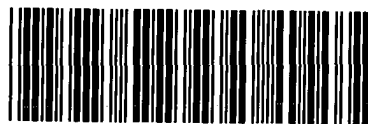


Universities
UK

Annual report and consolidated financial statements

Year ended 31 July 2022

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Charity Number: 1001127
Company Number: 2517018

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Trustees' report

The trustees present their report and the financial statements for Universities UK for the year ended 31 July 2022.

Name and membership

The name of the charity and company is Universities UK. Universities UK is the representative organisation for the UK's universities. Its members are the executive heads of UK university institutions who have met the criteria for membership agreed by the Board of the company. It currently has 140 members. Membership is voluntary and members are represented both at the UK level and through Universities Scotland and Universities Wales.

The objectives of Universities UK as set out in its Articles of Association are:

- To promote and provide facilities for discussion and consultation between representatives of university institutions in the UK, on any matters affecting or relevant to the university sector of higher education in the UK.
- To formulate policies on any matters affecting or relevant to the university sector of higher education in the UK.
- To represent the university sector of higher education in the UK and to conduct dealings and to liaise with the government, any local, national or other institutions, authorities, agencies, bodies or persons, wheresoever in the world situated.
- To provide information, advice and assistance to universities within the UK, or any of their representatives, on any aspect of educational affairs, including administrative and financial matters relating to or connected with education.
- To take any steps (including without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing the issue, maintenance, financing and enforcement of legal proceedings) for the purpose of protecting the interest, reputation or good standing of the universities or the university sector of higher education in the UK or the integrity of any degree, diploma or other awards issued by universities in the UK.

Mission and main activities

The mission of Universities UK is to create the conditions for UK universities to be the best in the world, maximising their positive impact locally, nationally and globally. Services and activities include research and policy development, lobbying of government and influential stakeholders, dissemination of information to members and the wider public using all forms of media, conferences and events, and national and international networking activity.

Public benefit

All of Universities UK's activities are ultimately carried out for the wider public benefit of creating and maintaining a world-class higher education sector that benefits students, the UK economy, the UK's educational and research standing in the world and the wider social good. Collectively, the institutions led by the members of Universities UK demonstrate their wide social and economic contribution through the delivery of research, teaching, expertise and training. Higher education is available to all with the ability to benefit, regardless of their economic circumstances. The benefits of this activity to the UK are considerable. UK universities played a significant role in the research, medical and civic response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. In delivery of its services and activities, Universities UK has fully supported its members, and assisted them to achieve their public benefit goals.

Trustees

Following the Governance Review the Board has now reduced to 21 members through retirement of the 7 elected policy network replaced by 4 policy leads. The Board are directors of the company and trustees of the charity, elected or appointed from among its members. Those appointed for the year to 31 July 2022 were as follows:

Professor Steven West CBE	President 2021–2023
Professor Colin Bailey CBE	
Professor Liz Barnes CBE *	
Professor Dame Janet Beer DBE	
Professor Paul Boyle CBE	
Professor Julia Buckingham CBE *	
Professor Chris Day ***	
Professor Jenny Higham	
Professor Debra Humphris	
Professor Sir Chris Husbands	
Professor Paul Layzell CBE ***	Treasurer
Professor Dame Sally Mapstone	
Professor Sir Gerry McCormac ***	Convener, Universities Scotland & Vice-President Scotland
Professor Quintin McKellar CBE	Vice-President England and Northern Ireland
Professor Edward Peck CBE ***	
Professor Malcolm Press CBE **	
Professor Rama Thirunamachandran	
Dr Paul Thompson	
Professor Wendy Thomson CBE	
Professor Adam Tickell	
Professor Elizabeth Treasure	Chair, Universities Wales & Vice-President Wales
Professor Shearer West CBE	

* Term of office ended 31 December 2021

** Term of office started 1 January 2022

*** Term of office ended 31 July 2022

The following were also members of the UK Board on the date this report was approved:

Professor Nishan Canagarajah	Appointed 1 August 2022
Professor Karen Cox	Appointed 1 August 2022
Professor Paul Croney OBE	Appointed 1 August 2022
Mr Stephen Marston	Appointed 1 August 2022, Treasurer 2022–2024
Professor Lisa Roberts	Appointed 1 August 2022

No member of the UK Board had a beneficial interest in any contract with the company. Board members are elected by the vice-chancellors of the member universities or nominated by the Governance and Nominations Committee.

Chief Executive

Vivienne Stern MBE

Structure, governance and management

Organisational structure of the company

Universities UK

Universities UK is a company limited by guarantee with the registered number 2517018, governed by its Articles of Association adopted in March 2022. It is a charity with the registered number 1001127. Its principal offices are in Bloomsbury, London.

Universities Scotland

In Scotland (where it operates from its Edinburgh office under the name Universities Scotland), Universities UK is registered as a charity with the registered number SC029163.

Universities Wales

In Wales (where it operates from its Cardiff office under the name Universities Wales), Universities Wales is a national council of the charity Universities UK with the registered number 1001127.

