

**From:** External Relations  
**Sent:** 23 November 2018 16:31  
**To:** Staff  
**Subject:** Geoff's Update - November 2018



## Geoff's Update - November 2018

First of all, it seems that there will soon be more clarity on the Brexit deal, although there will no doubt be further developments between now and March 2019. Whatever the outcome, it is important that we reflect on our values as a University. This means that we need to be promoting tolerance, not just within the University, but also within the wider community. We must reject statements such as “queue jumping” and continue to embody the values that we already do in treating all individuals as we would wish to be treated. We will continue to welcome students, staff and visitors from around the world; Brexit will have no impact on our desire to have meaningful partnerships and we will certainly continue to have an office in Brussels. I would welcome suggestions from staff on how we can develop this thinking and also ask that we do all we can to promote our message of inclusivity to all.

## **Finance and Regulation**

There has been a lot in the press recently about some universities being in difficulty. This is due to individual circumstances and is nothing new. There have always been a small number of universities which face some temporary issues and there is concern about their finances as they introduce recovery plans to get them back into a better position. We are not one of those universities; we have a strong balance sheet and we are on the OfS Register without conditions. However, in order to inform colleagues further on this, I will be producing a finance fact sheet once our accounts for 2017/18 are formally submitted.

## **Student Recruitment**

Student recruitment is progressing well and overall the University has met its Semester One total student number budget target. Enrolled numbers are currently in excess of 106 per cent to target and that is 90 per cent of the all-year budget number as some programmes recruit all year round. All Faculties have met their total Semester One budget numbers for both new and continuing students although with some differences between different groups.

Related recruitment points:

- On-campus new and returning budget targets have been reached with postgraduate taught (PGT) new student numbers performing particularly well. Undergraduate recruitment is more of a challenge; Apprenticeship numbers continue to increase
- Continuing student enrolments against last year have decreased; this was anticipated due to the large 15/16 undergraduate cohort graduating
- Off-campus new provision is at 80 per cent to Semester One budget.

## **University Principles of Academic Integrity**

It has been decided to review the University's approach to academic integrity across all levels, based on the work undertaken by the Conduct & Appeals Unit as part of the reporting on academic misconduct for the 2017/18 academic year.

A set of principles has been drafted, which will be developed into a strategy for approval early in 2019. The University's Academic Integrity Working Group will be reconvened to develop the strategy. The Working Group will be chaired by Phil Gravestock, Dean of the College of Learning & Teaching, and will include representation from the academic faculties, Registry, Directorate of Student and Academic Services and the Students' Union.

## **Student Course Reps**

There are currently 571 course representatives. This is an increase of 66 since the same

time last year. There are currently 267 course reps in FEHW, 103 in FOSS, 108 reps in FOA and 93 reps in FSE. Course rep training is happening throughout November.

## Research

In October 2018, Academic Board approved the annual research report as well as arrangements for governance and management of research institutes and research centres.

The annual research report notes good progress against our key performance areas. We have done particularly well on research income with an increase of £1.1 million (56%) compared to 2016/17. We have also seen growth in the number of new PhD students, although entry to other research degrees has declined.

We are pleased to note our best ever Postgraduate Research Experience Survey (PRES2018) results with several subject areas exceeding sector benchmarks. Our gender balance in research is improving with 30 per cent of professors being female, and each faculty and research institute working on gender equality action plans. An internal REF review showed that between 50-70 per cent of outputs are considered to be at 3\* and 4\* levels. Many researchers also received external recognition for their work through awards, honours and invitations as keynote speakers or expert advisors.

However, we realise that more work needs to be done, including diversifying our research income streams, strengthening international research partnerships, developing research impact and creating a vibrant research environment for our staff and students. Research centres and institutes play a vital role in creating an environment that is conducive to excellent research. In order to achieve our ambitions, we have developed guidelines for the governance and management of these research units, as well as a process for the creation of new ones.



