The University’s priorities in this area are to:

- provide all parts of the University with flexible accommodation which is of a quality, size and functionality appropriate to the activities to be delivered and which supports the University’s vision;
- ensure the most efficient use of existing space and the development of capacity within the central precinct area wherever appropriate;
- continue to work to reduce carbon emissions and improve the sustainability of the physical estate;
- provide residential accommodation which is attractive to students in form, service and location;
- deliver an ambitious capital programme in support of the renewal of accommodation and the creation of adaptive capacity;
- provide an attractive, safe, accessible and welcoming setting for University buildings that is sympathetic to the wider urban context;
- produce a new Estate Strategy to inform future strategic decisions about the size, nature and direction of the University’s estate.

Estate Development

Through its estates programme, the University aims to provide consistent, high-quality services that support day-to-day operations and help staff and students achieve their goals by providing a sustainable and positive physical working environment. In 2008/09, the Estates Office continued to develop, service and manage the University estate in keeping with the institution’s high standards, with particular emphasis on the environmental performance of new and refurbished buildings.

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Bumper year for new buildings

Several new buildings were completed in 2008/09, boosting research and learning opportunities in a continually changing academic environment:

- The £4.1 million extension to Canynge Hall, home of the Department of Social Medicine, opened in September 2008. The extension, which includes clinical examination rooms, teaching rooms, a lecture theatre and office space, greatly enhances research and teaching capacities.
- The new £3.9 million Dolberry Building, housing the Animal Welfare and Behaviour Group at the Vet School in Langford, opened in April 2009. Its facilities will help the University build on its position as a world leader in animal welfare research.
- The £12 million Centre for Nanoscience and Quantum Information was finished in May 2009. The building is a unique, interdisciplinary centre, designed to keep Bristol at the forefront of research in science, engineering and medicine. It houses state-of-the-art laboratories where temperature, air movement, vibration and acoustic noise levels are strictly controlled to produce conditions suitable for working at the nanoscale.
- A new, £2 million Multimedia Centre for the Faculty of Arts was completed in July 2009. The building comprises a teaching space, areas for open access learning, a substantial media resource store, a small recording studio and a screening room.

Improving existing spaces

Several refurbishment projects came to fruition, in keeping with the University’s aim of making the most of its current assets:

- The refurbishment of the Medical Library was completed in January at a cost of £2.1 million (for more details, see p27).
- The £2 million refurbishment of the ground floor of the Arts and Social Sciences Library was completed in February (for more details, see p27).
- The refurbishment of the fifth floor of Senate House was completed in March, creating additional office space and allowing for flexible use of the remaining accommodation while refurbishment continues as part of a wider project to transform the entire building.
- Following the external restoration and cleaning of the Wills Tower, further improvements included the internal restoration of the building fabric, upgrading of ventilation and heating services and the provision of an internal lighting scheme for the key public spaces within the tower.
- Improvements totalling £4 million were made to the Social Sciences and Law Faculty complex in Priory Road. The new facility links a number of disparate buildings into a coherent whole and provides a prominent, main entranceway with a cafe and social space for students.
- Work began on a High Voltage Network project designed to deliver an improved electrical services infrastructure with the necessary capacity to support the new and improved facilities. This includes the construction of a shared power distribution sub-station with University...
ESTATE DEVELOPMENT CONTINUED

Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust, a new switch room and two high-voltage ring mains in the precinct.

Go-ahead for new Biological Sciences and Maths buildings
Planning permission was granted in April for the first phase of an exciting development of the old Children’s Hospital site on the corner of St Michael’s Hill and Tyndall Avenue. This paves the way for the creation of new education and research facilities for the School of Biological Sciences and Department of Mathematics, aimed at keeping the University at the top of its game in key areas of science. The plans include a new route into Royal Fort Gardens, which would also improve the public realm at the heart of the precinct. Implementation of the planning consent will, of course, be subject to the achievement of financial sustainability.

Working towards a sustainable future
In planning new buildings and refurbishing existing ones, the Estates Office works closely with the Sustainability team to reduce the University’s carbon footprint and environmental impact.

