

# University Court 2024

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December

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**Table 3:**

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**Table 4:**

What three priority actions could strengthen partnerships with schools and post-16 education providers to equip pupils for jobs in the city-region?

**Table 5:**

What three priority actions could help local employers to work in partnership to identify and address skills gaps?

**Table 6:**

What three priority actions would help to harness partnerships and spaces in the new Temple Quarter Enterprise Campus to support the city-region's skills ecosystem?

**Table 7:**

What three priority actions would better capitalise on the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector (VCSE) sector's contributions to skills development in city-region?

**Table 8:**

What three priority actions would support future skills development within key sectors in the city-region for an inclusive and sustainable economy?

**Table 9:**

What three priority actions could local policy makers, such as Bristol City Council and West of England Combined Authority, take in partnership with local organisations and businesses to progress skills development in the city-region?

**Table 10:**

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**Table 11:**

What three priority actions would widen lifelong learning opportunities across the city-region, in the context of Bristol as a Learning City?

**Table 12:**

What three priority actions could help the city-region to maximise investment for skills from national government?



# Report of The Board of Trustees

Jack Boyer, Chair of the Board of Trustees





# Annual Report and Financial Statements

Peter Vermeulen, Chief Financial Officer





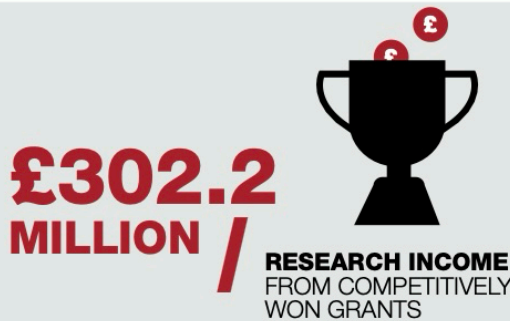
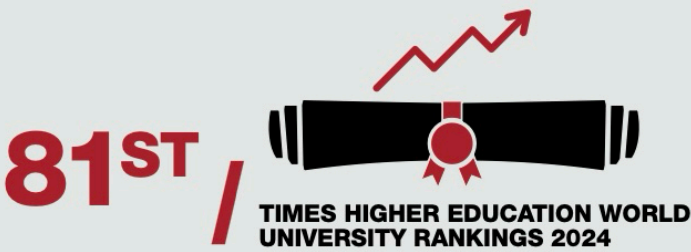
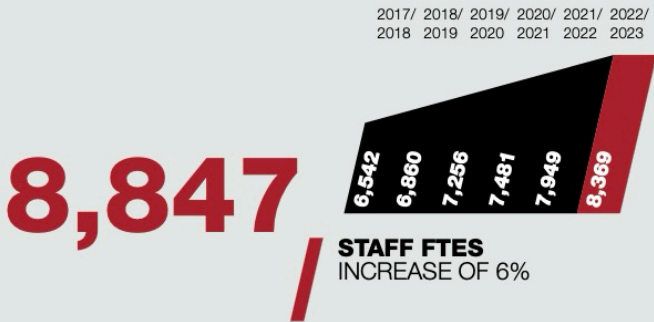
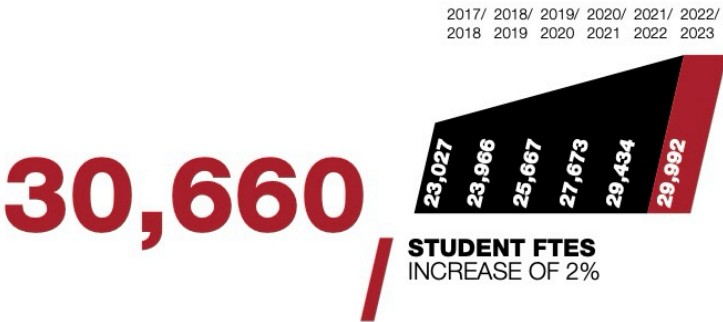


**ANNUAL  
REPORT** AND  
FINANCIAL  
STATEMENTS  
**2024** /



# KEY FACTS AND FIGURES 2023/24

The University continued its sustained growth in student numbers, growing by 2% in the 2023/24 academic year.

