Chichester graduate lands job helping others in recovery

Five years ago, Philip Day was homeless, in recovery from addiction and had no formal education. He embarked on the pioneering bridging course at the University of Chichester and has just graduated with a BA (Hons) in Sociology.

Now he's started a new role as a recovery coordinator for a local drug and alcohol charity and he's picked up the keys to his new home.

On receiving a job offer for Change Grow Live, a charity helping those in recovery from addiction, Philip said: *"I would not have had the confidence to go for something like that without the degree. I didn't finish school, I have no GCSEs or A-Levels. The degree has helped me prioritise work and manage my time and has given me confidence and self-esteem."*

He said these skills and formal qualification, as well as his lived experience, *"is a match made in heaven for this role"*.

"Getting out of homelessness is difficult," he said. "It is about getting a job, getting a guarantor for a place to live. They want all sorts of ID. Homeless people do not have passports, driving licenses, birth certificates."

Philip began his higher education journey with a bridging course at the University. *"I loved it and it's the first thing I finished in a long time. It gave me the confidence to get a degree."*

The bridging course is a 12-week module, From Adversity to University, and was the brainchild of Chichester lecturer Becky Edwards. It's made a difference to the lives of care leavers, refugees and those experiencing homelessness, by giving them a chance to access higher education. Philip became an advocate for the course and helped others to benefit from it.

"I took a year out to help be a bridge between people and the bridging module," he said. "After that year, I sat down with Becky and talked about my next steps."

He decided to join the first cohort on the BA (Hons) Sociology course at the University of Chichester – and signed up to live in halls. He said living with students was challenging, and the age-gap between him and his peers was 'at least 20 years', but that he'd learned a lot from his contemporaries.

"Dyslexia was one of the biggest challenges," he said. "It's the first time I have been in an education setting for more than 30 years, so I had to get to grips with the terminology and vocabulary."

His determination to make a change meant he overcame these barriers, and now he wants to help others do the same.

"I think the bridging module is a gateway of opportunity and hope for people," he said. "And as one of the lecturers said, anyone can obtain a degree if they work hard enough. Everyone should have access to higher education. It does provide opportunity and hope for those that want it. It is just a wonderful gift to give someone."

"I think the bridging module is a gateway of opportunity and hope for people."

Philip Day, BA (Hons) Sociology



*I didn't finish school, I have no GCSEs or A-Levels.
The degree has helped me prioritise work and manage
my time and has given me confidence and self-esteem.*

“”

Philip Day, BA (Hons) Sociology



Philip with Senior Lecturer Becky Edwards

Shaping WEST SUSSEX

Gemma Peterson and friends enjoy some outdoor exercise.



Barefoot exercise and meditation is beneficial for children’s mental health

Research into the impact of barefoot exercise and meditation on young people’s mental health by a student from the University of Chichester could be ‘life changing’ for families.

Gemma Peterson, who is studying a Master’s degree in Health Psychology, won £5,000 funding from the NIHR (National Institute for Health and Care Research) Springboard Award for her Nature Blast project, which looks at the impact of nature-based interventions on children’s mental health and wellbeing.

Gemma said: *“Our intervention Nature Blast combines meditation, mindfulness and exercise outside barefoot, and within this study we measured the impact on wellbeing in qualitative focus groups.”*

The research was in response to figures

from Action for Children, which said in 2023 that one in four children under 16 is likely to have a mental health problem.

Factors were cited as social media, academic pressures and family poverty. The NHS said the main steps to improve wellbeing include connecting with other people, learning new skills, being physically active and mindfulness, while The Mental Health Foundation said being in nature is the key.

Nature Blast was created around these principles. Gemma ran the sessions in Bosham, West Sussex, over the summer and autumn months last year, and families took part in a one-hour group meditation and an exercise circuit. The families were encouraged to take part while being barefoot outside in order to experience the benefits of earthing.

