UNIVERSITY OF CHICHESTER

Daily Mail University Guide 2026
UNIVERSITY OF THE YEAR FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE

Strategy 2032

Local Impact, Global Reach

2026–2032

Welcome

to our Strategy 2032

Universities matter most when they are rooted in place and confident in their purpose. The University of Chichester is proudly shaped by its location – by the historic city of Chichester, the coastal communities of Bognor Regis, the county of West Sussex, and the people and organisations who live, work and learn across the region.

These places are our responsibility and our opportunity. This strategy is about raising the bar, not just for the university, but for the communities we serve. We are clear about the challenges we face; pressures on health and wellbeing, inequalities in opportunity, skills gaps that limit economic growth and the urgent need to respond to climate change. We are equally clear about our role in addressing them.

Our ambition is simple and demanding. We want to improve substantially the health of our communities, strengthen local and regional prosperity, and enrich lives through access and inclusion, regardless of background. Education, skills, research and partnerships are the levers with which we will do this, not in isolation, but together.

National policy is rightly calling for a closer integration between education, business and government. The Post-16 Education and Skills White Paper and wider skills reforms challenge universities to be more responsive, more collaborative and more outward facing. We are answering that call through the development of a Regional Skills Academy, designed with employers and partners to support workforce development, productivity and lifelong learning and to ensure that opportunity reaches those who need it most.

Our approach is rooted in a triple helix model, bringing together universities, industry and government to deliver real-world impact. Initiatives such as the Health Village at Bognor Regis exemplify this approach, combining skills, research, innovation and civic purpose to improve health outcomes and economic resilience in coastal communities. We are an outward-facing university. Internationalisation matters, and we will do it differently. We will welcome international students to our campuses, work with trusted partners around the world, and commit ourselves to improving the communities we engage with, both at home and abroad. Through Chi-World, our global hub, we will build meaningful partnerships, support ethical collaboration, and develop skills-led approaches to learning to meet local needs, globally.

Sustainability sits at the heart of this strategy, not as an add-on, but as a responsibility. Our coastal location reminds us daily of the urgency of climate action and environmental stewardship. Through our Coastal Futures approach, we will reduce our own environmental impact, contribute to nature recovery, and equip learners and partners with the skills needed for a sustainable future.

This strategy is personal to me. I travelled from Greece to the United Kingdon as an international student – I know the transformative power of education across borders. As someone who thinks and works differently, I value creativity, energy and connection. And as Vice-Chancellor, I believe deeply in our university, in its people, its potential and its future. This is a strategy grounded in place, open to the world, and focused on impact. It is an invitation to our students, our staff, our partners and our communities to work together to build a healthier, more prosperous and more inclusive future.

I am proud to publish this strategy, which reflects both my belief in the power of education and my confidence in what the University of Chichester can achieve, together.

Professor Symeon Dagkas
Vice-Chancellor
University of Chichester



Strategy 2032 represents a confident and purposeful step forward for the University of Chichester.

As governors, we are committed to ensuring the University of Chichester is a financially sustainable, scalable and distinctive institution that delivers outstanding student outcomes, grows selectively, strengthens research and civic impact, and preserves its unique culture of belonging.

This is a strategy shaped by collective insight, and we look forward to supporting its delivery, working alongside staff, students and partners. Together we can realise this vision to shape a stronger and more inclusive future for, and through, our students.

Dr Tim Fooks
Chair of Governors

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Our mission, vision and values

Rooted in our heritage and focused on the future, our mission, vision and values articulate who we are, what we stand for and what we aspire to achieve. Together, they guide our actions and strengthen our commitment to transforming lives through education, opportunity and community.

Our Mission

To empower students by equipping them with the expertise and resilience to thrive in a rapidly changing world

Our Vision

To be a university recognised for its ambition, where authenticity and connection underpin excellence in learning, research and knowledge exchange

Our Values

Excellence: Striving for better

Courage: Acting when needed

Altruism: Prioritising the common good

Respect: Treating everyone with dignity




BSc.
ADULT
NURSING
2024
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OF
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Strategy 2032:

who we are today

The University of Chichester is a close-knit, teaching-led university with a long history of helping people fulfil their potential. Across our campuses in Chichester and Bognor Regis, students are known as individuals and supported by staff who bring together academic expertise, professional experience and a strong commitment to their success.

We are proud of the quality of our teaching, the strength of our student community and the outcomes our graduates achieve. Our distinctive academic strengths span education, sport, health, the arts, humanities, business and the creative industries, supported by research and professional practice that make a difference beyond the university.

Our size allows us to build genuine connections: between students and staff, between disciplines, and between the university and the communities and organisations around us. Through longstanding regional relationships, we contribute to skills, culture, public life – and economic opportunity.