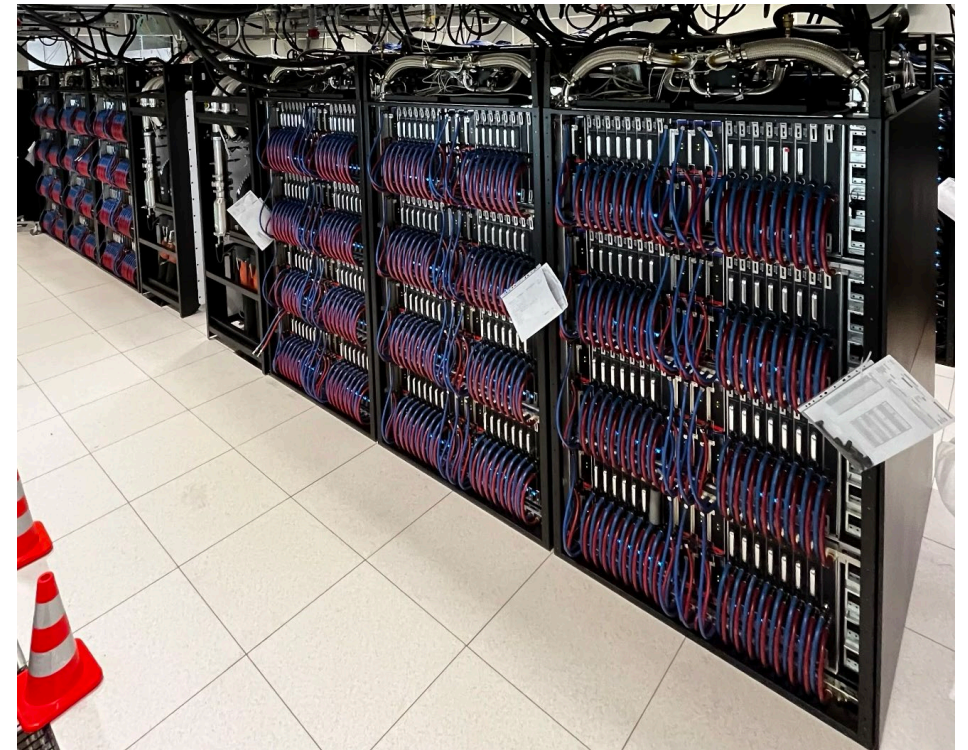


# Financial performance

Key financials	23/24	22/23
Total income	£1,092m	£934m
Staff costs	£521m	£483m
FTE staff employed	8,847	8,369
Surplus (excl. USS valuation)	£56m	£51m

# Capital investment

£106m invested in Temple Quarter last year  
Total expected spend on TQ £485m



£77.3m investment in  
Isambard AI in 2023/24



# Balance sheet strength

Key financials	23/24	22/23
Unrestricted reserves	£678mm	£429m
Cash and investments	£244m	£330m
Fixed rate borrowing	£450m	£450m
Short term – undrawn facilities	£150m	£150m

# Challenging outlook



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# OPEN FORUM QUESTION TIME

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# UNIVERSITY COURT

Professor Evelyn Welch  
Vice-Chancellor & President



# Rankings and reputation

Photo by Patrick Metcalfe



54

**54th worldwide**  
(QS World University Rankings 2025)



9

**9th in the UK**  
(QS World University Rankings 2025)



12

**12<sup>th</sup> most sustainable university in the world**  
(QS Sustainability rankings 2025)

Photo by Dan Rowley



# University highlights, 2024

- 9 new Centres for Doctoral Training (CDTs) awarded, inc. in cyber security, global health resilience, sustainable energy, artificial intelligence and quantum technology
- Hosting new UK national Artificial Intelligence supercomputer, Isambard-AI, and named AI University of the Year
- Reparative Futures: 25 community Accountability Partners appointed to £10m investment programme
- Enterprise and Innovation: 29% rise in intellectual property disclosures
- City of Bristol College Apprentice Large Employer of 2024