Gemma said: *“We ran the intervention with local families and looked at how it impacted the children’s wellbeing.”*

In her findings, Gemma concluded: *“All families benefited from attending the sessions and would return. Children enjoyed spending time with their families and bonding.”*

“The young people shared their enjoyment of exercising outside in nature. They experienced more energy and a clearer mind, and one teenager shared how the sessions supported their stress levels at school and enabled them to become more present using the mindfulness strategies they had learned.”

“One child spoke of the exercise and mindfulness helping to reduce their anger, another shared that the sessions helped them to let emotions out and express how they felt through exercise. Many families expressed an interest in having Nature Blast in schools or colleges as a PE lesson, a breakfast or afterschool club, or a lunchtime activity to help with relaxation, concentration, stress reduction and increasing connection amongst students.”

86%

OF OUR RESEARCH WAS RATED AS INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED

Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2021

Improving early years' education in Uganda

Academics from our Early Years Education team joined forces with a children's charity, Children on the Edge, to assess whether their early years programme is having a positive impact on the refugee children they work with in Uganda.

Born out of frustration with existing assessment tools, the team worked closely with Children on the Edge and Learn to Play Botswana to develop a new play-based observational assessment. A spokesperson from Children on the Edge said: "We believe that the main aim of early years education is to instill a lifelong love of learning. We aim to develop curiosity and creative thinking, to help children become resilient, determined, confident and able to solve complex problems. We wanted to create an assessment tool to find a way to effectively measure the values and skills we believe are most important for a child's development, the ones that will best

prepare them for life and help them to thrive.

"We also wanted to move away from traditional early years assessments, which focus on memorised information and academic skills, rather than how children are holistically and uniquely developing.

"This style of tests often removes children from familiar settings, away from their friends, to be assessed by unfamiliar adults. So it's no surprise that children are unable to be at ease and show their unique qualities and skills."

The new assessment tool uses a set of eight fun activities which take place within the child's familiar education setting, with their friends and usual teacher. The aim is to provide as natural an environment as possible and make the child feel at ease while the assessment happens. The fun, play-based activities give children the freedom to explore different concepts in their own way, demonstrating where they are in their own unique learning journey.



Debra Laxton, Senior Lecturer in Education, University of Chichester

Debra Laxton, Senior Lecturer in Education at the University of Chichester said: "We are pleased to be working closely with Children on the Edge to evaluate the effectiveness of this new tool, which helps organisations to identify areas for improvement in their Early Childhood Education provision. Following a successful pilot in Botswana, the new model has now been trialled with refugee children in Uganda which led to a new daily routine for the children with more time for free play and social interactions which help develop creative thinking skills and social and emotional skills."



PIONEERING Research

Influencing



Chichester lecturer recognised for supporting women leaders in sport

A lecturer from the University of Chichester has been recognised for his role in developing women's leadership in sport. Dr Jordan Matthews, Senior Lecturer in Sport Management, was handed an outstanding achievement award for Contribution to Stimulation In Women's Sport at the Everything in Sport Awards by Omnia Media.

A second University of Chichester lecturer, Suzanne Everley, was also nominated for the same award. Suzanne is a Reader in the Sociology of Physical Education, Activity and Health.

The category was for those who have demonstrated exceptional commitment and contribution to the development of individuals' mindsets and mental health issues in women's sport, and for those demonstrating exceptional commitment, dedication and innovation in this field.

Jordan is programme development officer of the Women's Sport Leadership Academy (WSLA) alongside Suzanne (programme development lead), which aims to boost development and leadership opportunities for women in sport.

It has already supported more than 400 women leaders in sport based in over 70 countries. The programme is hosted at the University of Chichester and is designed and delivered in partnership with Leading Edge Performance.

