



LIVERPOOL HOPE UNIVERSITY

Est. 1844

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CORPORATE PLAN

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Key Goals

Summary statement

Liverpool Hope University pursues a path of excellence in scholarship and collegial life without reservation or hesitation. The University's distinctive philosophy is to 'educate in the round' – mind, body and spirit – in the quest for Truth, Beauty *and* Goodness.

At the heart of this University is the idea of the Collegium: an academic community of scholars providing a nurturing environment to stimulate and foster the scholarly advancement of all its students, working with and through them to create participants in learning (rather than only recipients of teaching) and to engender personalised learning (rather than mass teaching). The University is concerned both with knowledge and proficiency in academic disciplines, and also with the formation and, indeed, the transformation of its students into graduates prepared for making a difference for good in the world.

The University plans and develops grounds and buildings that are inspiring, aesthetically pleasing, welcoming and accessible, and provides well-equipped teaching and learning spaces. The University also provides social spaces and residential accommodation that encourage a sense of community and self-development. Its garden campuses are safe and secure spaces in which to learn, teach, research, play and pray.

As the only ecumenical Christian University foundation in Europe and distinctive because of this characteristic anywhere in the world, Liverpool Hope University is well placed to make an exceptional contribution – well positioned to enable its students and staff to become truly global citizens, not ready just for the world of work, but also to do the work of the world.

The University shall pursue its goal to be a generator of new knowledge and ideas in order to be a natural centre for research, knowledge transfer, consultancy and professional development. Our students shall have appropriate work and learning placement opportunities and throughout their time at Hope be stimulated to engage with society, to be innovative, creative and acquire knowledge and wisdom. We seek to help them find their vocation and calling.

High quality academic pursuit

This University is guided by its community of scholars and an academic vision held in common. At Hope, academic life is led by accomplished scholars from across the world, creating and deepening a culture of research and teaching, where enquiry is nurtured and celebrated. All areas of the University's academic community shall be engaged in research recognised internationally as excellent. The University shall continue judiciously to appoint scholars who can consistently enhance its academic profile.

This search for excellence amongst academic staff is mirrored in the selection of students for the University. Liverpool Hope seeks bright and promising students irrespective of background. Dedicated to the vision of its 19th century founding colleges to open up opportunities to those traditionally excluded from higher education, Liverpool Hope remains committed to enabling all its students to benefit from a sound University education that is research-informed. At undergraduate level, expectations are set high encompassing as broad an education as possible based firmly in core disciplines and fields. For postgraduate degrees, expectations are of advanced research and study in both theoretical and applied fields of enquiry.

The University shall continue to extend its collaborations with institutions and academics across the world, and especially extend its global network of partnership with institutions that share its mission and values. This network will increasingly enhance Liverpool Hope University's value and service. These global partnerships foster opportunities for research, exchange of faculty and students, fruitful research collaborations and greater internationalisation of the University's curricula and ethos.

Knowing our students ‘one by one’ – deepening the culture of the *collegium*

Hope is committed to being a *collegium* (a fellowship) in which students and staff work closely together, enjoying the benefits of a University environment in which we know one another and engage on a daily basis in discussion and debate. The University believes that the good relationships that foster learning result from these daily interactions.

Growth in its undergraduate numbers should be measured and sustainable. There is scope to grow its post-graduate numbers especially in the area of taught-postgraduate degrees in all Schools and doctoral research in the growing number of areas that have attained high ratings in the Research Excellence Framework.

The University only engages in large group-teaching for certain plenary lectures. Much of the learning and academic engagement shall increasingly take place in smaller seminar and tutorial groups.

Liverpool Hope builds community through a unique residential experience. Students live in halls of residence overseen by hall resident tutors who have both a pastoral and learning-support role. Hall life is a fundamental part of the first-year student experience and Liverpool Hope will provide a community-based experience to support the transition to university life. Involvement in the University community is an essential part of University life also for those living off campus. More opportunities will be provided for the engagement of non-residential students.

At the heart of the University are its scholars and their students. The University considers it extremely important that effective ways are found to hear the whole students’ voice in order to respond to their concerns and build a supportive learning community. A well-functioning Students’ Union is a vital part of to this endeavour and the University ensures that students are represented in all its major decision-making bodies.

The University and the City of Liverpool offer many opportunities for cultural discovery – music, theatre, sport and art. Opening these opportunities to the whole student body and enhancing the curriculum through partnership with the City’s cultural organisations provide a broader and deeper learning experience.

A transformational experience for students and for all those we serve

Since the beginning of its first founding college 175 years ago, the University has consistently created educational opportunity for all. The formation of students in the University is made possible through high quality and varied educational experiences. While the selection arrangements for admission are rigorous, there is a willingness to encourage all who have the ability and capacity to benefit from an education at this university.

The University provides significant support to enhance the chances of employment or to offer opportunities to those who wish to become employers themselves.

In recognising a deeper calling to serve the world, the University promotes a sense of social justice and respect for others. All students have the opportunity to undertake volunteering through the Service & Leadership Award programme alongside their academic studies. International volunteering opportunities are available through the University's charity Global Hope. The University will redouble its efforts to engage students in learning to live sustainably and to instil the virtues of global responsibility.

There are many post-graduate opportunities for those who wish to undertake further academic study. These can be academic preparation for doctoral study or professional post-graduate degrees, which prepare students both academically and professionally.

An enterprising University that is financially self-sufficient

The University seeks to be a generator of new knowledge and an innovator of ideas. It is the natural epicentre for research and offers Continuing Professional Development to more than its normal cohorts of undergraduate and post-graduate students i.e. to those in the public sector, community bodies (the third sector) and the world of business who do not necessarily enrol for study towards whole degrees and diplomas.

In the context of the removal of almost all direct teaching-grant funding by the State, the University now seeks even more to extend its culture of enterprise and service. There is a range of professional qualifications and practices based on the needs of communities and the emerging professions. A humanities-shaped and liberal arts informed education is as important for our contemporary societies as subjects seen to be directly contributing to economical or technological development!

There is an inherent value in developing entrepreneurial practices conducted with serious ethical intent and imbued with a spirit of service.

We shall provide placement opportunities for our students to engage with public and private sectors. These include incubation hubs and mentoring opportunities with businesses and public sector organisations.

Graduate employability is a key driver at the University and support is given to students at many points of their study and development – either at the University, through alumni relations or through continuing professional development.

A distinctive place for learning

The buildings and gardens across the University support the University's academic ambitions, its community and participants from both the public and business sectors.

The University places high value on the quality of its buildings and gardens for the well-being of all its staff and students. We will maintain and enhance high quality Estates that are inspiring, aesthetically pleasing, welcoming and accessible, and provide well-equipped teaching and learning space, using the best technological solutions where appropriate. We seek to encourage our staff and students to create a real community of interaction and engagement on campus turning academic offices into studies and student study spaces into vibrant places for learning. The University provides social space and accommodation that encourage a sense of community. Our garden campuses are safe and secure spaces in which to live and learn.

The University will redouble its efforts to reduce the University's carbon footprint and plans its Estates developments within an environmentally viable framework that contributes towards a sustainable future.