Structure of subsidiary companies

Woburn House Conference Centre Ltd

Universities UK owns 100% of the share capital of Woburn House Conference Centre Limited (company number 3031467) whose business is the operation of the conference facilities at Woburn House. Income generated from the activity of the centre is covenanted to Universities UK.

Medical Schools Council

Universities UK is the holding member of the Medical Schools Council, a company limited by guarantee (company number 8817383) and registered with the Charity Commission (number 1155370). The objects of the Medical Schools Council are to promote, encourage and develop medical schools in the UK and thereby advance education for the public benefit, in particular medical education, research and training. Its Board of Directors is elected from its own members.

MSC Assessment

The Medical Schools Council is the holding member of MSC Assessment, a company limited by guarantee (company number 8578576) and registered with the Charity Commission (number 1153045). The objects of MSC Assessment are to advance medical education for the benefit of the public including by the preparation, validation, accreditation, conduct and administration of any tests, examinations or other systems of assessing, evaluating and recording any aspect of medical education and training. Its Board of Directors is elected from members of the Medical Schools Council.

The results and financial position of Woburn House Conference Centre Limited, the Medical Schools Council and MSC Assessment are consolidated with those of Universities UK in preparing its consolidated financial statements. Separate results are shown in note 22 to the financial statements.

CVCP Properties plc

CVCP Properties plc is not a subsidiary of Universities UK but is considered to be a related party. Universities UK owns all 550,000 preference shares in CVCP Properties plc and 50,000 (1%) of its ordinary shares. Universities UK is a major tenant of CVCP Properties plc in Woburn House.

Restricted funds

The restricted funds managed by Universities UK include parts of Universities UK International funds (operating units of Universities UK). Medical Schools Council and its various funds (a subsidiary) and MSC Assessment (a sub-subsidiary) are also restricted funds in Universities UK's consolidated financial statements. Further details on the objectives, activities and financial performance of all restricted funds are given in notes 20 and 22 to the financial statements.

Relationship with higher education sector agencies

Universities UK is the original subscribing member of various UK higher education sector agencies including Advance HE, Higher Education Careers Service Unit, Higher Education Statistics Agency, Office of the Independent Adjudicator, Quality Assurance Agency, UCAS, Universities and Colleges Employers Association and Jisc.

Members of Universities UK contribute to governance oversight of these bodies through Board membership and other involvement, alongside interaction between Universities UK staff and staff of the bodies concerned. Transactions between Universities UK and these sector agencies are disclosed in note 26 to the financial statements.

Governance and decision-making

Non-executive directors/trustees

The Board of Trustees comprises up to 21 members and meets five times a year as a minimum. The President, elected by the members, serves a two-year term. The Chairs of Universities Scotland and Universities Wales are members of the Universities UK Board, serving as Vice-Presidents alongside an elected Vice-President for England and Northern Ireland. The membership also elect a Board member to serve as Treasurer.

Induction and training of trustees

New trustees receive information supporting their induction, which includes relevant Charity Commission documents on the role of a trustee, a copy of the Universities UK Articles of Association and the Strategic Plan. It is the aim of the organisation to update trustees and members on any new legislation that may affect the governance of the charity and to offer on-going support through additional training when required.

Board sub-committees

Universities UK has six standing committees: Board Advisory, Resources, Audit and Risk, Governance and Nominations, Membership and Remuneration. Four policy lead roles on the Board lead on key policy issues of the UK higher education agenda in line with the organisation's strategic priorities. Membership of committees is made up of a combination of Board members and members. The Resources, Audit and Risk and Remuneration also have an independent member appointed through a competitive recruitment process.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration

Member input and support to the work of Universities UK is on a non-remunerated basis.

The pay and remuneration of executive management is set by a Remuneration Committee, which comprises Universities UK members chaired by the Treasurer and includes an independent member. The pay and remuneration levels for all other staff grades is negotiated with the recognised union, Prospect, as part of the recognition agreement.

Executive management

The Chief Executive leads a Senior Leadership Team comprising the Directors of Policy, Member Services, Universities UK International, Communications, Operations, Universities Scotland and Universities Wales.

Charity Governance Code

Universities UK governance has been reviewed against the Charity Governance Code. Universities UK is committed to applying good practice where possible and explaining where it is not aligned, the reasons for this or changes that are being planned. The Code is applied in the context of Universities UK being a relatively small membership organisation of 140 members, with most of the Board elected by and from its membership.

Principle 1 – organisational purpose

2021–22 was the penultimate year of the strategic plan for 2018–23: World Leading Impact. The review of Governance Effectiveness concluded that Universities UK's objects as set out in its Articles of Association are fit for purpose and are consistent with the mission, vision and strategy. The Board has oversight of the management of resources ensuring that the allocation is linked to operational plans in pursuit of strategic objectives and therefore overall organisational purpose.

Principle 2 – leadership

The Board is led by the President, supported by a Board Advisory Committee. Across the Board and the Advisory Committee there are robust debates leading to an agreed direction for the officers and staff to follow. 2021–22 was the first year of the current President's two-year term, and elections took place in the year for Treasurer and other vacant Board posts terms come to an end. The President has oversight of CEO performance.

