

# 2011

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# 2012

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# Introduction



NICK SMITH



MARTIN CHAINÉY

The review of 2011/12 complements our formal Annual Report and Financial Statements and provides a brief summary of just a few of our many achievements.

We are dedicated to academic endeavour at the highest level and our students benefit from an intellectually demanding, research-informed education. We encourage independence of mind. This is underpinned by our high-quality research, which enables our students to maximise their full potential and to serve society's needs across the globe, both during and after their time here.

Council, the governing body of the University, plays a significant role in

maintaining our internationally renowned position and ensures that our research and our teaching remain at the top of their game.

The higher education sector has experienced an unprecedented rate of change in the past 12 to 18 months and there remain challenges ahead. However, as I hope you will see throughout this review, Bristol is well placed to meet these challenges as well as to maximise the opportunities ahead so that it continues to build upon its strengths as a world-leading university, known for the high quality of its research and its teaching.

Eric Thomas  
Vice-Chancellor

Denis Burn  
Chairman, University Council

## Mission, vision and values

Through its Royal Charter granted in 1909, the University of Bristol is committed to ‘the promotion of Arts, Sciences and Learning’. In its centenary year, the University restated its mission, together with its vision and values. These are set out below. They also appear at the start of the University’s Vision and Strategy for 2009-16. This Review of the Year, together with the associated Annual Report and Financial Statements, charts progress in 2011/12 against the Vision and Strategy.

### Mission

To pursue and share knowledge and understanding, both for their own sake and to help individuals and society fulfil their potential.

### Vision

The University of Bristol is an international powerhouse of learning, discovery and enterprise. Its vision is of a university whose excellence is acknowledged locally, nationally and globally and that is:

- dedicated to academic achievement across a broad range of disciplines, and to continuous innovation and improvement
- research-intensive, supporting both individual scholarship and interdisciplinary or thematic research of the highest quality
- a centre for intellectually demanding, research-informed education that nurtures independence of mind and helps students achieve their personal goals and serve society’s needs, both during and after their time here
- an inclusive and collaborative community of scholarship that attracts and retains people with outstanding talent and potential from all walks of life and all parts of the world
- a stimulating and supportive environment for all students and staff, distinguished by a commitment to high standards, respect for the individual and a strong sense of collegiality
- committed to operating in a sustainable manner
- engaged with society’s interests, concerns, priorities and aspirations
- a major contributor culturally, environmentally and economically to Bristol and the South West
- well led and responsibly run, with an emphasis on consultative decision-making and open communication as well as personal responsibility and accountability.

### Values

Our mission and vision are underpinned by these values:

#### Truth

We seek and are inspired by truth, which we pursue for its own sake

#### Excellence

We strive for the highest quality in all we do

#### Innovation

We welcome the challenge of the new and value the creative and entrepreneurial

#### Ambition

We have high aspirations for the University and all its staff, students and alumni

#### Responsibility

We aim to make a positive difference to the wider world and the future

#### Independence

We encourage independent thinking and cherish academic and institutional autonomy

#### Collaboration

We are committed to teamwork and to partnership with others

#### Transparency

We want to be accountable for our decisions and actions

#### Diversity

We view the diversity of our staff, students and alumni as a great asset

#### Equity

We believe in the equitable treatment of all



The Dorothy Hodgkin Building