# £1.13bn

Annual regional economic  
contribution

Oxford Economics, 2024

# 17,420

Jobs supported in city-region

Oxford Economics, 2024

# £131m

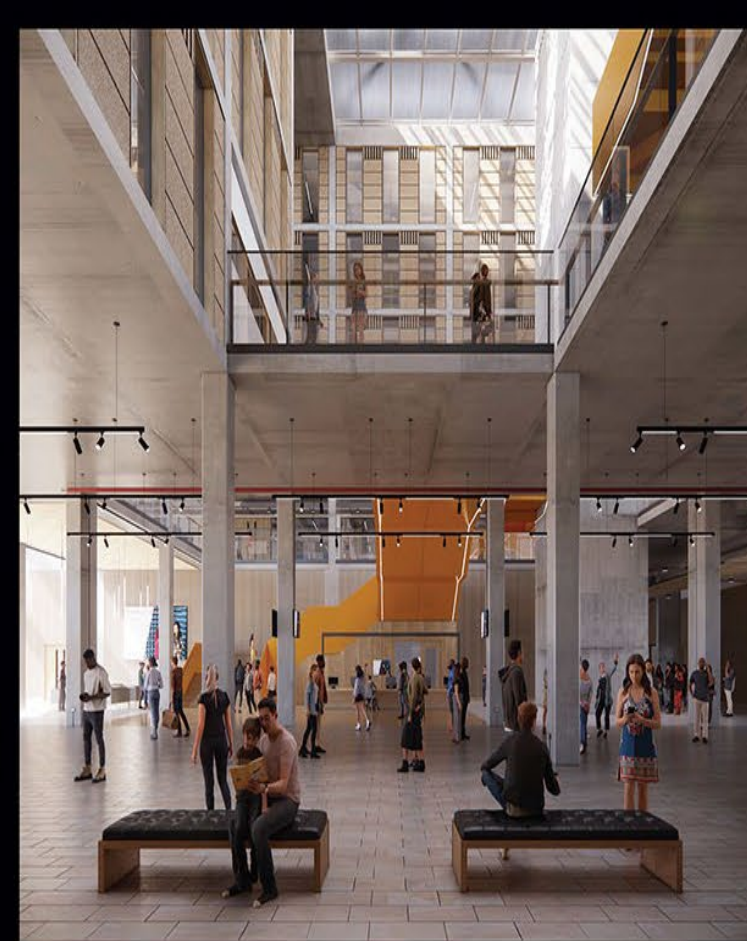
Procurement spend with regional suppliers

Oxford Economics, 2024

# 22,000+

Annual student volunteering hours





**TEMPLE QUARTER**  
ENTERPRISE CAMPUS



# Bristol Dental School





# Temple Quarter Research Hub





# Strategic outlook

- Challenging HE sector financial model
- Investing in and fostering our education and research environment
- Investing in pastoral support
- Attracting the best and brightest students and academics from around the world





