

BROOKES 2012

An onstream special for staff



FOR BROOKES STAFF

The last year saw considerable change both at Brookes and in the wider higher education sector. This booklet for staff summarises some of the changes that have been made and some more that are planned to improve our already strong reputation.

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Welcome to the new academic year. If you were lucky enough to get a holiday I hope you had an enjoyable break.

It is almost a cliché to say that last year was a turbulent one for universities. Having said that, we now have greater clarity on what we face.

The Government signalled considerable change with a sharp increase in fees and a greater emphasis on the student experience.

But, as you've heard me say, I'm extremely confident about Brookes' future. Undergraduate applications and our funding for research are both at an all time high.

Of course we will need to make a strong case for the enduring value of higher education and a Brookes degree in particular. But I am positive that the changes we are making, including the new university structure, the

investment in our campuses and the closer involvement of students will help considerably. You will find out more detail in this Onstream special.

This semester sees the official 'launch' of our new faculties and academic departments, and there have been some other important changes in the organisation of IT services and admissions, and a new structure for central finance operations.

As a result, many of you will be taking up new posts this month and this will mean there will continue to be some uncertainties until the new structures have bedded down. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved for their continued commitment throughout this time.

The changes we've made have already resulted in a

much greater level of cross faculty working and exchange of best practice. They will ensure academic values are at the heart of our decision making and will strengthen our academic departments to help us build further on our teaching and research.

I believe this new structure will stand the test of time and will support our commitment and focus on the success of our students. I am sure that as a result Brookes will continue to prosper as an institution in this increasingly competitive world.

Thank you for your support and I look forward to working with you in this new academic year.



PROFESSOR JANET BEER
VICE-CHANCELLOR

Applications up
18%
this year.

Over
£4 million
in research
grants awarded
in 2010/11.



STRATEGY AND STRUCTURE

In 2010 Brookes set itself a new strategy to take us through the decade ahead. The changes made to our organisational structure are a key step to support its implementation.

A CONSISTENT STRATEGY

The 2020 Strategy sets out how Brookes will provide an exceptional, student-centred experience based on both internationally significant research and educational best practice.

The key priorities include:

- delivery of an outstanding student experience
- the further development of world-class research
- a positive commitment to our wider community
- creating sector-leading, high quality services for the future.

The Strategy was agreed before the Government's funding changes but the University remains committed to the objectives it set out.

A STRUCTURE TO HELP ITS IMPLEMENTATION

The launch of the new faculties and the organisational changes in some of the administrative directorates will help us deliver the Strategy.

These changes will:

- Put academic values at the heart of the institution
- Strengthen our departments and build critical mass to improve research
- Improve communication, remove complexity and simplify our processes
- Put us in a stronger position to face the future.

PROGRESS:

- New Senior Management Team including faculty PVC/Deans in place.
- New admission and marketing processes agreed for implementation this year.
- Associate Deans leading on student experience and research in post.
- Oxford Brookes Information Services set up to provide, manage and support the University's IT infrastructure.
- New academic department structure created.
- New administrative career progression arrangements under development, building on the generic roles created across the faculties.
- Consistent structures created for faculty administrative support.
- A new range of roles for principal lecturers including appointments to a special student experience task-force.
- New faculties and departments launched in September.



Having worked at Brookes for the past ten years, I can say that there has never been a more exciting time to be part of this university.

June Girvin
Pro Vice-Chancellor/Dean,
Faculty of Health and Life Sciences



5

**national
teaching
fellowships in
two years.**



**Awarded the
Investors in
People Gold
Award in
February 2011.**



OUR ACADEMIC DEPARTMENTS

The departmental structure will become much stronger in the University. This will help put academic values at the heart of decision-making, will provide clarity at subject level but also reduce barriers to inter-disciplinary research, academic development and knowledge transfer.