On winning the award, Jordan said: *"WSLA was established in 2014 and, since then, many people have contributed to its success. I'm proud to have played my part in its ongoing story. Yet I'm acutely aware that I've benefitted from the insights and knowledge of amazing colleagues, facilitators and participants along the way. Thank you to all those involved! We continue to develop WSLA as an outstanding programme and have some exciting plans going forward."*



LIVES

Physiotherapy students gain dementia knowledge in the community

Physiotherapy students at the University of Chichester have joined the award-winning Time for Dementia scheme to help upskill the future workforce as dementia cases rise. The project has seen 50 nursing students from the University paired with families experiencing and living with dementia. The idea is to provide trainees with real-life experience in dealing with the unique challenges faced by people with dementia and their loved ones. The Physiotherapy Department has now joined the programme, with students spending time with families in their own homes over a two-year period.

The programme is funded by Brighton and Sussex Medical School, with support from the Alzheimer's Society. 43 physiotherapy students are taking part.

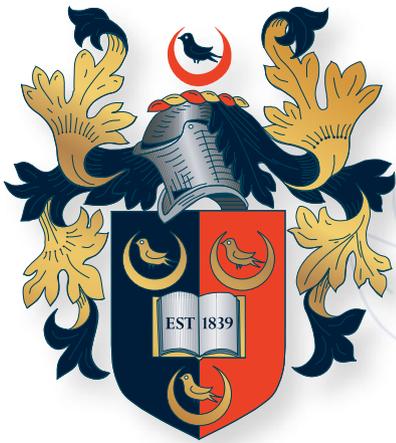
The physiotherapy students will spend time with families or carers and the person with dementia in their own home over a

two-year period, asking questions, having discussions and finding out more about the lived experience.

The students will not be providing any physiotherapy treatment, it is purely a chance for students to broaden their knowledge, understanding and empathy of those with dementia. The main focus is about sharing their story and experience to assist in the education of the next generation of physiotherapy students around dementia and dementia care, something which is difficult to learn in a classroom.

Ro Charles, Project Manager for Time For Dementia at the Alzheimer's Society, said: *"We are thrilled that the physiotherapy students from University of Chichester are joining the Time for Dementia programme this year. To give students the opportunity to learn directly from those with lived experience of dementia means that they will be better equipped to provide person centred and compassionate health care to people with dementia in the future."*





Celebrating our **HONORARY** graduates

Every year, we recognise the outstanding contributions of various people who have connections with the University or the local region.



Hugh Bonneville receiving an Honorary Doctorate from Chair of Governors Dr Tim Fooks at Chichester Cathedral.

Ten prominent figures at the helm of theatre, sport, health and science were honoured at graduation ceremonies held at Chichester Cathedral in September.

The honorary graduates joined more than 1,200 students receiving their undergraduate degrees, and included actor Hugh Bonneville and sports leader Baroness Sue Campbell.

Donna Ockenden, a senior midwife and campaigner for maternity safety, gave an emotional speech when accepting her Honorary Doctorate of Science award, and brought as her guests the family of Gina, a baby who was transferred into her care for the last hours of her life when she was a newly-qualified midwife more than 30 years ago.

Donna said: *"I made a promise to baby Gina that I would dedicate my life to making maternity care safer. Today, Gina's mum and sisters joined me to watch me accept my honorary degree."*

She added: *"I see it as recognition of a journey in the provision of safer maternity care that I have walked on since I was a student midwife. I am a long-time resident of Chichester so to be recognised by my local university in this way is a privilege and I am delighted to accept the award."*

Actor Hugh Bonneville, who is best known for his role in *Downton Abbey* as Robert, Earl of Grantham, received an Honorary Doctorate of Theatre.

He said: *"It is a tremendous honour. I've had many students over the years write to me for advice and having performed at the theatre, met students there. I've lived in the area on and off for 40 years, so to be welcomed into the university community, it is an honour and a real thrill."* On words of wisdom for graduates, he said: *"Always listen to advice and then follow your own instincts."*

Composer and arranger Bob Christianson received an Honorary Doctorate of Music. His music has appeared in musicals such as *Godspell*,



Donna Ockenden



Bob Christianson



Baroness Sue Campbell



Kathy Bourne

and he was the most called upon composer for the HBO series *Sex And The City*.