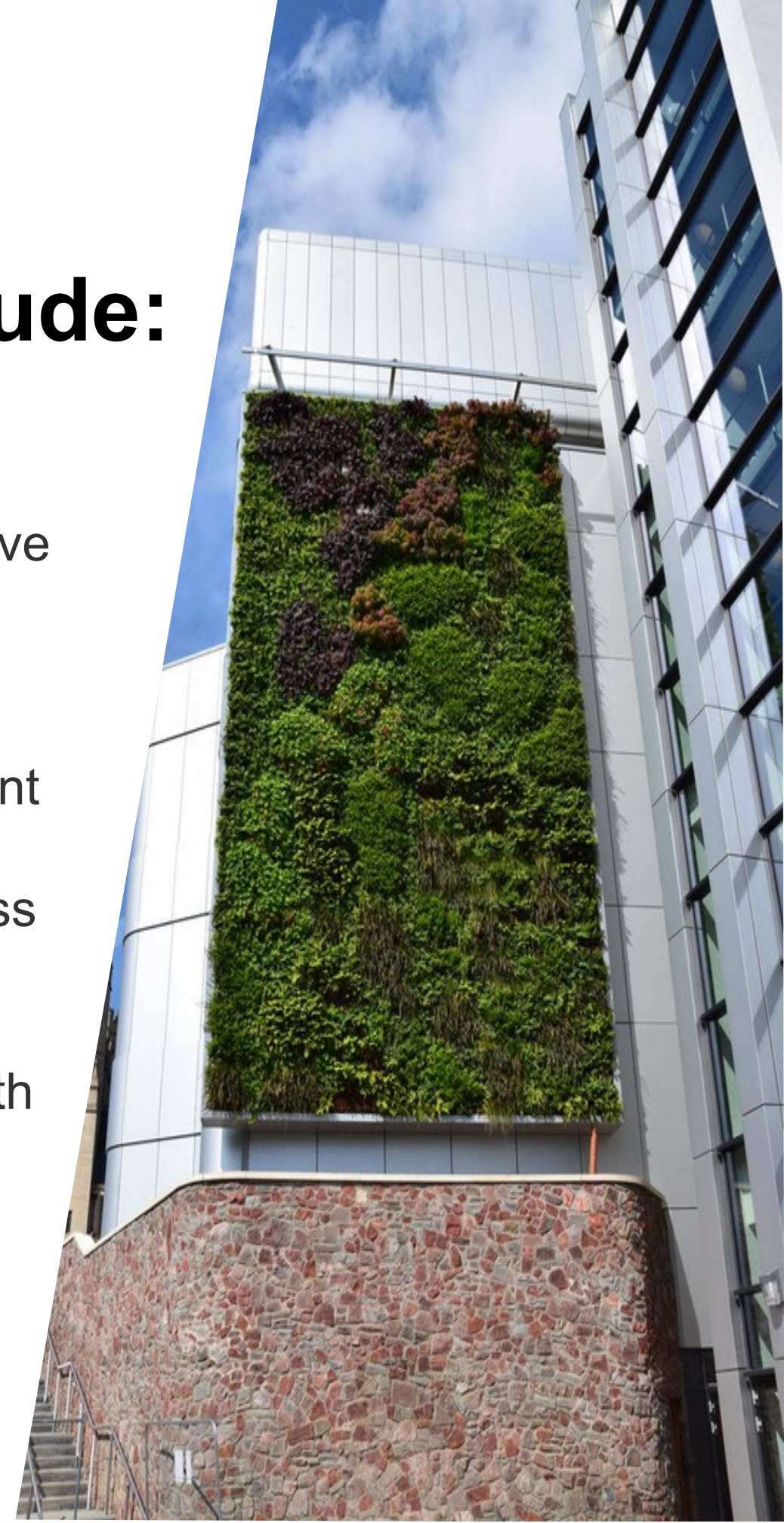
## UNESCO learning city

*“...a city that effectively mobilises its resources in every sector to promote inclusive learning from basic to higher education; revitalises learning in families and communities; facilitates learning for and in the workplace; extends the use of learning technologies; enhances quality and excellence in learning; and fosters a culture of learning throughout life”*

# Strategy 2030 priorities include:

- Diversifying our learning community
- Ensuring students gain future skills needed to thrive in a changing world
- Contribute to addressing local inequalities, particularly in education and access to employment
- Contributing significantly to the quality and success of Bristol's economy, services and society
- Driving equitable and sustainable economic growth

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- New guaranteed offer for **all applicants** with a BS postcode
- Access to Bristol scheme gives local pupils a taste of student life. Successful completion equals **guaranteed** contextual offer or interview (up to two grades below standard entry requirements)
- Our Bristol Scholars programme – high potential candidates nominated by schools. Successful pupils receive academic support and personalised offer of a place, or an interview
- Two IntoUniversity centres sponsored in east and south Bristol. Young people receive free tuition, mentoring and academic support. 3,400 primary and secondary school pupils engaged in 12 months