We are also an outward-facing university, with a growing network of international students and partners.

These relationships extend the reach of our teaching, research and knowledge, while connecting Chichester to communities and opportunities around the world.

This strategy builds on those strengths. It protects what is distinctive about Chichester while extending the reach, relevance and impact of what we do.

"The university makes me feel warm, welcomed and at home"

Isa, MSc International Business



Strategy 2032:

how we shaped our strategy

We will strengthen Chichester's role in building futures through access, education and partnership.

The University of Chichester is shaped by the people who work and study here, and this strategy reflects the collective voices of everyone who makes us who we are. To ensure it is true to our community, we invited input and feedback from across the university. With more than 3,600 staff and students sharing what the university means to them, we would like to thank everyone involved for helping to shape our ambitions and our future.

How we created our strategy

3600
Staff and students were consulted

16+
Workshops and focus groups

4000+
Over 4000 community contributions







Our priorities

Foundation

Our purpose and guiding principles

Mission, Vision and Values

Why we exist and what we stand for

Our Focus

The four strategic priorities that guide our ambition

A Connected Education

Our purpose and guiding principles

Knowledge for Society

Creating and applying knowledge to address real-world challenges

Innovation with Purpose

Driving creativity and enterprise for positive and sustainable change

Engagement and Exploration

Connecting locally and globally to enrich communities and cultures

Our Delivery

Delivered through everything we do together

Delivered through our core activities

Teaching • Research • Professional Services • Partnerships



Our Programmes

University-wide programmes that bring focus and accelerate impact

Accelerated by university-wide programmes

Regional Skills Academy

Working with employers and partners to develop skills, boost productivity and widen opportunity

Health Village

Improving health and wellbeing through partnership, research, innovation and learning

Chi-World

Building global partnerships and creating skills-led opportunities together

Addressing challenges and delivering outcomes

The University of Chichester's strategy begins with a simple conviction: education should open doors and connect people to opportunity. Across our region, nationally and globally, we see talent, ambition and potential.

Our role is to help that potential flourish by bringing together knowledge, skills, health, employment and civic life in ways that create lasting value for people and places.

Across the UK, more than one million young people are not in education, employment or training, including thousands across Sussex. Employers are looking for the skills and talent that will support future growth, while people of all ages need clearer, more flexible routes into work, learning and progression.

Good health, confidence and connection are also central to opportunity: they shape how people learn, participate, work and contribute to their communities.

These priorities matter locally, but they are also part of a wider global picture. Changing demographics, new skills needs and rising demand for digital capability and vocational pathways are reshaping what universities offer. This gives Chichester a powerful opportunity: to build education, partnerships and applied knowledge that respond to real needs here, while connecting our students, staff and partners to wider national and international possibilities.

Our ambition is practical, positive and purposeful: to improve lives, strengthen communities, support prosperity and extend opportunity. Local impact and global reach are not separate ambitions. They are one commitment: to connect people and places with the futures they deserve.

Our Enablers

Our purpose and guiding principles

Supported by our enablers

People and culture
A connected, inclusive and thriving community

Estate and placemaking
Sustainable, inspiring spaces and places

Digital and data
Smart technology and insight for better decisions and experiences

Finance and commercial
Financial strength and growth for long-term impact

Sustainability and impact
Embedding responsibility and measuring the difference we make

These elements form the backbone of how we will bring our strategic ambitions to life. These shared strengths, systems, and ways of working will help us deliver on our collective vision for the university.

Outcomes that matter
Research and impact • Community prosperity • Sustainable growth





A connected education

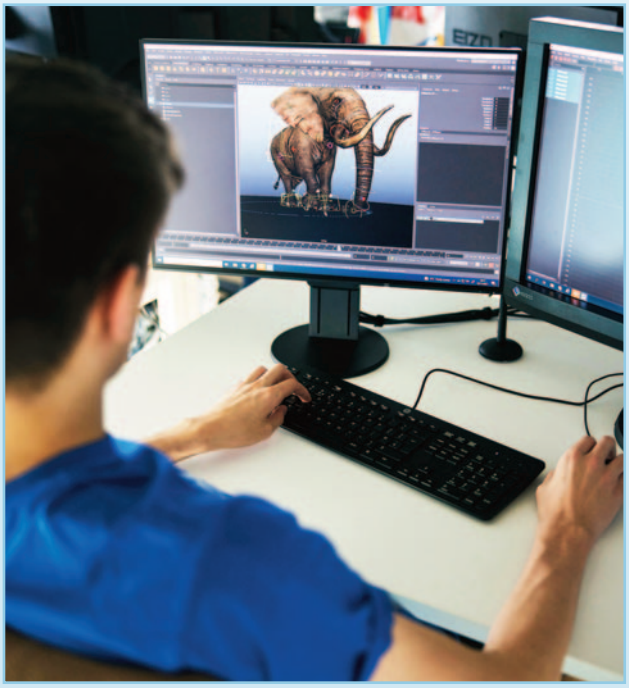
We will build a connected, inclusive educational ecosystem that enables learners to access opportunities at every stage of life. Through strong partnerships, flexible pathways and innovative provision, we will support individuals to develop the skills, knowledge and confidence to thrive in a changing world.