He said: *"This award came totally out of the blue and it's amazing to receive an Honorary Doctorate for the work you do throughout your life. I've worked with the University's Conservatoire a couple of times on their performances of A Christmas Carol and I love what they do."*

Kathy Bourne, Executive Director and joint-CEO of Chichester Festival Theatre (CFT), was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Arts award, and had some words of wisdom for her fellow arts graduates: *"Making sure you do something you really love is really important. Don't take it too seriously – it should be fun! And do not believe that when you head off from university that the first thing you do is where you are going to end up. The worst thing you can do is judge yourselves against your peers, everyone is different and works at a different pace."* She added: *"It is the best industry to work in."*

Baroness Sue Campbell, Director of Women's Football with the FA, received an Honorary Doctorate of Sport in recognition of her 50 years of working to progress sport in the UK.

It was her 12th honorary degree, and she said: *"After the last one I wasn't going to*

accept any more but I have a special connection with this University."

That special connection is through the Women's Sport Leadership Academy (WSLA), where she has been a speaker twice, and said: *"I honestly believe that sport can change lives for the better and to see those women from diverse countries come here, using sport as a vehicle to improve lives around them, they're completely inspiring. I do not know anywhere else that is doing this."*

She added: *"I have had an incredible journey through sport. I have learned something new every step of the way. I am in my 70s now and I'm in a job where I am still learning."*

Other honorary graduates included: **Professor Robin Banerjee**, who was recognised as an Honorary Doctorate of Psychology for his work as founder of the Sussex Centre for Research on Kindness; **Mary Bowerman**, who was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Arts award in recognition of her work building The Bowerman Charitable Trust; **Dr Maggie Davis**, who received an Honorary Doctorate of Science for her contribution to nursing; and **Dr Paula Carey** alongside **Professor Colin Hills**, who were both awarded Honorary Doctorates of Science for their work in founding Carbon8 Systems in 2006, to commercialise accelerated carbon technology.

Our sports teams have seen incredible success this year, bringing home multiple trophies for football, hockey and netball, as well as two students being picked for the national universities' football squad.

Sports teams' elation as they hit a winning streak

Our sports students celebrated after an incredible week of football, netball and hockey success back in March. Several teams were at Surrey Sports Park competing at the BUCS (British Universities and College Sport) conference finals, and the men's first football team also won the national semi-finals.

It was a tense game against Nottingham Trent University, but Chichester – who had already won the BUCS Aldi Men's Premier South League – ultimately won the Aldi Men's National Championships semi-final on penalties (6-5), after being level at 1-1 after 120 minutes. They are the first football team from the University of Chichester to make it through to the National Finals.

Daniel Potter, Programme Coordinator for Football Coaching and Performance, said: *"Our men's first team are history makers – getting to the final is such a big achievement when looking at the size of us versus other universities."*

And it wasn't just football where the University saw success. The women's hockey first team won the ICG Women's South Eastern Cup, beating Royal Holloway 3-2. And the women's netball team won against Portsmouth Women's 2s 57-33, as well as winning the Tier 2A South Eastern League. Both teams brought home the South Eastern Conference Cups.

And finally, the England Universities South team – comprising of the best men's players from all universities in the South of England – took three students from Chichester to play at St George's Park, as well as 12 more students in support roles such as coaching, analysts, therapists and media.

Daniel continued: *"Over the past few years we've built a reputation for being a team who can work within the game, not just play the game – our students have a chance to coach, provide sport science support, or work in sports therapy and sports media as part of our teams – not just play the game. And all this happened at the home of England football, St George's Park. It was amazing."*

Louise Waghorn, the Students' Union Sports and Activities Coordinator, said: *"We are incredibly proud of our sports teams' continued successes, and it's been a joy to watch our players go from strength to strength, rise to each occasion and bring home some well-earned titles."*



Above, our victorious women's netball team; below our BUCS Aldi Men's Premier League South – league champions; and bottom, our women's hockey first team – the ICG Women's South Eastern Cup winners.



