



UNIVERSITY COURT

MEETING DATE	03/12/2021	
REPORT TITLE	Breakout sessions	
CLASSIFICATION	OPEN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONFIDENTIAL <input type="checkbox"/> STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL <input type="checkbox"/>	
Report Author: Theme Leads	Job Title:	
Sponsored by: Judith Squires	Job Title: DVC & Provost	
<p>The University Court is asked to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NOTE the pre-reading and arrangements for the breakout sessions 		
<p>Court members will be asked to select one of two breakout sessions, to discuss areas of the Strategy in further detail.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attracting and Inspiring Students: Working together for a more diverse future 2. Intensifying our Focus on Sustainability <p>Pre-reading is enclosed.</p>		
Supporting Information		
Please find enclosed pre-reading.		

Attracting and Inspiring Students: Working Together for a More Diverse Future

This paper forms a brief introduction to our session, which will consider the following cornerstone of our University Strategy

We are continuing to diversify our learning community and our educational offer by increasing the proportion of international students and doubling the number of undergraduate students we recruit from our region by 2025 (to 15% of the total intake for home students).

We are focusing on communities where participation in higher education is lowest, through targeted offers for local people including new flexible programmes and short courses, and partnerships with industry, civic and educational organisations.

We will ensure these students gain the future skills needed to thrive in a changing world, creating a diverse talent pipelines into the south west's most exciting industries and supporting regional growth and productivity.

Our presentation will focus on three areas, listed below, where we will discuss our ambitions, and our plans to realise those ambitions, testing these ideas with Court as a valuable representative group.

Diversifying our learning community

We continue to make progress in diversifying our student body, through a range of targeted interventions and programmes. You can read more about our [widening participation and outreach work](#), and view our [Access & Participation plan](#) online. During the session, we will focus on recruitment of local and mature students and seek your input.

Creating diverse talent pipelines

Retaining graduates in Bristol or the region after graduation has economic and social benefits, including positioning Universities as “a source of talent to help generate not only regional economic growth, but also to widen cultural horizons and improve the health and well-being of an area.” According to our research, only 12.7% of Bristol graduates stay in the region, with many moving to London and the South-East. We will consider how the University can support local business and enterprise find skills needed in key sectors for the region and seek your input.

Diversifying our education offer

We can see a need to diversify our education offer, considering more flexible degrees, in partnership with employers. Flexible degrees can meet participation gaps, suit the rapidly changing nature of work and support local industries. We will present our plans for micro-accreditation and work-based learning and seek your input.

Intensifying our Focus on Sustainability

Embedding environmental sustainability is one of the cross-cutting themes of the new University Strategy. You can find more information on our commitments [here](#). You may also be interested in some of other achievements and activities in the area of [sustainability](#). This document provides a brief overview of current commitments and activities in the area of Education for Sustainable Development and provides background for conversations at Court regarding potential future directions.

The University of Bristol has long had a commitment to addressing climate and ecological impacts, and making a contribution towards the sustainable development agenda. Recently, it has expressed this in a number of ways, most notably the [declaration of a climate emergency](#) in 2019, and by being one of the first signatories of the global [University and College sector SDG accord](#).

The University of Bristol strategy includes 'Embedding Environmental Sustainability' as a cross-cutting theme. This includes the following commitment:

Future citizens: Make sustainability a core competency of a Bristol education by mobilising our curriculum, our student experience and our partnerships in support of the development of tomorrow's global citizens.

Because: knowing how to live and work sustainably will be an essential skill for all future graduates and will be an absolute expectation of a world-class university education.

The Education sub-strategy builds on this, making a commitment to:

Provide opportunities for students to engage meaningfully with issues such as inequality, sustainability and the climate emergency both within and outside of the curriculum.

The University 2019 sustainability strategy (which is currently being reviewed and incorporated into the wider University Strategy) sets the following education-specific objectives:

1. Integrate discipline-relevant sustainability education into the learning outcomes and experience of every University of Bristol student through the Curriculum Enhancement Programme.
2. Introduce further interdisciplinary sustainability options, pathways and programmes into the educational offering of the University through the academic programme portfolio review process.
3. Expand the University's online educational offerings and critically interrogate the viability of delivering degree programmes overseas as an alternative to requiring all

international students to travel to Bristol, whilst considering the importance of efforts to re-localise our educational endeavours.

Current ESD activities at the University of Bristol

1. Discipline-specific options and content: A number of programs offer options to their students which provide a disciplinary perspective on sustainable development challenges. Here are some examples:
 - Civil Engineering: Infrastructure Systems Management
 - Sociology: Environment and Society
 - Politics: Climate Change and International Security
 - Management: Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainability

A curriculum mapping exercise took place in 2013, using data from the unit catalog. It identified that “a typical student was taking units where on average 28% of their units included ESD, but it varied between 9% and 52%”.
2. Interdisciplinary Challenge-Focused Units: The UNIV10001 Sustainable Development unit has been offered as a 1st year open unit since 2006. It was one of the first interdisciplinary team-taught units, and won a national Green Gown Award. More recently, as part of the Bristol Futures initiative, it has been redesigned as a flipped-classroom workshop-based experience and expanded to be taken by 250-300 students each year. Other Bristol Futures open units also address sustainability challenges, and the World in Crisis unit focuses on the science behind the Climate Emergency.
3. Specialist Masters Programmes: A number of specialist, often interdisciplinary and usually Masters, programs exist which focus primarily on some aspect of Sustainable Development. These include:
 - The Cabot Institute Masters by Research MRes
 - Global Health BSc
 - Water and Environmental Management (Engineering)
 - Climate Change Science and Policy (Geography)
4. Extracurricular Activities: The four week Sustainable Futures online course offered through FutureLearn (<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/sustainable-futures>) has been taken by over 14500 learners around the world, including several thousand UoB students. Its innovative blending of education around sustainability challenges with personal reflection led to it winning the 2019 Green Gown Award for Future Generation Learning. It is one of three Bristol Futures: Unleash Your Potential courses which can be taken as part of the Student Bristol+ Award.

5. Students as co-creators of ESD: Student, and Student Union, co-creation and involvement with Education for Sustainable Development has been a key aspect of the Bristol approach from the outset. The Sustainable Futures Online course was co-developed by staff and PhD students, and representatives of the SU have sat on the University Sustainability Council since its outset. The SU has been closely involved in the initiation and shaping of a potential 'with Sustainability' intercalated year program being, and the SU and University Academic Lead for Sustainability have jointly designed and run training sessions and events for students, focused on ESD. The Student Union is currently appointing 'sustainability ambassadors' at School level, to provide critical friend input regarding the integration of sustainability considerations into degree programs.

6. Staff Training: A staff training session on Education for Sustainable Development was developed by Prof. Chris Willmore and Dr Aisling Tierney, and integrated into the university's CREATE program for early career lecturers. This continues to be offered, and is now integrated into the new PG Cert in Academic Practice qualification.