Principle 3 – integrity

Board and Board Advisory Committee members declare all conflicts of interest at every meeting and will absent themselves from discussions as required. Through its sub-committee structures the Board has oversight of issues such as finances, HR practices, procurement, data security and integrity, safeguarding and remuneration to make sure that the charity operates responsibly in line with its own ethics and values.

Principle 4 – decision making, risk and control

The Board have oversight of finance, performance and risk through its sub-committee structure and Board meeting agendas. The Audit and Risk Committees considers risk at each meeting. The Board are presented with the strategic risk registers at every meeting and have a full discussion on risk once a year, or more often if significant changes occur. All sub-committees have Terms of Reference established which are approved by the Board.

Principle 5 – Board effectiveness

15 out of 21 Board members are elected from the membership by the membership. Board posts have set terms, and roles are subject to re-election when those terms expire. It is unusual for total service to exceed nine years, but possible if members are elected to different roles on the Board or they have expertise or responsibilities relevant to the Board's deliberations or strategic priorities.

By 31 July 2022, Professor Dame Janet Beer DBE (President and Chair of the Board from 2017–19) had served 13 years in a number of different elected roles and was elected by the membership for a further term starting 1 August 2020 as Policy Lead for International.

Principle 6 – equality, diversity, and inclusion

15 board posts are elected from and by the membership, there are challenges with the diversity of potential candidates. The remaining positions are 'nominated members' identified by the Governance and Nominations Committee and approved by the Board. The nominated positions are selected using a matrix of skills, experience, knowledge, background and institution. The Board believes that as far as it can within the constraints of an elected Board, reasonable steps are taken to ensure that diversity in its widest sense is prioritised and implemented.

Principle 7 – openness and accountability

The Board and Executive team make every effort to engage with the full membership and give all members opportunities to participate in setting the direction of work for the charity through regular member meetings, roundtable events, VC dinners with the senior team and task and finish groups. The Chief Executive hosts group Teams calls each featuring 15-20 members, to which all members are invited, to discuss current issues. Members of the senior team also regularly speak one-to-one with members and visit universities, meeting with members of their senior teams.

Strategic report**Strategic aims**

2021–22 represented the penultimate year of Universities UK's five-year-strategic plan: 2018–23, World Leading Impact. The long-term, strategic objectives are:

- **Opportunity:** Anyone with the will and potential to succeed, no matter their background, has the opportunity to transform their lives through accessing an outstanding academic experience at a UK university.
- **Impact:** UK universities are demonstrably world-leading in the production and application of knowledge and skills through research, teaching and innovation, evidencing significant economic, social, cultural and civic impact and contributing materially to society.
- **Trust:** Through demonstrating positive impact on students' lives, economic growth, public services and civil society, UK universities enjoy widespread public trust and political support.
- **Global universities:** UK universities are global leaders in international education and research, educating a significant proportion of globally mobile students, demonstrating increased levels of high impact international research collaboration; and achieving increases in outwardly mobile students and students registered on UK programmes overseas.
- **Autonomy:** UK universities are free to make autonomous decisions and adopt strategies according to their diverse missions and the needs of their students and communities, while taking collective responsibility for the quality of leadership and governance in higher education and benefiting from stable and sustainable funding that enables them to maximise their positive impact.

- We will continue to **develop our organisational capabilities** to ensure that we are making the most of our members, our people, our external profile, our resources and our work.

These aims are achieved through the delivery of activities to members in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales to support their domestic and international activities, and institutions providing higher education in medical and health. Our work is organised through annual programme plans, detailing our short-term objectives.

Activities for members – England, Northern Ireland, UK wide and International

Our activities include policy research, analysis and development, relationship building, lobbying, campaigning and advocacy, communications with the media, public and stakeholders and development and delivery of services to our members.

The past 12 months have continued to be challenging and full of uncertainty as we have navigated the ongoing pandemic, significant and frequent policy developments, and the crisis in Ukraine. Across our membership, we have seen positive engagement and continued support for our activities.

Covid-19 dominated the political narrative and impacted university activities particularly in the first half of the year. Universities UK dedicated significant resource to supporting universities to manage these challenges. Approaches across the four nations differed with England emerging from restrictions in advance of Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland.

More recently, we have seen the Westminster government finally publish its long-awaited post-18 education and funding response with confirmation of a tuition fees freeze in England until 2024–25 and the launch of significant consultations on HE reforms and the Lifelong Loan Entitlement. In the latter half of the year, we have undertaken substantial member engagement, analysis and evidence gathering to formulate our consultation responses alongside extensive communications and political affairs activity to make our position clear. With the change in the Conservative Party leadership and Ministers, we are waiting for further political developments before this work can progress.

Climate change is an ever-growing global challenge and with COP-26 taking place in late 2021 we published a report outlining how the UK's universities are confronting the climate emergency. We also took steps to increase public understanding of how universities are tackling climate change via a major new strand of our #MadeAtUni campaign.