Two students picked for national football squad

Two University of Chichester students were selected for the English Universities' Sport men's football squad in 2024. Goalkeeper Josiah Barker (BA Physical Education Secondary QTS) and attacking midfielder Rai Dos Santos (BA Sport Business Management) were both named in the squad for the 2023/2024 season.

Daniel Potter, Programme Coordinator for Football Coaching and Performance, said: *"It is the least both Jos and Rai deserve in university football, as both have been incredible for the University of Chichester Men's First Team this season, with*

Chichester winning the BUCS Premier South division. Both Jos and Rai have worked hard to get through the selection process for the EUS national squad; with hard work, technical and tactical excellence, and the right attitude, anything is possible for these two."

EUS supports the development of student athletes and provides opportunities for them to compete at the highest domestic representative level, including the biennial Home Nations Tournament as well as numerous fixtures against professional and amateur representative clubs.



Rai Dos Santos



Sport

HIGHLIGHTS

Graduate cast in theatre show *Wicked*

A University of Chichester musical theatre graduate has been cast in the 2023-25 UK and Ireland tour of *Wicked*. Adam Stickler, a BA (Hons) Musical Theatre Performance graduate, is a swing and an understudy for The Wonderful Wizard of Oz/Dr Dillamond. A swing is a performer who can step into several ensemble roles.

Adam initially trained on BA (Hons) Music and Musical Theatre for his first year at the Chichester Conservatoire, before switching over to the single honours programme, Musical Theatre Performance, when it was launched by programme leader Andrew Wright in September 2017.



Adam Stickler
BA (Hons) Musical Theatre
Performance graduate

Wicked is a re-imagining of the Wizard of Oz story by L. Frank Baum, which opened at The Gershwin Theatre on Broadway in 2003 before transferring to The Apollo Victoria, London in 2006. The smash-hit musical has been seen by over 65 million people in more than 130 cities in 16 countries around the world.

Reflecting back on his time at Chichester, Adam said: *"Having had experience of working on productions whilst training, I was able to adapt to many challenges thrown my way. Studying a swing project as my dissertation set me up really well as I was prepared to become an actual swing in a professional show. The module required detailed note taking and working with multiple tracks, so it was an invaluable experience."*

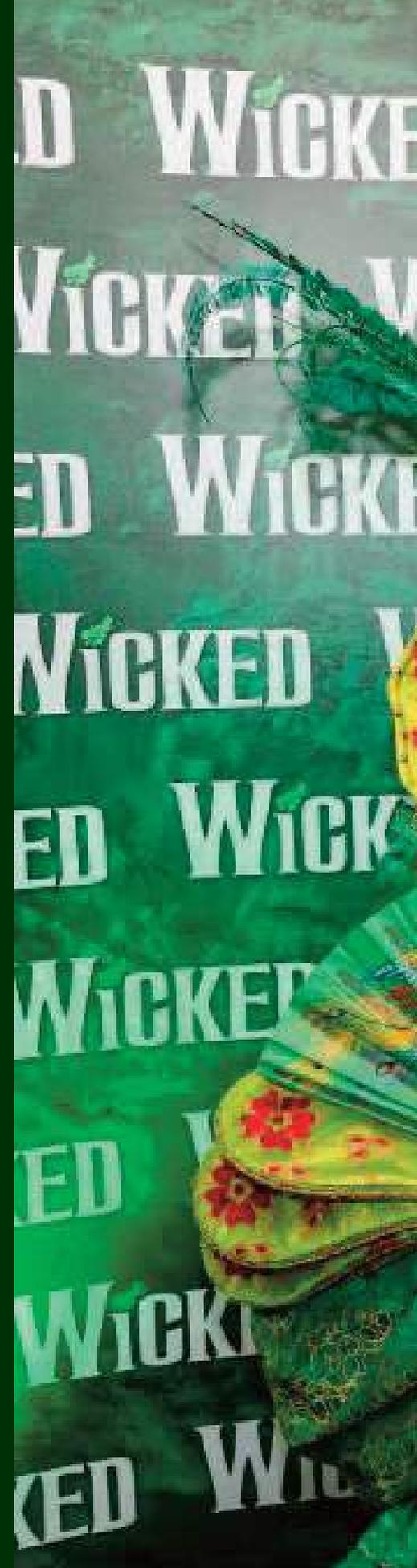
The casting process for *Wicked* was quite intense, and Adam shared: *"There were five rounds in total including a final that was filmed and sent to the American creatives. When I got the call to say I booked the job, I screamed! The lead up to rehearsals was super exciting and living in London and seeing *Wicked* posters everywhere just helped to hype me up even more. Touring is great, it's a nice way to see lots of different places and you end up creating a close-knit group with the rest of the cast/crew."*