The new Dolberry Building (see above) has a BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) ‘excellent’ rating for sustainability in design, materials and energy usage. External insulation keeps the building cool in summer and retains heat in winter. The primary heating source uses waste heat from a nearby building and a green roof significantly enhances biodiversity. The new Social Sciences entranceway, which also has a green roof and low-energy heating system, achieved a ‘very good’ rating at the design stage.

Waste management has taken a significant step forward with a new plastic recycling scheme in all buildings that aims to divert nine per cent of the University’s waste from landfill. In 2008/09, the University invested over £200,000 in energy-saving technologies within the precinct, saving an estimated £70,000 and 750 tonnes of carbon dioxide a year. Projects included an organic liquid swimming pool cover that reduces the need for air and water heating and humidity control. A further combined heat and power unit was installed during 2008/09, this time at Langford, providing savings of £100,000 and 500 tonnes of carbon dioxide a year.

Building environmental awareness
The University encouraged staff and students to improve the environmental performance of their own departments with the introduction of the Green Impact Awards, an accreditation scheme for environmental best practice. Over 2,000 staff and 4,225 students representing 46 departments took part in the scheme to see which could be the greenest. Their combined efforts resulted in over 1,000 sustainability actions being taken across the University. Many other activities reflect a growing concern with sustainability: for example, Student Community Action, working with the Sustainability team, collected nearly two tonnes of unwanted domestic items from students during this year’s ‘Big Give’ project, passing them on to charities to sell or reuse.

Travelling light
The University’s commitment to promoting sustainable modes of transport was reflected in improvements to its travel plan in 2008/09, including new cycle-parking facilities at the School of Medical Sciences, Oakfield House, Bailey House, 8-10 Berkeley Square, the Centre for Nanoscience and Quantum Information and Langford; cycle maintenance; an improved staff car-sharing scheme; and a car club for students.

Bristol top of the class for security
The University’s efforts to provide a safe environment in which staff and students can work, study and live were recognised when Bristol became one of only two universities in the UK to win a police-approved Secured Environments Award in January. Certification is awarded to organisations that have adopted six key principles of crime protection. The University demonstrated that it had invested in effective processes and management in order to reduce crime.
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & LIBRARIES CONTINUED

2008/09 also saw a dramatic increase in the usage of the University portal, My Bristol, with around 300 staff, 6,000 undergraduates and 2,000 postgraduates regularly using the facility since 1 October 2008. The portal is a gateway to web-based services within and beyond the University. By signing in, students and staff can access a range of tools and services in one place, such as email, course details, Blackboard, the Students’ Union and the Sports Centre.

Help for researchers in developing countries

The University’s Institute for Learning and Research Technology has developed a new website for an international project aimed at helping researchers in developing countries to publish their work and advance their research careers. AuthorAID (www.authoraid.info) is a free online community providing access to advice, mentoring, discussion forums and a range of material on best practice in writing and publication. It is based at the International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications and supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, the Norwegian Agency for Development Co-operation and the UK Department for International Development.

Boosting research

The University’s new High Performance Computing system, Blue Crystal, became fully operational, and now has more than 250 active users. The system supports research in disciplines such as aerospace engineering, molecular modelling, climate change and social medicine, among others, with a combined project income to date of around £9.5 million. In November 2008, Blue Crystal was ranked as the 86th most powerful supercomputer in the world, helping to establish Bristol as a world-leading centre for research. The next stage of development will be the introduction of a large-scale (one petabyte) data-storage facility to complement Blue Crystal’s computational power.

Other significant activities during the year include work with Research and Enterprise Development (RED) on the creation of a research applications and contracts database for better visibility and management of contracts and awards from application through to completion. Work also began on a project with RED and Communications and Marketing Services to develop a new website through which to showcase the University’s research.

Community collaborations

As well as providing tools to enable communication between members of the University, Information Services facilitates projects with external collaborators. During 2008/09, the division worked with the National Co-ordinating Centre for Public Engagement to develop web-based resources to support its local and national activities. The Bristol-based Centre is a partnership between the University of Bristol and the University of the West of England and aims to co-ordinate UK universities’ best practice in public engagement and to deepen the social impact and relevance of their work.