In the year in which the UK hit its international student recruitment target more than eight years early, we progressed a range of actions to secure the UK's status as a front runner in international education. We mobilised rapidly in response to the humanitarian crises in Afghanistan and Ukraine, identifying and facilitating how universities could support students and staff in both countries. We also continued our efforts to secure the UK's status as an associated country in Horizon Europe (or ensure suitable alternative options) and took steps to maximise the success of the Turing scheme.

We continued to expand our political influencing, adapting to a new Westminster Education Secretary part-way through the year and major Cabinet changes in July 2022 and strengthening our links with Westminster and across the devolved parliaments. The All-Party Parliamentary University Group which we provide the secretariat for continues to go from strength to strength.

Universities UK has secured a significant amount of parliamentary engagement in the year with 174 written and oral questions in parliament on issues of interest to Universities UK members and 81 positive references to our work from parliamentarians and government. Regular meetings with ministers, advisors and peers have happened throughout the year. The All-Party Parliamentary Universities Group, which Universities UK provides the secretariat for, has thrived with a membership of 90 universities, 41 MPs and 12 peers.

Member engagement remains high with regular monthly VC calls, our annual conference at Northumbria University in September which signalled a return to in-person activities and our quarterly members' meetings. We continued our engagement with new and mid-term vice-chancellors through peer-to-peer learning opportunities, and our Specialist Institutions' Forum (SIF) brought focus and profile to the issues of our small/specialist institutions.

Using print, broadcast and social media, we disseminated information to members and the wider public. There were 764,000 unique visitors to the Universities UK website and 25,000 unique visitors to the USS employer's website.

Three significant campaigns ran in the year, 'We Are Together' to promote universities' work to support the national effort, 'Getting Results' to highlight the work of universities in the economic and social recovery from Covid-19 and '2020 Made Us' which aimed to boost the confidence of university students.

The #WeAreTogether international recruitment campaign achieved significant success, reassuring 67% of prospective international students to continue with plans to study in the UK ahead of the 2020–21 academic year, winning the 'Marketing Campaign of the Year' category at the PIONEER Awards 2021 and a PR Week Global Award in May 2022. The trustees were delighted that Vivienne Stern, Universities UK International's Director won the 'Outstanding Contribution to the industry' PIONEER award. Universities UK's International Higher Education Forum (IHEF), which took place in April, has also been shortlisted for 'Best Leadership Event' and 'Best International Event' at the International Corporate Event (ICE) Awards.

Events and conferences remain an important channel for sharing information and good practice across the sector and providing opportunities for higher education staff and partners to network. After continued restrictions on in-person events, our conferences moved online with considerable success attracting a broad range of speakers, paying delegates and sponsorship. There were 46 online events delivered with 8,870 delegates in the year. Topics covered included Political Affairs, Employability and Skills, Enhancing the Student Experience, Global Wales and the successful annual International Higher Education Forum.

Universities UK International worked to secure support for international students post-Brexit and to minimise the negative impacts of Covid-19 on the sector's international activities. Universities UK International continues to source and administer international opportunities for students and researchers via the UKIERI Mobility Programme: Study in India, the Mitacs-UK Globalink Research Internship Programme and the Newton Fund. The post study work route for international graduates from UK degree programmes was launched giving them the opportunity to stay in the UK to develop their future career and skills.

This year saw the departure of Universities UK's Chief Executive Alistair Jarvis CBE after five years in the role and over eight years with the organisation. Alistair steered Universities UK through several seismic developments including the UK leaving the European Union and the lengthy pandemic. Under his leadership, Universities UK has become a stronger organisation with greater impact, higher member engagement and a more focused campaigning approach. We wish Alistair every success in his new role at the University of London.

Key outcomes in 2021–22

As a result of the activities in the year Universities UK achieved the following:

Support for Ukraine

We led the sector's response to the crisis in Ukraine including establishing a twinning mechanism to support Ukrainian universities, influencing visa and research policy, and informing the roll-out of the Homes for Ukraine programme. The twinning mechanism has led to over 70 formal partnerships between UK and Ukrainian universities.

Student wellbeing

Building on our [Stepchange framework](#) and the [Student Minds Charter](#), we published guidance on information sharing to support universities in understanding their options to inform family and friends when students are at risk of suicide or serious self-harm. We have also launched work to tackle the harms associated with student drug use and are engaging closely on the issue of spiking and its impact on students.

Admissions

We published our [Fair admissions code of practice](#) to demonstrate the sector's commitment to maintaining fair and transparent admissions processes. Over 130 universities have now [publicly signed up](#) to the code.

Support for concordats

As the secretariat for the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers, we implemented and fostered a new governance structure and strategy. We also launched a new dedicated website to host news, resources and encourage researchers to share their stories.

Universities UK and GuildHE jointly led the development of the Knowledge Exchange Concordat securing considerable commitment from the sector to knowledge exchange.

Protecting degree standards

We published an explainer of how universities are protecting degree standards and tackling grade inflation, showing how universities are delivering on their promise to take significant steps to address concerns about grade inflation. We also published a commitment in England to reversing pandemic-related grade inflation.

Security

We progressed further work to help universities manage security-related risks including a joint statement with international counterparts committing to support safe, secure, and sustainable internationalisation and supporting universities to understand their legal obligations under the new National Security and Investment Act.