FACULTY OF BUSINESS	Accounting, Finance and Economics: Dr Dan Herbert	Business and Management: Dr Louise Grisoni	Marketing (Incorporating the Oxford International Centre for Publishing): Georgina Whyatt	Oxford School of Hospitality Management: Donald Sloan		
FACULTY OF HEALTH AND LIFE SCIENCES	Biological and Medical Sciences: Prof David Evans	Clinical Health Care: Liz Westcott	Psychology: Prof Margaret Harris	Social Work and Public Health: Dr Sharon Vitali	Sports and Health Sciences: Dr Ann Ewens	
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES	School of Education: Dr Helena Mitchell	English and Modern Languages: Dr Simon Kövesi	History, Philosophy and Religion: TBA	Institute of Public Care: Prof Keith Moultrie	School of Law: Prof Meryll Dean	Social Sciences: Dr Chris McDonough
FACULTY OF TECHNOLOGY, DESIGN AND ENVIRONMENT	School of Architecture: Matt Gaskin	School of Arts: Alison Honour	Computing and Communication Technologies: Dr Nigel Crook	Mechanical Engineering and Mathematical Sciences: Dr Gareth Neighbour	Planning: Prof Georgia Butina Watson	Real Estate and Construction: Prof Joseph Tah

The Oxford International Centre for Publishing will be promoted as a separate entity. The Departments of Accounting, Finance and Economics, Business and Management and Marketing will be externally promoted as the Business School.

SUPPORTING IMPROVEMENTS

Change at Brookes last year also involved some of the directorates, and there were further initiatives to implement our strategy and respond to Government proposals.

FEES AND FUNDING

The provision of an exceptional student experience and measures to ensure finance is not a barrier to taking a degree were put at the heart of Brookes' decision to charge £9,000 a year for tuition costs for UK and EU students.

The decision followed an extensive consultation with staff and the Students' Union and commits Brookes to improve and invest in all areas of university life.

The proposals agreed by OFFA will include bursaries of up to £2,000 and fee reductions of up to £2,500 for lower income groups. In addition the reduction in numbers of on-campus undergraduate students by 10 to 15% will enable a significant expansion of our foundation degree programme at partner colleges which will be charged at £6,000 per year.

Taken together, the average cost to students is likely to be just over £7,600 a year, staff-student ratios will be enhanced and the campus development programme will be accelerated.

STRATEGY TO ENHANCE THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

The strategy to enhance the student experience will see five core graduate attributes developed as part of every Brookes undergraduate programme.

The five attributes are; academic literacy, research literacy, critical self awareness, digital and information literacy, and global citizenship.

Work will begin to ensure these attributes are incorporated into every degree to enable graduates to demonstrate the skills and 'adaptive' expertise to enable them to take up successful careers. Similar attributes for postgraduate courses have also recently been agreed.

Brookes will also work more closely with students both on academic matters and wider university life. As part of this a new, shorter Student Charter written jointly by the University and the Students' Union has recently been approved.

RESEARCH SUCCESS

Brookes received more research funding last year than any year previously. Over £4 million was raised in successful bids.

Successful bids included grants from the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council for research on cell biology, a prestigious award from Google for computer vision research and a grant from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council for research on the tensor analysis of gait recognition to potentially help the diagnosis of neurological conditions.

In addition Brookes is now leading a new Arts and Humanities Research Council 'Block Grant Partnership' with the Universities of Surrey and Hertfordshire. In further recognition that the AHRC sees Brookes as a major research player, the Partnership will fund a number of postgraduate studentships during the next three years. This will help build capacity and develop interdisciplinary research collaboration, with a view to applying for new funding streams in future years.

Preparations are now underway for the Research Excellence Framework (REF), the means by which HEFCE will make decisions on the distribution of its funding. Any research output published between 2008 and 2013 will be returnable, so in many disciplines it is not too late to materially change our REF return and further enhance our standing.

CHANGES IN THE DIRECTORATES

Oxford Brookes Informations Solutions (OBIS) is the new IT directorate providing, managing and supporting the University's IT services and infrastructure for all staff and students.