Information Services also worked with the Department of Drama and Bristol’s Watershed Media Centre on the Semantic Tools for Screen Arts Research (STARS) project. This provides an innovative way of mapping and annotating connections between artists, video performances and other research centres on the web, supporting new collaborations and new perspectives on screen arts research.

Maintaining high-quality information systems

Underpinning all these developments, the division invested more than £1 million in core ICT infrastructure, such as the University’s data network, IT systems hardware and software and PC provision in Information Services sites. Such investment ensures that critical IT services are robust and resilient and that business continuity plans are established, tested and kept up to date.

ALUMNI DISTINCTIONS & HONORARY DEGREES

ALUMNI DISTINCTIONS

Bristol alumni excel in many fields. The following are among those who were awarded particular distinctions by external organisations in 2008/09.

Fellow of the British Academy

Professor Paul Cloke (DSc 1993), Professor Glyn Humphreys (BSc 1976, PhD 1985), Professor Margaret Snowling, FRS (BSc 1976), Professor Peter Taylor-Gooby (BA 1969)

CBE

Professor Linda Colley, FBA (BA 1972, Hon DLitt 2006) Author and Shelby MC Professor of History, Princeton University, for services to medicine

Professor Peter Neil Temple Wells, FRS (BSc 1968, Diploma in Social Sciences) Principal of the City of Bristol College, for services to further education

Dr Patricia Hamilton (BSc 1972, MSc 1976) President, Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, for services to medicine

Nicholas Campbell Paul (BSc 1986) Chairman, Advantage West Midlands, for services to business

David Tanner, OBE (BA 1973) Performance Director, GB Rowing Team, for services to sport

Professor Peter Neil Temple Wells, FRS (MSc 1962, PhD 1966) Research Professor and Senior Scientific Director, Institute of Medical Engineering and Medical Physics, University of Cardiff, for services to healthcare science

Professor Lynn Giaddson (BSc 1982) Shell Professor of Chemical Engineering, University of Cambridge, for services to science

Professor Peter Toyné (BA 1962) Lately Vice-Chancellor, Liverpool John Moores University, for services to the community

HONORARY DEGREES

Every year, the University awards its own distinctions. Below we list all those who received honorary degrees from Bristol in 2008/09 in recognition of outstanding achievement.

Dr Philip Ball Science writer and a Bristol graduate, Doctor of Letters

Dr Andrew Garrad Managing Director of Garrad Hassan Group Ltd, Doctor of Engineering

Professor Caroline Gipsy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Wolverhampton and a Bristol graduate, Doctor of Laws

The Very Reverend Robert Grimley Dean of Bristol (1967-2008), Doctor of Laws

Professor Geoffrey Hill Post, literary scholar, theologian, Doctor of Letters

Caroline James Nurse and chair of Friends of After Burns Children’s Club, Master of Arts (see p30)

Josh Lewsey Rugby international and a Bristol graduate, Doctor of Laws

Sue McMullen Chair of the Vassall Centre Trust, Master of Arts (see p30)

Batooj Pandya Campaigner for racial tolerance, Master of Arts (see p30)

Iain Percy, OBE, MBE Double Olympic gold medallist and a Bristol graduate, Doctor of Laws

Professor Chris Ripley, CBE Director, Science Museum, Doctor of Science

Dr Una Ryan, OBE Formerly President and CEO of AVANT Immunotherapeutics and a Bristol graduate, Doctor of Science

Louis Sherwood Former Chairman of Gateway Foodmarkets, HTV West and Channel Medical Investment Group, Doctor of Laws

Alwen Williams (BA 1983) Chief Executive, Tower Hamlets Primary Care Trust, for services to healthcare

DCMG

Denise Holt, CMG (BA 1970) Ambassador to the Kingdom of Spain

Olympic medals

Iain Percy, MBE, OBE (BSc 1998) Olympic Gold Medal for Great Britain – Sailing

Tony awards

Peter Darlington (BA 1965) Best Choreography in a Musical (Billy Elliot)

Matthew Warchus (BA 1988) Best Direction of a Play (God of Carnage)

BAFTA awards

Esther May Campbell (BA 1995) Best Short Film (September)