Strategic objectives

- Establish a regional skills academy delivering targeted apprenticeships and skills provision.
- Prioritise an evolving, relevant course portfolio integrating lifelong learning entitlement priorities.
- Create an inclusive learning environment where students thrive as known individuals.
- Expand flexible and accessible ways to study that reflect changing patterns of work, life and learning.
- Enhance a dynamic student experience with better use of technology, data and AI.

By 2032 we will see

- Nationally leading student continuation, completion and graduate outcomes.
- A diverse academic portfolio, with clearer alignment to student demand, workforce need and lifelong learning.
- A broader learner base, including growth in flexible, modular, apprenticeship, CPD and employer-informed provision.
- Reduced gaps in access, attainment and progression for identified student groups.
- A high student satisfaction and engagement score, particularly around teaching, support, belonging and student voice.







A university-wide programme supporting this priority

Strategy in action: Regional Skills Academy

The Regional Skills Academy will strengthen the university's role in supporting skills, employability and lifelong learning across the region, working with further education providers, the Institute of Technology and other partners to create clearer progression routes and a stronger regional skills ladder.

A way of bringing together existing provision, new provision, and collaborative delivery, the skills academy will create a clearer route for developing flexible, professionally relevant provision that responds to changing patterns of work, study and learner demand. This will include opportunities to build shorter, more modular forms of learning, strengthen routes into employment and progression, and support people to return to education at different stages of life and career.

The academy will also provide a focused platform for working with employers and regional partners to identify shared priorities, shape provision and connect education more directly with skills shortages. Through this, the university can support growth in new types of learning while contributing to the economic and social prosperity of the communities we serve.

We want to make it easier for learners, employers and partners to access the right education, at the right level, at the right time.

Apprenticeships

GRADUATE OUTCOMES SURVEY

NSS National Student Survey

Cristiano Ronaldo, assisted our research into what makes athletes great.



Knowledge for society

We will strengthen research and knowledge exchange to deliver meaningful social and cultural impact. By supporting researchers to address real-world challenges and contribute to healthier society, we will produce knowledge that makes a lasting difference to our coastal communities.

Strategic objectives

- Grow sustainable research and knowledge exchange income aligned to regional, national and sector priorities.
- Increase the quality, visibility and impact of our research in areas of existing and emerging strength.
- Expand postgraduate taught and research activity to support progression, specialism and research talent.
- Build a vibrant and ambitious research culture that supports staff, students and interdisciplinary collaboration.
- Strengthen research partnerships that generate academic, social, economic and cultural benefit.

By 2032 we will see

- Substantially increased research, innovation and knowledge exchange income.
- A significantly stronger REF position, with more internationally excellent outputs and higher-rated impact case studies.
- A larger postgraduate research community, supported by stronger doctoral training and progression routes.
- Greater research visibility and citation performance, benchmarked against comparable institutions.
- A more active and confident research culture, with stronger participation in researcher development and interdisciplinary work.

THE HUMAN FACTOR PROFESSIONAL LEARNING RESEARCH & CONSULTANCY

CENTRE FOR EXCELLENCE IN CHILDHOOD, INCLUSION & SOCIETY

The Chichester Centre for Critical and Creative Writing

POWER CENTRE

OPRG Occupational Performance Research Group



Innovation

with purpose

Innovation is how we turn expertise, creativity and partnership into meaningful impact. By fostering an entrepreneurial culture and working collaboratively across sectors, we will develop new ideas, create opportunities and deliver lasting social, economic and community benefit.

Strategic objectives

- Focus new innovation activity on the challenges, opportunities and strengths of our region.
- Develop the Health Village as a flagship model for innovation, partnership and community impact.
- Create practical routes for university expertise, ideas and partnerships to become enterprise and commercial activity, including through a virtual enterprise hub and business incubator.
- Deepen civic and public-sector partnerships that support knowledge exchange, policy influence and regional benefit.
- Make student and graduate enterprise a defining strength of the Chichester experience.

By 2032 we will see

- Growth in enterprise, consultancy, CPD, collaborative R&D and partnership income.
- A pipeline of applied innovation projects, including KTPs, demonstrators and partner-led activity.
- Students and graduates engaged in enterprise, freelancing, start-up and social enterprise activity.
- A more visible business and civic partnership base, particularly with SMEs, public bodies and community partners.
- Greater use of university knowledge, facilities and talent to support regional innovation and economic benefit.