Harassment and hate crime

We continued our efforts to tackle all forms of harassment and hate crime within universities including guidance on [tackling staff-to-student sexual misconduct](#), tackling Islamophobia and anti-Muslim hatred and [antisemitism](#), our [#CombatMisconduct Toolkit for Vice-Chancellors](#) and new guidance for universities on sharing the outcomes of harassment complaints.

Supporting international activities

In January 2022, the UK met the recruitment target of 600,000 international students, more than eight years earlier than planned.

Ensuring post-Brexit success

We launched a high-profile campaign, 'Stick to Science' urging EU leaders and the UK and Swiss governments to place science collaboration between politics and to agree the UK's and Switzerland's association to Horizon Europe.

Value of a degree

We published a report [Busting Graduate Jobs Myths](#) showing that employer demand for graduates remains strong and is set to grow further as technology advances and the economy recovers from the pandemic.

Promoting the impact of universities

We continued a range of public campaigning including our [#GettingResults](#) campaign and two strands of our [#MadeAtUni](#) campaign focusing on Creative Sparks and Climate Action. Our earlier [#WeAreTogether](#) campaign received national recognition when it [won a PR Week Global Award](#). In April, as part of our Climate Action campaign, Universities UK International published a new [report](#) on how the climate crisis affects internationalisation.

We partnered with the Committee of University Chairs to commission Britain Thinks to assess public and political perceptions of UK universities. The interim findings show that while perceptions remain broadly positive, there is a risk that anxiety over the cost of living could convince some applicants – those from disadvantaged backgrounds – that studying at university isn't a priority in difficult economic times. The research also shows that the public and stakeholders primarily see the role of universities as educating students and awarding degrees. Universities UK will be working with the university sector to develop campaigns to increase public and political awareness of the impact of universities and to promote their value to students, graduates, employers, and wider society.

Quality and standards

Universities UK took on the role of UK Standing Committee for Quality Assessment secretariat appointing new chair and deputy, bringing together academics and students as well as partners from across the sector and providing oversight of higher education quality assessment arrangements.

The Framework for Programme Reviews launched to assess the value of university courses to students and wider society

Climate emergency

We highlighted how universities are confronting the climate emergency, via a new report, our [#MadeAtUni](#) climate action campaign and through analysis on how the climate crisis affects internationalisation

Promoting academic freedom and freedom of speech

We worked with UK government on the development of the Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill with a view to reducing burden on the sector. Our work was heavily informed by member engagement to identify where further support could help balance academic freedom and freedom of speech with other duties.

Skills

To support Universities UK's approach to the Lifelong Loan Entitlement launched an advisory group which has had positive engagement with DfE officials and developed [principles to support the LLE](#).

Levelling up

We responded strongly to the Levelling up White Paper by urging government to bridge the funding gap while it sets up the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, publishing a new report on the value of graduates to future economic success and developing a positive vision for universities and levelling up (to be published soon).

Degree awarding caps

Following our 2019 Closing the Gap report, we published [Closing the Gap: three years on](#) to assess the sector's progress in tackling ethnicity degree awarding gaps.

Political influence

Universities UK has continued to be the go-to organisation for government and opposition teams when it comes to influencing higher education policy and being the leading sector voice. leading 24 meetings with Westminster Cabinet members and ministers, alongside eight meetings with Labour shadow ministers. We continued our coverage in parliament through 24 positive public mentions of Universities UK from parliamentarians and government and secured 61 oral and written questions in parliament.

All-Party Parliamentary University Group

We secured the renewal of our contract with the All-Party Parliamentary University Group for another three years (until December 2024). University membership of the group reached a record high of 95 in 2021–22. The group published research on perceptions of fees and student finance while our meetings attracted high profile speakers including Research Minister George Freeman MP and OfS Director for Fair Access, John Blake.

Coronavirus response

As with 2020–21, much of this year has been heavily affected by the Coronavirus pandemic. The early part of the year started with cautious optimism as students returned to in-person teaching and learning. However, the emergence of the Omicron variant resulted in further restrictions and uncertainty stretching across the winter months. We prioritised influencing official guidance, advocating for a proportionate response, and ensuring members remained informed of developments. Key outcomes included:

