It's an exciting time for us and we are proud to share a snapshot of our progress.
From the Humber to the Mekong, our research is shaping a safer future for coastal communities.

In a rapidly changing world, we are responding to some of the planet’s greatest challenges. We are finding ways to better predict future flood risk and making recommendations that will improve livelihoods.

To find out more about the difference we make, please visit the Research section of our website at www.hull.ac.uk
I am delighted to have joined the University of Hull at such an exciting time. We have strong ambitions and it is a pleasure to share with you the progress that has been made over the last financial year.

These are challenging and changing times; over the last few years the higher education landscape has altered dramatically resulting in an increasingly competitive environment. As a consequence, we are continuing to evolve our approach to ensure that we meet the needs of our students, collaborators and partners, regionally, nationally and globally, both now and in the future.

We are extremely proud of the difference we make to transforming lives and positively impacting society through our education and research, as highlighted in this report.

This year we were awarded Silver in the Teaching Excellence Framework, which was introduced by the Government to recognise and reward excellence in learning and teaching in higher education institutions. We are particularly proud to have received strong praise for the support we provide to our students and the outcomes they achieve.

A £200-million investment programme in high-quality teaching and learning facilities, IT infrastructure, research laboratories, social spaces and sporting facilities has seen our campus transformed, and is already offering significant benefits to students, staff and the wider community. We are also working with the University Partnership Programme Limited, a leading provider of on-campus student accommodation, who have leveraged a further £130-million of investment and they will deliver additional excellent accommodation options for our students.

The University’s evolution extends well beyond physical change. Our focus on improving the way that we operate and work with others has helped us to form valuable partnerships and is creating new opportunities for our students, the businesses and other organisations we work with and our research partners. One of the highlights is our significant contribution, as a Principal Partner, to Hull’s success during its reign as the UK City of Culture. Building on this success, we are very pleased to be bringing the best of British science to Hull and the Humber next year. Hosting the British Science Festival in September 2018 gives us the opportunity to showcase nationally our region’s significant contribution to this field.

I hope that you enjoy reading a snapshot of our year in review, and I thank you for your support as we strive to realise our strategic ambitions.

Professor Susan Lea,
Vice-Chancellor
We are combining the brightest minds with the finest R&D facilities to advance the treatment of wounds.”

Stewart McKinlay,
Vice President of Research & Innovation at Smith & Nephew

Samantha Iveson,
PhD student, Biomedical Science

Daniel Hardy,
PhD student, Biomedical Science

Developing talent and driving collaboration

We welcome students from more than 100 countries across the world, equipping them with the skills, knowledge and opportunities for growth to empower them to strive for excellence in whatever career they choose.

With close to 17,000 students in 2016/17, the fact that one in six of our students come to the University from outside the UK is testament to the strength of our reputation.

This year, we were awarded Silver in the Teaching Excellence Framework, which recognises and rewards excellence in learning and teaching in higher education institutions. In particular, we were praised for excellent student outcomes.

5,700 students graduated during this financial year and we are incredibly proud of the difference they make. Whether in our region, other parts of the country or across the world, 96.1% of our graduates go on to find employment or further study within six months (Destination of Leavers from Higher Education survey, July 2017).

It is testament to the way that we teach our students - inspiring innovation and encouraging them to see things in a different light - that ensures they leave with the skills, values, and confidence to contribute effectively to the world as well-rounded, creative individuals.

Currently, graduates of the University of Hull make up around 25% of staff within wound research and development at Smith & Nephew in Hull. In recognition of the pivotal role that the University plays in the success and long-term sustainability of their R&D centre, Smith & Nephew committed to increasing the number of places offered to graduates each year.

This year the University announced a five-year collaboration with Smith & Nephew to drive research into pioneering approaches to advanced wound care which sees a co-investment of around £3-million. The partnership is designed to bring together academia and industry – establishing a team of experts charged with developing scientific insights and innovative treatments that will benefit patients.

Eight PhD studentships have been created across a range of disciplines as part of the collaboration combining the brightest minds with the finest R&D facilities to drive innovation in wound care.

Stewart McKinlay, Vice President of Research & Innovation at Smith & Nephew, said: “Often collaborations with academia are collaborations for collaborations’ sake. But this partnership is the most exciting thing I am aware of in the sphere of wound management. The goal between us is not to just stop at these PhDs but create a rolling programme aimed at changing wound care management across the world, and as a consequence, change individuals’ lives. I am not aware of any group anywhere that is doing this as well as the University of Hull is.”

Collaborating with Smith & Nephew to drive innovation through pioneering research

Billions of pounds are spent annually to treat wounds in the US alone and the burden is continuing to grow due to increasing healthcare costs. An aging population and the significant rise in the number of people with diabetes and obesity means that wound care represents a considerable problem across the world.

Smith & Nephew, the global medical technology business and world-leader in advanced wound management, strengthened its roots in the city earlier this year by opening a state-of-the-art Research & Development centre at its Hull site. As a dedicated centre of excellence for wound management technologies across a range of specialist fields, access to a regular talent pipeline was a fundamental consideration for Smith & Nephew in line with their investment.

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This investment is another huge step in achieving our goal to save 2,000 more lives in Yorkshire every year by 2025.”

Dr Kathryn Scott, Chief Executive at Yorkshire Cancer Research

As a result, the University has significantly increased (by 35%) the number of competitively won research grants over the last year.