### New University Ambulance Partnership

The University and West Midlands Ambulance Service (WMAS) has formed a ground-breaking new partnership to create the UK's first university ambulance trust. It will see us working together even more closely on collaborative projects, research, sharing clinical expertise, joint curriculum development and staff exchanges.

It will also involve the University helping WMAS develop and accredit its continuous professional development for its staff and also lead to the University's Paramedic Science students being guaranteed a job with the service if they pass their course and all necessary

professional tests.

The move will mean the service changing its name to the West Midlands Ambulance Service University NHS Foundation Trust, becoming the first of its kind in the country. Another key element of the partnership will be the development of courses and research in the area of emergency management and resilience.

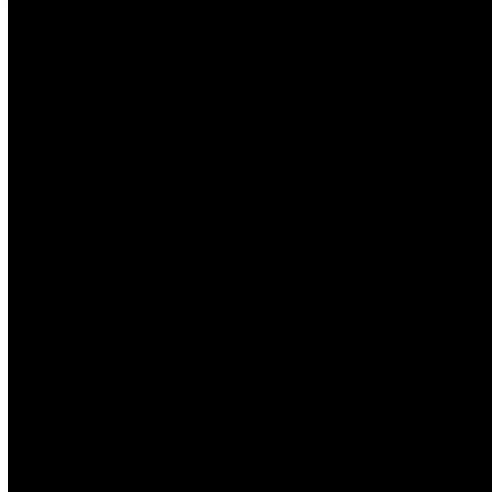


### Black Country Studies Centre

The University launched its new [Black Country Studies Centre](#) with the Black Country Living Museum this week. The centre will offer guest talks, taster courses, student placements and research projects, creating a unique learning proposition for the region which builds on the history of the Black Country. The partnership will nurture enterprise and entrepreneurship with a view to developing employability skills, targeting the social needs of the local community to create opportunities, raise aspirations and encourage cohesion.



### Website Update



### Honorary Graduate Nominations Open

The process to nominate an Honorary Graduate for 2019 is now open. Each year the University awards honorary degrees in recognition and celebration of inspiring individuals.

If you know someone with strong links to the University whose contribution deserves to be recognised or someone whose work has made an impact, regionally, nationally or internationally, please consider putting a nomination forward. To find out more about the process [visit the nominations pages](#).

### Career Development Week

We are running our third University-wide [Career Development Week](#) during 11 -15 February 2019. It is aimed at helping our students build new skills by offering a range of courses, qualifications, tasters, sessions, trips and workshops all to boost employability.

The project to revamp the University's website is progressing well. As you may recall, the first phase was completed during the summer and involved various technical changes and improvements. The focus is now moving on to a redesign of the website by an external agency. Following a tender process, a successful agency has been selected and they will start work next month with a view to delivering a new look website in the summer of 2019.

## **Surveys**

The University supports and runs a number of surveys during the academic year in order to gauge the opinion and feelings of staff on a variety of issues. These provide extremely useful insights and feedback to the organisation and also support applications for certain awards.

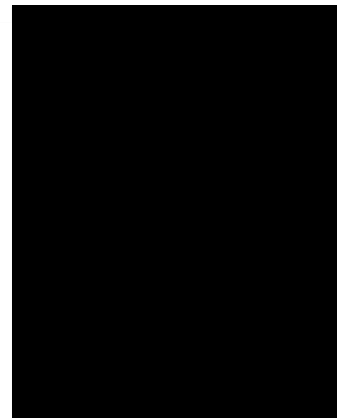
You'll shortly receive a survey in relation to the Appraisal process at the University which I encourage you to engage with in order to help us shape the process in the future. There will be further surveys during the rest of the year relating to communications and health and wellbeing.