He added: *"My advice to students would be to just get stuck in with as much as possible whilst you're training. Sing in the choirs, do extra classes and audition for all the shows and showcases!"*

My advice to students would be to just get stuck in with as much as possible whilst you're training, do extra classes and audition for all the shows and showcases!

“”

Adam Stickler, *Wicked* cast member, UK and Ireland tour 2023-25





Conservatoire HIGHLIGHTS

Our FINANCIAL POSITION

The University of Chichester has delivered a £3m surplus for 2023/24

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

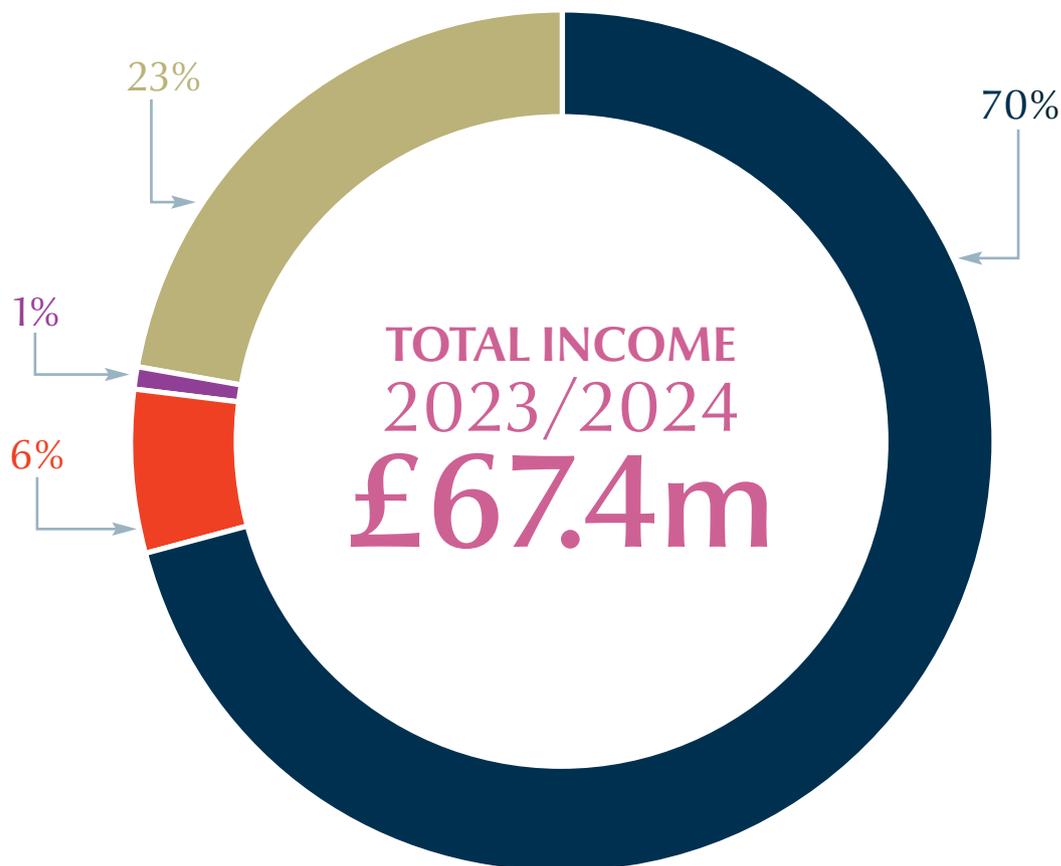
For the full annual report, go to:

