About the University of Plymouth

With 21,000 students (and a further 16,000 studying for Plymouth degrees at partner institutions), nearly 3,000 staff and an annual income of around £240 million, the University of Plymouth is ranked in the top 500 universities in the world according to *Times Higher Education* and one of the top two modern universities in the country*. The University can trace its roots back to the founding of the School of Navigation in 1862, and that focus on marine excellence continues through to the present day. Its Marine Institute has the broadest research portfolio in Europe, and is housed in a £19 million, world-class, marine building, with state-of-the-art facilities and wave tank testing equipment that is in constant demand from the research and development community. It is for this marine and maritime excellence that Plymouth was awarded a prestigious Queen’s Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education in 2012 – the second it has received in its history.

The University is world-renowned for its research in areas such as marine science, medicine, engineering and robotics, and in the most recent Research Excellence Framework for universities, nearly two-thirds of its research was recognised as world-class or internationally excellent, resulting in Plymouth maintaining its place in the UK’s top 50 for ‘research power’.

With a long-running tradition of receiving National Teaching Fellowships – nine in the last six years alone, and 23 in total – Plymouth has long had a reputation for delivering high-quality innovative teaching and learning with a strong emphasis on employability. This sees the University working with regional and national companies to provide placements, student and graduate internships, volunteering opportunities and practical support for self-employment.

Plymouth was the first modern university in the country to found its own medical school – with the Plymouth University Peninsula Schools of Medicine and Dentistry launching in 2002 – and the first in the world to be awarded the Social Enterprise Mark, in respect of its support for sustainable, ethical business and organisations. It is fully committed to the sustainability agenda, and strives to be a socially responsible organisation, demonstrating sustainability in its activities and ensuring graduates are aware of economic, environmental, social and ethical issues including the importance of social enterprise, community engagement and volunteering. A serial winner of Green Gown Awards, the University recycles 53% of its waste and purchases 50% of goods and services from local suppliers. It was the first university in the country to sign up to the Learning in Future Environments (LiFE) accreditation scheme, earning a Silver award.

The University has an excellent track record for widening participation in higher education and ensuring that it is accessible in rural communities, and boasts an extensive partner college network of Further Education (FE) institutions throughout the South West, all overseen by the University’s Academic Partnerships Office. Almost a third of its students are studying for Plymouth University qualifications with AP, which gives them the option to study foundation degrees at an FE College close to home, and to move to Plymouth for the final year of their degree course. There are also a growing number of international partners in countries such as China, Sri Lanka, Singapore and the United States. The University also sponsors three schools
and colleges in the city, including University Technical College Plymouth, and Marine Academy Plymouth, the first marine academy in the country.

The University works hard to support economic growth in the region and has developed strong and mutually beneficial partnerships with local, regional, national and international businesses. The University is an award-winning leader in knowledge transfer and works with around 5,000 businesses every year. It has strategic management of £100 million worth of physical assets focused upon stimulating economic growth in the region. These include the University’s own on-campus incubation centres, a Marine Innovation Centre, and the Plymouth Science Park, which houses a number of spin-out companies from the University. On behalf of Cornwall Council, the University manages Innovation Centres at Pool, Tremough (Penryn) and Truro, through its commercial subsidiary, the University of Plymouth Enterprise Limited (UoPEL). The centres at Pool (PIC) and Tremough (TIC) have consistently exceeded their operational targets, and provide high-quality, flexible, managed workspace and business support for start-up and existing businesses across all sectors; their common factor is high growth potential. The £13m Health and Wellbeing Innovation Centre (HWIC) offers commercialisation support to partners on the neighbouring Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS site in Truro.

The University is also a significant contributor to the national economy. A Social, Cultural and Economic Impact Assessment in 2018 revealed that the institution generates £897.5 million of revenue for the UK economy, £60 million worth of exports, and nearly 9,000 jobs. It generates £600 million for the region, £460 million worth benefits the city of Plymouth. And staff at the University provide 255,000 hours of voluntary public service, worth £17.6 million.

The University enjoys an excellent campus location in Plymouth: in the heart of the city, with quick and easy access to the railway station, shopping centre, main road networks and the historic waterfront. Its water sports opportunities are unique – some courses offer a recognised diving qualification as part of a degree – and it has recently invested in a new waterfront teaching and research Marine Station, new boats and equipment for academic coastal research, and for students’ water sports clubs. It also runs a varied and acclaimed arts programme, through The Arts Institute, and works with organisations across the city and region to support cultural programmes, such as the multi-million pound history centre, The Box.

*Times Higher Education Young University Rankings 2018*
University vision, mission and values

Our Mission
Advancing knowledge, transforming lives.

Our Vision
The University of Plymouth is renowned for high quality, internationally-leading education, research and innovation.

We make a positive difference to people’s lives.

With a truly global outlook, we are an inclusive and inspiring university community.

Our students are our partners on their journey of discovery.

Our Core Principles
These three underlying principles are central to the success of our strategy and will underpin all of our strategic activities:

Quality: striving for the highest quality in everything we do

Institutional Sustainability: sustainability in our finances, reputation, services, and environment

One Team: working, planning for and delivering a shared vision, underpinned by a strong sense of collegiality.

Our Strategy
We will improve our reputation which will enhance our national and international rankings and enable us to outperform our main competitors.

We will monitor key performance indicators on a regular basis and adjust our actions and priorities as necessary to ensure we remain on a successful track.

We will take informed decisions, building our resilience and capacity to adapt to uncertainties in national and international higher education.

A reputation for the highest quality in everything we do, and for delivering an excellent student experience, will ensure demand from the best applicants who will be able to benefit from a University of Plymouth education.

Our research will be recognised for making a difference, ensuring sustained support from funders and our business partners.

Our alumni will be proud to engage in the future of the University.