## **Staff and student successes**

Congratulations to Dr Opinderjit Kaur Takhar who received an MBE at Buckingham Palace this week from Prince Charles. Dr Takhar is the Director for the Centre for Sikh and Panjabi Studies at the University and Senior Lecturer in Religious Studies in the Faculty of Arts, was given the award as part of the New Year Honours list.

Well done to our University of Wolverhampton (UWR) Race Team which narrowly missed out on the top place position in this year's national MSV F3 Cup Championship title – coming third in the competition. Four University of Wolverhampton students were selected as part of the GB Judo team taking part in a World Championships in Portugal. The eight-strong GB Judo team taking part in the IBSA World Judo Championships includes Wolverhampton students

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]. The University has also just celebrated the fifth anniversary of its partnership with British Judo at Walsall Campus.





## Giving Tuesday

The University of Wolverhampton is raising funds to support student nurses who are struggling financially as part of #GivingTuesday. The national day on Tuesday, 27 November 2018 encourages people to do something good for charity.

This year, to mark the 70th anniversary of the NHS and to thank the thousands of nurses who have trained at the University and gone on to make a difference to the people they encounter every day, the University is launching a [fundraising appeal for a nursing bursary](#).

## Estates Update

Work has now started on the University's flagship School of Architecture and Built Environment building at the [Springfield Campus](#). It is due to be completed in May 2020 and will be a significant part of our aim to be a sector-leading Construction and Built Environment Super Campus.

It is also a key part of the city of Wolverhampton's regeneration close to the Railway Station and new developments at i10, the Banana Yard and the Canalside.

We have also recently had official openings of the both the Elite Centre for Manufacturing Skills Hub at Springfield and the Science Centre at the Science Park.

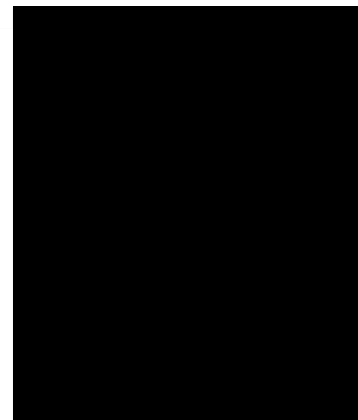
We are currently finalising plans to provide an extension to Skills Labs facilities for our Allied Health courses at the Sister Dora Building at our Walsall Campus.

## Staffing

██████████ is retiring at the end of December following three years with us as Director of Estates and Facilities. The last three years have been exciting and transformational in terms of campus developments, as well as other many key initiatives and changes, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank ██████████ for helping to see us through these challenges and shape these opportunities.

██████████ will join us in January as ██████████

██████████ to join us as ██████████, starting in February. ██████████ will support the Academic Registrar in the overall leadership of the Registry with particular responsibility for Registry Data Services (including Student Records and Course Records), Systems and



## Exams and Timetabling.

Rebecca Hollington (pictured) will start as new Head of UK Recruitment on 10 December, while Alice Wilby will take over as the new Director of Recruitment and Partnerships on 2 January 2019.

Trevor Humphreys has recently started as our new co-ordinator at University of Wolverhampton in Stafford (UWIS).

## EU Settlement

The Home Office pilot of the EU Settlement Scheme is now open for registration to eligible staff members. This pilot applies to EU citizens and non-EU family members of EU citizens working in the higher education sector. By taking part, you will be able to make an early application for your new UK immigration status so you can continue to live and work in the UK after the end of the planned implementation period on 31 December 2020.

Making an application during this pilot phase is entirely voluntary and there will be no change to people's current rights under EU law until the end of the planned implementation period on 31 December 2020. For further updates, support and guidance on the application process, please visit our dedicated ["Brexit and EU citizens" staff page](#).

## Geoff

University of Wolverhampton  
Wulfruna Street  
Wolverhampton  
WV1 1LY

Website : [www.wlv.ac.uk](http://www.wlv.ac.uk)



© 2018 University of Wolverhampton

If you wish to unsubscribe from our newsletter, click [here](#)