- a) A more effective admissions process for 2021 avoiding the chaos and uncertainty of the 2020 process, mitigating key risks and providing timely information and reassurance to applicants.
- b) Influenced government plans throughout the 2021–22 academic year including evidence gathering on sector preparedness including enhanced ventilation and institutional approaches to the use of face coverings.
- c) Launch of the #GettingResults campaign showcasing how universities will drive economic and social recovery from Covid-19 across all UK nations and regions.
- d) Significant efforts to encourage high vaccination uptake in university populations including a sector [statement](#) highlighting our collective commitment to get students fully vaccinated as soon as possible. Evidence suggests that vaccination rates within the student population are higher than within the wider public.
- e) Secured a solution to the vaccination recognition issue affecting international students.
- f) Published Insights & Analysis [briefing](#) on approaches to the start of term on Universities UK website, sharing the publication with political stakeholders and the media.
- g) Briefed politicians (including the Westminster Secretary of State for Education), officials and the media on the in-person, online mix on campus this academic year. Provided evidence to the Education Select Committee session on the impact of the pandemic on higher education.
- h) Supported the sector to plan for the autumn by convening two webinars on the Step 4 guidance and circulating a briefing of key themes emerging.
- i) Raised concerns about the ongoing supply of lateral flow tests to universities securing assurance that there was sufficient capacity to meet demand.
- j) Secured an extension to the date by which international students must be in the UK to benefit from the concessionary basis when applying for the Graduate route (date extended from 21 June to 27 September 2021).
- k) Secured an extension to the period that institutions can sponsor students who will start/ resume their studying through distance learning from overseas.
- l) Supported Universities UK members to understand further changes to quarantine requirements including the removal of many countries from the UK government's red list.
- m) Responded to various international issues including visa processing delays in Nigeria and Kuwaiti Embassy advice to students about the public health situation in the UK.
- n) Started dialogue with the Home Office to explore how future visa policy can allow for new pedagogical models that might emerge post-pandemic (including launching a survey to gather evidence on university plans).
- o) Published a new briefing on [Lessons from the pandemic: making the most of technologies in teaching](#) which attracted significant media coverage.
- p) Worked with Council of Deans of Health and the Medical Schools Council to understand and respond to the implications of the mandatory vaccination requirement for healthcare students.

Publications

In 2021–22 our work included production of evidence-based outputs on the most significant issues facing the higher education sector, to influence policy making, support universities to enhance positive impact, share effective approaches to common challenges and to help our members to achieve their overall missions and objectives.

These outputs included:

- [Changing the culture: sharing personal data in harassment cases](#)
- [Higher Education in Numbers](#)
- [International Facts and Figures 2021](#)
- [Global demand for UK postgraduate research degrees](#) – This brief research explores the current state of international students' demand for UK postgraduate research degrees in the UK and via UK transnational education overseas
- [International student recruitment: Why aren't we second? Part 2](#) – examines the UK's student recruitment performance and how it can become a more attractive study destination
- [Framework for programme reviews: ensuring the value of courses](#) – a framework to support universities in England to identify courses where value or quality might be a problem, and act on it
- [#CombatMisconduct: a toolkit for vice-chancellors](#) – created in partnership with AVA and NUS this toolkit support vice-chancellors and senior leaders to tackle sexual misconduct, harassment and all forms of hate within their universities
- [Lessons from the pandemic: making the most of technologies in teaching](#) – a briefing on how universities are approaching using technology in teaching and learning since the Covid-19 pandemic
- [Busting graduate job myths](#) – reveals strong employer demand for graduates whose future job prospects continue to look bright
- [Fair admissions code of practice](#) – shows the higher education sector's commitment to fair and transparent admissions practices
- [Changing the culture: tackling staff-to-student sexual misconduct](#) – guidance for universities on how to prevent and respond to these cases
- [How the climate crisis affects internationalisation](#) – the extent to which international strategies in higher education institutions are lined to and impacted by their corresponding sustainability strategies
- [The scale of UK higher education transnational education 2019–20](#)
- [The scale of UK higher education transnational education 2019–20: Welsh providers](#)
- [The scale of UK higher education transnational education 2019–20: Scottish providers](#)
- [Transnational Graduate Outcomes: A case study of the United Arab Emirates](#)
- [The costs and benefits of international higher education students to the UK economy](#) – published in partnership with HEPI with research from London Economics outlines the costs and benefits of international students to the UK economy
- [Lessons from the pandemic](#) published identifying lessons learned and good practice in harnessing the benefits of digital technology.

Activities for members – Universities Scotland

Universities Scotland represents the Principals and Directors of Scotland's 19 higher education institutions, developing higher education policy and campaigning on issues where members have a shared interest. 2021–22 was a year of a high level of activity in a very challenging policy and funding environment. Our work to influence the policy and legislative environment included:

- 32 meetings with Cabinet Secretaries, Ministers and MPs;
- Extensive written evidence to Parliament and 5 in-person appearances at Scottish Parliament committees;
- 11 presentations of evidence to major government consultations;
- Over 40 meetings with Scottish Government on Covid management;
- Extensive day-to-day engagement with SG, SFC and key stakeholders at official level.

Some key achievements over the course of the year included:

- Presentation of what was recognised by Ministers as a well-founded case for investment in higher education in the multi-year Resource Spending Review – though the flat-cash outcome decided on by Scottish Government for most sectors apart from health and social security was a disappointing outcome.
- Re-framing of the Scottish Government's perspective on Covid management so that the need to sustain in-person learning and student welfare became more highly prioritised.
- Changes to Covid emergency legislation to ensure that Ministers do not have inappropriate continuing powers to direct institutions.
- Publication with the Mental Health Foundation of 'Thriving learners', the most extensive report on student mental wellbeing in Scotland, and deployment of the findings of that to make the case for Scottish Government Covid management that prioritises students' mental wellbeing, and for Scottish Government to build a more joined-up interaction between universities and NHS mental health services.