- Foundation Year programmes - 400+ students, 50% local and 2/3 mature
- Partnerships with South Bristol Youth and Future Quest
- Bristol Future Talent Partnership
- University staff serving as local school governors





- **UoB eXcelBristol Apprentices** - career entry points across Professional Services divisions
  - **39 apprentices in total**, ranging from GCSE to Master's equivalent
  - **Awarded City of Bristol College Apprentice Large Employer of 2024**
- **West of England ShareToSupport scheme**, delivered by Western Training Provider Network
  - **We've helped create 91 apprenticeships across 37 SMEs** in the region, sharing 20% of our levy
- **Join us!** – a route to employment for those from diverse backgrounds
  - **Working with schools and colleges to raise awareness of different careers and pathways into UoB**
  - **Engaged more than 1,200 year 9-11's in past the year.**
- **OurCity2030** – funding to provide career training, mentoring, and support to young people living in economically disadvantaged areas

# Civic University Agreement

- A convening approach not 'reinventing the wheel'
- Six thematic strands
  - Economy, skills and employment
  - Equality, diversity and inclusion
  - Health and wellbeing
  - Climate, sustainability and the built environment
  - Effective leadership and advocacy for the city
  - Enabling through partnership and community





# Barton Hill Micro-Campus

- Based at the Wellspring Settlement
- A space for bringing the local communities of Bristol and the University closer together
- Community-based teaching, research, workshops and engagement in partnership with local individuals, groups, and organisations
- Co-designed research and programmes developed in partnership with local stakeholders
- An active timetable of weekly events and drop-in sessions (inc. free legal advice, library service, study sessions and coffee mornings)
- From Jan '25, piloting a similar approach in South Bristol with the Gatehouse Centre, focused on contributing to the local skills ecosystem
- From 2026, a wider approach via Temple Quarter Enterprise Campus