A University-wide programme supporting this priority

Strategy in action: Health Village

The Health Village will develop parts of the university's Bognor Regis campus as a place where education, training, research and partnership can support emerging models of community-based health, wellbeing and care. It will complement and strengthen the university's established health and sport portfolio at the Chichester campus, including nursing, physiotherapy and a wide range of sport-related programmes, creating opportunities for greater collaboration, innovation and interdisciplinary learning across both campuses.

Over the long term, the Health Village will align the university's space, expertise and academic provision with changing health, care and community priorities. Drawing on the university's recognised strengths in health, sport and wellbeing education, alongside its state-of-the-art clinical, health and sport facilities and specialist equipment, the Health Village will provide an environment that supports high-quality teaching, workforce development, research and community engagement.

As new approaches to neighbourhood health, prevention and integrated services develop across England, the Health Village will help the university contribute where it can add value: through workforce development, student placements and progression routes, applied research, evaluation, innovation and access to suitable facilities.

In its first phase, the Health Village will concentrate on building the foundations: agreeing shared priorities, shaping relevant activity, testing practical uses of campus space and developing visible projects that demonstrate benefit.

Over time, it can become a distinctive part of the university's civic contribution: supporting healthier communities, stronger pathways into health and care careers, and closer collaboration between education, research and community need. By connecting with and enhancing the university's existing health and sport capabilities, it will help create a more integrated and impactful offer across West Sussex and beyond.

NHS

Student Nursing Times Awards 2025 FINALIST

Engagement and exploration

We will expand our global reach and create new opportunities in education, research and enterprise. Through a new unified platform for our work, we will strengthen international partnerships, develop commercial opportunities and raise the university's profile and reputation.

Strategic objectives

- Develop Chi-World as the university's platform for international reach, global partnerships and lifelong connection with students, graduates and communities.
- Build a clearer and more distinctive university profile, recognised across regional, national and international audiences.
- Strengthen strategic partnerships that support academic quality, innovation, reputation and long-term growth.
- Grow commercial and partnership income through new markets, new models of engagement and stronger external relationships.
- Improve institutional planning, performance and responsiveness so the university can identify opportunities, manage change and deliver its strategy effectively.

By 2032 we will see

- Increased international enrolments and partnership fee income.
- A diversified international recruitment base, reducing reliance on any single source market.
- A stronger institutional profile and reputation across priority regional, national and international audiences.
- Growth in alumni engagement and advocacy, supporting recruitment, reputation and partnership activity.
- A larger proportion of income from commercial, partnership and non-traditional provision.





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UNIVERSITY OF CHICHESTER
International



A University-wide programme supporting this priority

Strategy in action: Chi-World

A hub for global activity, Chi-World will provide a clearer platform for the university's global engagement, bringing together partnerships, alumni connection, student recruitment, knowledge exchange and digital engagement under one identity.

Its purpose is to strengthen our connection with partners and opportunities beyond the region. This includes building lifelong relationships with students and graduates, developing partnerships that support education and research, and creating new routes for global audiences to engage with the university's expertise, values and offer.

Chi-World will support the university's wider innovation and impact ambitions by helping us tell a story about who we are, what we contribute and where we can add value. It will connect local strengths to opportunities, particularly where our work in education, health, skills, sport, enterprise and community impact has wider relevance.

We will give greater focus and visibility to activity that already exists or is emerging across the university. Over time, Chi-World will help strengthen reach, deepen partnerships, support recruitment and build a more connected global community around Chichester.

Our study and work abroad partners as of 2025



Top 30 UK university

28th in the UK, out of 123 universities.
The Guardian 2026

University of the year

Ranked number 1 for teaching excellence.
Daily Mail University Guide 2026

2nd safest city

2nd safest city in England and Wales.
Complete University Guide 2025

Teaching excellence

Awarded the Gold rating in the 2023 Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF).

OFSTED outstanding

Our teacher training programmes are rated outstanding by the Office for Standards in Education.

Quality teaching

One of the top for quality teaching according to our students in the 2026 National Student Survey report, rating us 6th for course teaching quality.

Excellent job prospects

After graduating 96.1% of our leavers are in work and/or study.
Graduate Outcomes Survey 2022

QS rated: ★★★★

Rated very good by QS, with 4 stars.
QS Stars University Ratings



The Guardian
University Guide 2026
TOP 30
28TH IN THE UK
OUT OF 123 UNIVERSITIES

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CELEBRATING OVER
185 YEARS
OF HIGHER
EDUCATION