- Securing wide Parliamentary and governmental recognition of the sector's widening access achievements.
- Securing increased Scottish Government recognition of universities' contribution to economic growth, reflected in Scottish Government's national Strategy for Economic Transformation.
- Influencing Scottish Government's review of 'tertiary education purpose' so that it recognises, at its inception, the broad contribution of universities e.g. to the nation's international profile and the development of people with the skills and attributes to drive economic growth.
- Influencing SNG and Green Ministers to recognise universities' major contributions to green skills and a just transition to net zero.
- Influencing implementation of the SFC review of coherent provision, e.g. to mitigate the risk of it undermining the higher education quality regime.
- At an operational level, a successful move to modern and economical accommodation.

Looking ahead, some key priorities for 2022–23 are expected to be:

- Continued campaigning for as good resourcing as possible in a very constrained public funding environment, with a focus on the Scottish Budget for 2023–24.
- Securing recognition of universities as a key partner in implementing the National Strategy for Economic Transformation.
- Campaign to secure wide governmental and political recognition of universities' development of the people with the skills and attributes for success in the future economy.
- Influence on the further development of SG's 'tertiary education purpose' exercise so that it supports universities' success.
- Campaign for stretching but realistic widening access targets that include a wider range of disadvantaged learners.
- Influence Scottish Government review of school-level qualifications so that it supports fair admissions.

- Influence the development of the Scottish Government Student mental health Action Plan including resourcing for institutions' mental health services; better integration of these with those of the NHS; and a further 'Thriving Learners' survey.
- Influence the proponents of different options for Scotland's constitutional future, so that they support the success of Scottish higher education.
- Contribute to Covid public inquiry, to represent the university sector's collective responsible action during the pandemic.

Activities for members – Universities Wales

Universities Wales also delivered across a range of priorities including securing key commitments in the Welsh Government's regulation and funding reforms and securing further support for programmes including Global Wales and the Wales Innovation Network.

- **Tertiary Education and Research (Wales) Bill:** Wales is currently undergoing wide-ranging regulatory and funding reform through the Tertiary Education and Research (Wales) Bill. Through close engagement with the Welsh Government, Senedd and stakeholders, Universities Wales secured key amendments for members including a new strategic duty for research and innovation and strengthening academic freedom and institutional autonomy within the Bill. Universities Wales also secured new safeguards for Higher Education Corporations.
- **Economic Impact of universities in Wales:** Universities Wales commissioned and launched a new analysis of the economic impact of universities in Wales which found universities generate more than £5billion of output for the Welsh economy including £661m in export earning; equivalent to 11.8% of all Welsh service sector export earnings. The report was launched in an event that included the Minister for Economy, Vaughan Gething MS
- **Higher Education funding:** Over the course of the academic year, Universities Wales secured an additional £55m for higher education. This funding was in addition to the Welsh Government's budget baseline funding for 2021–22 of £203m revenue and £10m capital.
- **Global Wales:** Universities Wales secured support for a third flagship programme – 'Global Wales III' – from Welsh Government. This funding commitment is £10.27m over the next four years.
- This year also saw the delivery and scaling up of activity through the Global Wales II+I project. This included significant engagement with India including an inward delegation of senior government officials and university academics from Telangana and Karnataka, development of the Europe strategy, the commencement of engagement in Canada, continuation of recruitment activity in the US and a successful bid to deliver Going Global Partnerships in Vietnam.
- Global Wales includes the development and promotion of the 'Study in Wales' brand. As always, market development activity has been supported by targeted Study in Wales marketing campaigns and the delivery of a range of Global Wales funded scholarships.
- **Wales Innovation Network (WIN):** through funding secured for member institutions through the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales, Universities Wales formally established the Wales Innovation Network and began delivery of WIN's programme commitments. Universities Wales also secured an additional £2m investment to support the aims of the Wales Innovation Network in building or sustaining collaborative research and innovation. This has supported 45 projects across Wales.

- **Mental health and well-being:** Universities Wales convened a working group consisting of member representatives, Colleges Wales, the National Union of Students Wales and other key partners to explore what action is needed to better support student mental health and well-being across the post-16 sector. This work led to the publication of key recommendations for Welsh Government including a focus on transitions and data-sharing. This work has led to further engagement with Welsh Government and the Senedd which will continue into the next academic year.

Activities for members – Health

Medical Schools Council (MSC)

The academic year 2021–22 was marked by the continued societal upheaval caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine from 24 February 2022. MSC has been widely praised for the leadership it provided to the sector and the extremely effective guidance it provided to protect patients, students and staff. Last year's annual report documented the range and effectiveness of the activities undertaken by the MSC team at the height of the crisis. Such work continued into this academic year through repeated lockdowns and issues created by the disruption to the admissions' system.

The year was also marked by extensive work with the GMC around the Medical Licensing Assessment. The proposal submitted by the MSC on behalf of all the UK medical schools was accepted by the GMC Council in June 2021. The medical schools will collectively set and administer a common test of applied knowledge to be regulated by the GMC. Plans are in hand to pilot the process over the next three years with a commitment to go live for those graduating in the academic year 2024–25.