# WHAT MORE CAN WE DO TO ENSURE OUR CITY-REGION HAS THE FUTURE SKILLS IT NEEDS?





# BRISTOL LEARNING CITY: FUTURE SKILLS

Professor Palie Smart

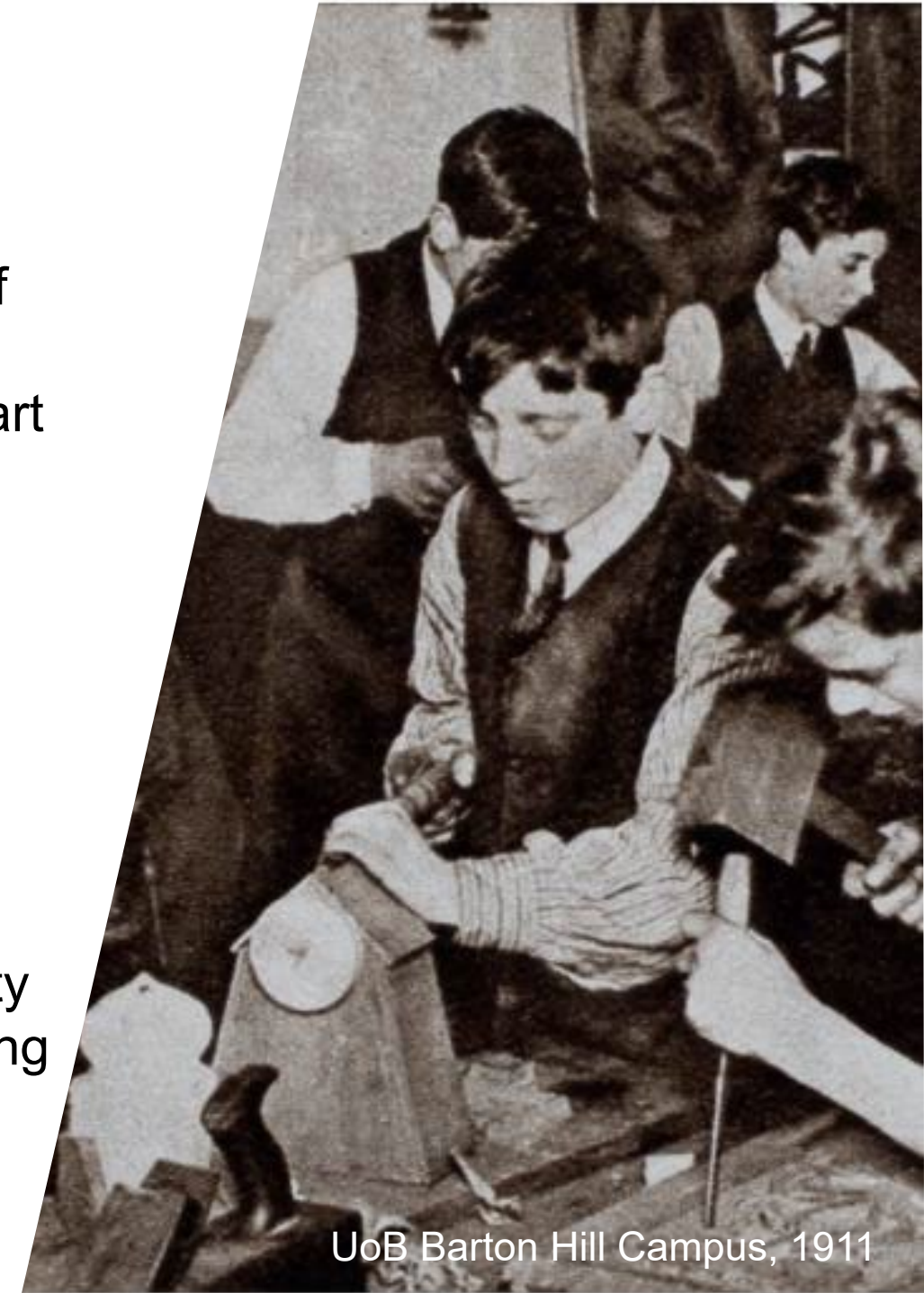
Associate Pro-Vice Chancellor for Global  
Civic Engagement



# Global Civic University in a UNESCO City of Learning

- ~150 yrs contributing to social and economic success of the city
  - Science, engineering, academic entrepreneurship, art and culture
  - No 1 UK Uni spinouts, AI Uni of the year, Bristol Innovations
  - Temple Quarter Enterprise Campus
- Core competences for social good is a strategic priority, spanning local, national and international boundaries
- Global hub for knowledge creation
  - Distributed character and its context of application
  - Co-production and partnerships for shared prosperity
- Located in the heart of a UNESCO global City of Learning

UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) is the UN body responsible for coordinating international cooperation in education, science, culture, and communication & information.



UoB Barton Hill Campus, 1911



# Changing landscapes

- Yesterday's world!
- Political changes for nation, city and region
- Industrial Strategy Green Paper
  - Growth mission, raising national productivity in G7
  - Sustainable and inclusive
  - Private, Public and NFP
- Placemaking for our one city, many communities
- Devolution Paper and Mayoral Combined Authorities (MCAs)



# Future Skills

- Industrial strategy to be underpinned by a skills agenda
- Skills England
  - Get Britain Working White Paper
  - Local Growth Plans
  - Lifelong learning
- Get Britain Working White Paper
  - “Genuine partnerships”
- Global, national and regional excellence

Press release

## **Skills England to transform opportunities and drive growth**

New body launched to bring together key partners to meet the skills needs of the next decade across all regions.

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From: [Department for Education](#), [The Rt Hon Sir Keir Starmer KCB KC MP](#) and [The Rt Hon Bridget Phillipson MP](#)

Published 22 July 2024

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The Prime Minister and Education Secretary have announced the launch of Skills England to bring together the fractured skills landscape and create a shared national ambition to boost the nation's skills.

The Education Secretary has also today (22 July 2024) appointed Richard Pennycook CBE, former chief executive of the Co-operative Group and lead non-executive director at the DfE, as the interim Chair.



