



COURT 2025

Friday 12 December 2025

RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS FROM COURT MEMBERS RECEIVED BY DEADLINE OF 2 DECEMBER 2025

Question 1

In the light of the tremendous challenges both domestically and internationally what practical steps are the University taking to update and reframe their commitment to remain a [University of Sanctuary](#)?

University response

The University remains deeply committed to providing a place of academic sanctuary to students and scholars fleeing violence, war and persecution. This year we undertook a substantial and genuinely collaborative effort, working alongside several major Russell Group peers, to provide funded and flexible support to offer-holders based in Gaza, while continuing to deliver and strengthen our Sanctuary Scholars programme. We intend to build on these experiences and undertake a systematic reflection on the complex geopolitical and financial context in which universities will be operating in the coming years. This will inform a formal review, scheduled for early in 2026, of how we can sharpen, strengthen and future-proof our Sanctuary commitment. In addition, we are in the process of renewing our University of Sanctuary accreditation, a formal marker of our ongoing commitment to this work. We continue to collaborate proactively with the Bristol City of Sanctuary team and other civic partners to ensure our effort remain connected, responsive and aligned with the needs of sanctuary seekers.

Question 2a

Please could I ask about the status of the University of Bristol's climate and nature targets and plans to deliver these going forward?

University response

The University of Bristol remains firmly committed to tackling climate change head on in both our operations as much as in research and advocacy. From 2025, with endorsement from Board of Trustees and UEB, responsibility in this area has moved to the Pro Vice-Chancellor, Global Engagement and the Chief Property Officer. The University is actively continuing to strengthen and build on its commitments to climate action through the delivery of a *University Climate Action Plan* (UCAP). This UCAP will provide us with a more holistic, visible and consistent plan aligning with our operating environment, ambitions, and evidence-based targets. To this end we have already put into place and kickstarted a dedicated Task and Finish Group, and begun wider consultations, including with the Bristol SU, whilst working with University's faculties and schools alongside our existing commitment to education for sustainability programme. We aim to deliver an update on our climate action progress alongside the publication of the UCAP in 2026.

Question 2b

What the University understands to be the risk of reducing the size and capacity of the team at the Cabot Institute, whose work is more critical now than ever before, whilst the global climate and agenda is so moveable and fettered?

University response

The Cabot Institute is one of four University of Bristol Research Institutes (URIs). We have reviewed the professional support to the URIs to enable more joined up and optimised support to all of our interdisciplinary research. This will benefit how the Cabot Institute operates, how it considers what work is impactful and how best to deliver that. Alongside a more focussed strategy for the Cabot Institute, a cross-URI initiative on Climate and Health is being supported through additional resource from the University and this illustrates the importance we are placing on climate change and the impacts that it has on human health.

Question 3

Could you please outline the total cost of the Temple Quarter development on expected completion in 2026, indicating the amount of resource put in by the University and the amounts contributed by partners and from other sources. What is the amount of debt that needs to be repaid by the University and over what period? How much income is required annually to service the debt and how robust are the anticipated income streams?

University response

By the time of completion, the University will have invested around £500m in the Temple Quarter Enterprise Campus. The 38,000 sqm academic building will be home to around 4,600 students and 650 staff, who will come together with business and community partners to tackle some of the world's greatest challenges.

The University is in receipt of £73m of commitments from grant funders and donors. The remainder of the project is financed by the University. The financial business case was scrutinised by trustees before we proceeded with the project and is continually re-evaluated. Details of the University's treasury management strategy is available in note 16 of the financial statements that in Court's papers. This details the various loan instruments the University holds. All loans are fixed rate, and the rates and repayment dates are published in note 16, with loan interest reported in note 8. We continually test the robustness of all the University's revenue streams and are satisfied that our finances are stable. Nevertheless, we acknowledge there is continued uncertainty around the sector's finances, so we continue our work to diversify revenue streams.

Question 4a and 4b

In relation to the Greek/Cypriot student community and the Hellenic Society in connection to the University:

4a. Can there be more SU or University funding for cultural events, like Greek nights?

4b. Could the University help with sponsorship connections or provide support with venues, catering or promotion?

University response

The Global Lounge team works with individual students and Bristol SU Societies to put on cultural events throughout term time at the Global Lounge or other venues. These events are open to all students and staff, however up to 50% of the venue capacity can be reserved for the Society exclusively. These events aim to celebrate different cultures whilst also allowing other members of our community to learn, sharing intercultural awareness and understanding. The Global Lounge has funding available to organise these events, including

food, decorations and activities, as long as the events meet the objectives of the Global Lounge (open to all, opportunity to celebrate and learn). Students are encouraged to reach out to the Global Lounge directly. More information can be found at [Global Lounge's Get Involved](#) pages.

Students of Greek/Cypriot background have also been volunteers at our [Language Café](#) over the years, so they share their culture/language during these.

Additional response added 9 December 2025

Bristol SU will support with any aspect of [running a student group](#), with a lot of detail available on our website. We could help a group develop their sponsorship proposal and can point them in the right direction for researching venues/catering, as well as looking over contracts. We aim to empower our student groups to the decision makers and develop skills in organising their events. We also invite students to pitch their [special event ideas](#), with selected events becoming part of the programme that takes place across our venues. Groups running special events with us get an end-to-end events support, where they are guided through the process of planning and delivering their event by our own in house events team.

Question 4c

In relation to the Greek/Cypriot student community and the Hellenic Society in connection to the University:

c. Are there plans to make it easier for University Societies to book rooms and spaces for events?

University response

A joint response in collaboration with colleagues from Bristol SU is being prepared, this is an area where the two organisations work in partnership. An updated version of this document and will be posted in due course (expected by 12 noon on 10 December 2025).

Additional response added 9 December 2025

All student groups are invited to share their space needs with Bristol SU ahead of each academic year, and we schedule regular room bookings in all SU-managed spaces based on that information. On a typical day Bristol SU fulfils over 100 hours of student groups bookings in our spaces. Officers continue to lobby for additional spaces to be added to the easy-to-use SU room booking system for student group usage, and recently secured a large space in the Hawthorns, but societies can also book through the university learning facilities management team booking system.