www.chi.ac.uk/app/uploads/2024/12/Annual-Report-2024-FINAL.pdf

The University's consolidated results for the years ended 31 July 2024 and 31 July 2023 are summarised in the following table:

	31 JULY 2024	31 JULY 2023
	£'000	£'000
Total income	67,414	65,959
Total expenditure	(64,005)	(65,916)
Loss on the disposal of fixed assets	(377)	(5)
Surplus for the year	3,032	38





70% **Tuition fee income** has increased by £1.8m (2.2%) with the biggest growth in partnership income which is reported within full-time Home and EU student income and is a targeted area of growth for the University. International tuition fee income was down £0.3m reflecting the continuing challenge of student recruitment in this area associated with the changing immigration rules, associated VISA uncertainty and the economic downturn in Nigeria. Degree apprenticeship fee income increased by £0.6m as the University continues to expand its offering.

6% **Funding body grants** reduced by £0.3m (6.8%) as the University did not meet the qualifying relevant income threshold to secure Higher Education Innovation funding.

1% **Research grants and contracts** reduced by £0.2m (23.1%) as existing projects were completed.

23% **Other income** fell by £1.1m (19.8%) as the University no longer processes and recharges payroll services for the Chichester Academy Trust. The University was successful in securing funding in Wave 1 and Wave 2 of the OfS degree apprenticeship grant awards. Total award £0.4m with £0.2m income recognised in 2023/24. **Investment income** increased from £0.5m to £0.8m (53.3%) due to higher cash balances and higher interest rates.

Our future

New funding for healthcare degrees to help improve outcomes in West Sussex

More than a quarter of a million pounds has been awarded to the University of Chichester to support the development of five new healthcare-related degree apprenticeship programmes.

The Office for Students announced the funding, with the University allocated £288,253 to deliver degree apprenticeships in healthcare science, data science, speech and language therapy, diagnostic radiography and biomedical science.

Degree apprenticeships allow students to earn a salary while they study, attend university alongside having a job, gain sector-specific workplace experience and graduate without tuition fee debt.

The University of Chichester's former Vice-Chancellor, Professor Jane Longmore, welcomed the award from Wave 2 of the Office for Students' degree apprenticeships funding competition:

"We are delighted to receive this funding to develop new apprenticeship programmes to support the new Community Diagnostic Centre that is being established on our Bognor Regis Campus. This investment will allow us to train a new generation of NHS workers to provide diagnostic services while also developing new approaches to improving the speed and accuracy of these services in our state-of-the-art laboratories."





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The new programmes will be based at the new Community Diagnostics Centre, which opened on the Bognor Regis Campus back in March, and is part of the University of Chichester's expansion of its healthcare provision. It will offer rapid access to potentially life-saving tests for the local community and will be temporarily located in the University's Tech Park until a permanent facility is built.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Simeon Keates added: *"Degree apprenticeships are an ideal opportunity for students to gain these vital technical skills at the University while also working in hospitals and other medical settings. They will graduate with a great mix of technical knowledge and vocational skills, and also will not have to pay any student fees for their degree studies."*

This is a fantastic opportunity for anyone wanting to enter these areas of employment.

We are also thrilled to be able to offer a degree apprenticeship in Speech and Language Therapy. There are over 300 children waiting for this therapy in the local area and this new study route will help them gain access to the help they need."





The
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UK UNIVERSITY

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NB: Information correct at time of printing (January 2025).



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