# Session plan

- Opening presentation
- Expert panel discussion with Prof Palie Smart:
  - Julia Gray, Principal, City of Bristol College
  - Dr Naomi Logan, Head of Employment & Skills, West of England Combined Authority
  - James Darley, Founder and CEO Transform Society
  - Poku Osei, Babbasa
  - Stuart Johnson, Director of Careers and Skills, University of Bristol
- Case of city-region partnership to develop green skills, Dr Ed Atkins
- Roundtable discussions, Rob Taffinder
- Action planning, expert panel reflections, Prof Palie Smart



# Expert Panel Discussion

**Chaired by Professor Palie Smart**



Julia Gray, Principal of City  
of Bristol College

Stuart Johnson,  
Director of Careers and Skills,  
University of Bristol



Dr Naomi Logan,  
Head of Employment & Skills,  
West of England Combined Authority



James Darley,  
CEO Transform Society



Poku Osei,  
CEO & Founder Babbasa



# Roundtable Discussions

Led by Rob Taffinder



- Each table will address a question related to how we can **work in partnership** to facilitate a city-region skills ecosystem that drives an inclusive and sustainable economy.
- A UoB facilitator and scribe will lead you in the 30-minute discussion
- Your task is to identify three priority actions, with your **top choice** shared with the room via Mentimeter by the scribe
- Everyone will vote on the actions using Mentimeter
- The panel will provide their reflections



# Voting: Mentiometer

- Please use your phone or laptop to go to [www.menti.com](http://www.menti.com)
- Enter the code **2415 6874**
- Choose the top three actions you'd most like to see taken forward
- Rank them 1 (priority) to 3 by dragging the actions
- No need to rank the other actions
- Scroll down and press submit
- We encourage you not to vote for your own table's action!





Join at menti.com | use code 2415 6874

Which priority actions should we take forward? **Please rank your top three and press submit.**



# Expert Panel Reflections on Court's Actions

Chaired by Professor Palie Smart



Julia Gray, Principal of City  
of Bristol College

Stuart Johnson,  
Director of Careers and Skills,  
University of Bristol



Dr Naomi Logan,  
Head of Employment & Skills,  
West of England Combined Authority

James Darley,  
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# Environment What Works Pilot – Ambition Lawrence Weston and Green Skills

Caroline Bird and Ed Atkins

Mark Pepper  
Steve Dale



## CONTEXT

Net zero agendas require 'green' skills development at all levels – 50,000 new jobs in the WECA region are needed to meet net zero by 2030.

## WHAT IS NEEDED?

Advanced manufacturing, construction and installation (including retrofit), operation and maintenance.

Digital, communications, management and leadership.

## CHALLENGE

How to ensure local–regional skills pipelines are inclusive and do not repeat/exacerbate current inequities?

How to tailor approaches to support young people (skills development) *and* those already in work (skills transferability and reskilling)?

Green Resilient Skills



## AMBITION LAWRENCE WESTON

Project co-devised with Mark Pepper (ALW) – focus on ensuring that Lawrence Weston residents have access to new skills developments and job opportunities.

## CIVIC UNIVERSITY AGREEMENT

Use of convening approach of CUA to bring together key stakeholders across Bristol region to think through barriers/enablers and co-devise new approaches.

## WHAT, WHEN AND WHO?

Two convening workshops hosted. Colleagues present included: UoB, UWE, City of Bristol College, Bristol City Council, WECA, City Leap, Vattenfall, Partners in Bristol, Green Schools Project.

Green Resilient Skills

## BARRIERS

Accessibility – travel, costs, time availability.  
'Learning vs. earning' equations  
People (not) seeing themselves in emergent jobs and skills.

## ENABLERS

Meet people where they are – place-based green skills offering can address barriers of accessibility (and fear of the unknown).

## FUTURE STEPS

Focus on retrofit skills.  
Hosting of skills workshops at Ambition House.

Pilot approach – reflections on transferability

Green Resilient Skills





# Environment What Works Pilot – Ambition Lawrence Weston and Green Skills

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Thank you for attending and please leave  
any feedback via our online form:

<https://tinyurl.com/4kuj2chs>