It has four main departments:

- Information systems. Managing existing university applications such as PIP and delivering exciting new ones.
- Technology. Managing, developing and delivering IT infrastructure: the systems upon which the University's IT services run, the devices through which they are accessed and the network over which they are delivered.
- Business partnerships. Professionalising IT and connecting OBIS to the faculties, directorates, students and the wider world.
- Customer services. Simplifying support services with a single-point-of-contact service desk for all IT, AV and training requests. Providing excellence and innovation in customer support and training.

The new single point of contact is already available.

T: x3311

E: servicedesk@brookes.ac.uk

**Around
£3.5
million
to be spent on
fee waivers and
bursaries.**



**£1.4
million
awarded to
carry out
research into
low carbon
communities.**

CONTINUITY AND CHANGE

The next academic year will see further work to implement the Brookes Strategy and to prepare for the new student funding arrangements.

MAKING THE CASE

It's not clear how prospective students will respond to the new funding regime. Attendance at our open day last summer increased, but we still need to make a strong case to those considering a degree.

Funding information for prospective students is available on our website and the simple key point that can be made to those considering an application for 2012 is that students do not have to pay up front.

www.brookes.ac.uk/finance2012

IMPROVED INFORMATION

2012 will see the introduction of 'Key Information Sets' (KIS) to help prospective higher education students decide what and where to study.

For every undergraduate programme, a KIS will provide an online summary of information about student satisfaction; learning and assessment; financial costs and support; employment outcomes and professional body recognition. Information will be presented in an accessible, standard format on university websites, enabling students to make easy comparisons between different courses.

The KIS was developed after an extensive research and development programme to determine what information students find useful, led by Brookes' Vice-Chancellor Janet Beer. The Academic and Student Affairs Directorate is working with the Strategic Business Planning Office on implementing the KIS which will be based on the National Student Survey results published next summer.

IMPROVING OUR ESTATE

Brookes is already investing £150m in its campuses. The construction of the flagship new library and teaching building at Headington is well underway and the first part, an extension to the Abercrombie building, will open in summer 2012.

New, bespoke, hall accommodation is also being constructed at Harcourt Hill and will be finished next summer as well. In addition a planning application has been submitted for a new road at Wheatley to improve access to the site.

But with the new fees regime it has become increasingly clear that student expectations will increase and the development of our buildings will need to accelerate.

Therefore the first stage of a review of the Oxford Brookes estate has begun. Its aim is to develop a plan that will, as quickly as possible, ensure all students have access to facilities that are consistent with those that will be available in the new library and teaching building.

The objective is to provide modern new facilities but also reduce the cost of running our estate. A number of different options will be considered and it is hoped that the first proposals will be discussed with University governors in the New Year.

www.brookes.ac.uk/spacethink

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At Brookes you can see what a modern university looks like... This is my vision of what universities can do in the future.

David Willetts
Minister of State for Universities and Science

“

A strong combination of outstanding teaching, strong research and, latterly, students happy to sing the praises of both.

The Sunday Times University Guide 2011

UPDATED LOOK FOR BROOKES

To coincide with the new library and teaching building, and restructure Brookes is taking the opportunity to update its visual identity. This means there are new design guidelines which are available at www.brookes.ac.uk/identity



'It's a big thrill for me to join a university on such a steep upward trajectory.'

Alistair Fitt,
Pro Vice-Chancellor,
Research



FIND OUT MORE

The Senior Management Team will be holding its next set of campus briefings at:

Headington on Tuesday 1st November at 12.00

Main Lecture Theatre

Marston Road on Friday 11th November at 1.30

Lecture Theatre

Wheatley on Thursday 17th November at 12.00

H125

Harcourt Hill on Monday 21st November at 11.30

Lecture Theatre B1/01

Onstream is published fortnightly for wider University news and is available at: <https://www2.brookes.ac.uk/onstream/>

Please submit news articles to onstream@brookes.ac.uk

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BROOKES
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