We are shaping the future of offshore wind in the UK’s energy estuary

As an example, we have made significant progress in establishing the region’s position as a leader in offshore wind, having been successful in securing £7.6-million to improve wind power technologies as part of a collaborative bid. Designed to strengthen the links between the University’s research base, industry and business partners, the five-year programme will address research challenges and help to reduce the cost of electricity from offshore wind.

Yorkshire Cancer Research is investing over £5-million into research programmes to tackle cancer inequalities in Hull

Current statistics show that some 565 people are diagnosed with cancer in Yorkshire every week and that incidence and mortality rates in the county are higher than the England average.

Yorkshire Cancer Research has awarded the University of Hull and Hull York Medical School a grant of over £5-million to tackle cancer inequalities in the region. The funds are being invested in research that will help us to continue our path to become a nationally and internationally known force in cancer research – making a real difference to the lives of people in our region and beyond.

The research addresses key gaps in knowledge related to inequalities in experience of and outcomes from cancer. Research is focused on ensuring that cancers are detected and diagnosed at the earliest possible stage and that patients have equal access to the very best treatments and supportive care.

Dr Kathryn Scott, Chief Executive at Yorkshire Cancer Research said: “We know we can have a significant impact in Hull by making sure people know how to spot the signs and symptoms of cancer and when to visit the doctor, but also that they understand the importance of attending screening appointments.”

Miriam Johnson, Professor of Palliative Medicine, Hull York Medical School
Director, Wolfson Palliative Care Research Centre

www.hull.ac.uk/annualreport

Making a difference in the region and beyond

Confidence in our research capability has never been stronger

From slavery and emancipation to healthcare and habitats, logistics and renewables, and energy and environment, our research is making a real difference by addressing global challenges.

In response to the changing and increasingly competitive environment in which we operate, our focus over the year has been on using our expertise to develop mutually beneficial, long-term collaborative relationships with external partners.
World-class events, unforgettable experiences

Our commitment to creativity is demonstrated this year through our Principal Partnership with Hull UK City of Culture 2017. As a producer and supporter of creativity, arts and culture, we seized the opportunity to bring a world-class programme of events to the University and have created unforgettable experiences for our students, staff and the wider community.

Hull welcomed record visitor numbers this year and here on campus we are proud to have engaged an audience of over 60,000 people, including many first-time visitors, to enjoy the impressive range of world-class exhibitions, installations, debates, music and drama held as part of our cultural programme.

Redeveloped to national standard as part of a £28-million investment in our Brynmor Jones Library, our art gallery hosted some of the world’s greatest artists as part of exhibitions with partners such as the British Museum and National Portrait Gallery. Lines of Thought – Drawing from the British Museum and National Portrait Gallery.

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Visitors admiring the National Portrait Gallery: Paul Smith to JK Rowling exhibition

Giving our students a chance to shine

Our campus was at the heart of the action — and so were our students. Thanks to outstanding facilities and partnerships leveraged by staff across the University, our students have experienced once in a lifetime opportunities to broaden their horizons and gain unrivalled experience as part of the UK City of Culture 2017 programme.

Some of these events took place in Middleton Hall, which, following a £9.5-million investment, has been transformed into a world-class concert venue. Redeveloped to such a high specification, it has hosted a variety of concerts, ranging from classical to pop plus a number of live broadcasts, engaging audiences across the country and beyond. Middleton Hall’s facilities include industry-standard recording studios that offer students some of the finest music facilities anywhere in the country.

As part of a live broadcast, Katrina played a set of her own material from Middleton Hall, but whereas usually she would perform solo with just her guitar, she had the opportunity to collaborate with classical music students, giving her songs a completely different sound.

In addition, a headline-grabbing Hollywood film director, through a popular oral history exhibition on the life and work of former University Librarian Philip Larkin offered visitors an opportunity to broaden their horizons and gain unrivalled experience as part of the City of Culture year.

Katrina Rae, a Drama and Music student, was selected to perform recently on BBC Introducing, a showcase for new music and a hotbed for young talent. Gathering together talented students like Katrina, as well as inspirational music staff, the show broadcast live from Middleton Hall’s top-class music studios.

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Visiting students were amazed by the experience of hearing their peers perform live on national TV. They were also inspired by the show’s headline-grabbing Hollywood film director, Anthony Minghella, the Oscar-winning, Hollywood film director, through a popular oral history exhibition on the life and work of former University Librarian Philip Larkin offered visitors an opportunity to broaden their horizons and gain unrivalled experience as part of the City of Culture year.

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On the back of her performance, Katrina was selected to perform on Radio 1’s Introducing show, which is designed to provide a week of inspiring events aimed at helping young people kick-start their careers in the creative industries.

Thanks to cultivating relationships with the likes of the BBC, the University of Hull is offering students the chance to seize some amazing creative opportunities as part of the City of Culture year.

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Being able to work with students who perform different styles of music — like collaborating with the classical music students for BBC Introducing — has really broadened my horizons when it comes to my own material. If I wasn’t here, I would never have thought of having strings on my songs but it really worked.

I’m really inspired by the lecturers here. Not only are they really supportive of you as an individual, they are also performers — they know what it’s like to write and play your own material because they do it themselves.

I’ve always wanted to be a musician, however I do think that being able to perform at such awesome events has given me a lot more confidence and drive. I guess it’s shown me that I’ve got as much chance as anyone else if I really want it enough.

Katrina Rae, Drama and Music student