USS pensions reform

Our responsibilities for representing employers in the USS pensions scheme continue to be a significant workstream. The year saw the completion of the 2020 valuation and work priorities on USS include developing plans for reforms to secure the sustainability for the scheme in the longer term. Universities UK will work with the USS Trustee and UCU to (1) consider low-cost and flexible member options for members for consultation with employers and members, (2) explore alternative scheme designs including the development of a model for Conditional Indexation and to hear the views of employers and members on these options, and (3) to undertake a substantive governance review of USS. Work will also start on the next valuation due for 31 March 2023. The work to review Universities UK's role as employer representative in USS has progressed this year with positive discussions between Universities UK and UCEA and it is possible this work can be concluded by the end of 2022–23 period.

Developing organisation capabilities

The Universities UK website was relaunched at the beginning of the year with extensive training for staff on search engine optimisation and tone of voice writing. The website performance has improved as a result of this work, from a score of 62.6 in August 2021 to 82.7 and SEO improved from 79.4 in August 2021 to 86.1. Website visits have increased since launch and external usability testing found that users understood us better after visiting the site and were motivated to return to find out more about us.

As an employer of 150 staff, we moved from home working to re-opening the offices in line with local restrictions. Staff were given the choice to work from home or the office appropriate to the work they were doing. This has meant lower take up of office space than pre-lockdown and so we have looked at alternative uses for our leased space, including a sub-let to another HE organisation who moved into Woburn House on February 2022. We have continued to be responsive and flexible in our approach to hybrid working particularly when Covid infections increased with new variants, prioritising the safety, health and wellbeing of our people.

Turnover and recruitment increased significantly in the second half of the year. Increased turnover was expected among our early career colleagues once restrictions were lifted. There has been a focus on how we can help our new colleagues develop professional relationships and get established in their new roles with the new hybrid working model. This year we ran three 'community days', to bring all London colleagues together in the same physical space with opportunities to work, network and socialise and these have been well received by attendees.

There was an ongoing project to upgrade the IT infrastructure. On premise servers have been migrated to the Azure cloud environment, back up processes refreshed, improvements made to monitoring and helpdesk functions and software implemented for mobile device management. We successfully retained Cyber Essentials Certification.

Financially, challenges continue with rebuilding the events and conference programme and Woburn House Conference Centre priorities to rebuild commercial income streams. Recovery was going well at the start of the year and slowed again with further restrictions introduced in December / January. As we came to the end of the year, the industrial action on the train and underground networks further impacted Woburn House Conference Centre. The financial situation was helped by the final settlement of a business interruption claim for the conference centre closure as a result of the March 2020 lockdown.

At the AGM the members approved some changes to the Articles, to better reflect the relationship with Universities Scotland as a national council of Universities UK. The final stage of this work is to update the registration with OSCR to reflect this which should be completed by the end of 2022.

Looking forward – our priorities for 2022–23

2022–23 will be the final year of Universities UK's Strategic Plan 2018–23: World Leading Impact. With a new CEO coming into post in September, a priority for the year ahead will be understanding member and stakeholders needs in preparation for the development of a new Strategic Plan. Operational priorities for the year ahead are:

Promote what universities do to address economic and social disparities

- Understanding of value of universities to society and individuals
- Promote universities' role in levelling up and the skills agenda.

Student focus

- Student experience
- Innovation in teaching and learning
- Mental health and wellbeing
- Graduate opportunities
- Support the development of international experiences for students

The strategic role of universities in sustainability and climate change

International strategy

- Security in international education
- Support for international student and staff recruitment
- Supporting the development of transnational education

Quality of universities

- Champion high quality and tackle low quality.
- Focus on achieving good outcomes.
- Role of MERs
- Improve public and political confidence in quality of degrees and quality assurance.
- Promote free speech and academic freedom.

Financial sustainability

- Protect unit of resource.
- Support for universities to drive economic growth – skills, exports, jobs.
- Develop Universities UK 'asks' which align universities with government's strategic priorities.
- Post-18 reform

Creating the conditions to be a **research and innovation** superpower.

Financial review

Review of position at the end of the year

The statement of financial activities for the year is set out on page 25 and the balance sheet on page 26 of the financial statements.

Consolidated income and expenditure for the year and position at the end of the year are summarised in the table below.

	Unrestricted activities £'000	Restricted activities £'000	Total 2022 £'000	Total 2021 £'000
Income	9,412	8,506	17,918	13,700
Expenditure	(11,395)	(8,344)	(19,739)	(13,306)
Surplus	(1,983)	162	(1,821)	394
Transfers	11	(11)	-	-
Net movement in funds	(1,972)	151	(1,821)	394
Funds brought forward	3,065	3,508	6,573	6,179
Funds carried forward	1,093	3,659	4,752	6,573

A consolidated deficit of £1,821,000 is reported for the financial year ended 31 July 2022 of which £1,972,000 is unrestricted. £2,408,000 of this unrestricted deficit related to a debit movement on the pension deficit recovery plan provision and £54,000 to credit movements on the annual leave accrual (FRS 102 adjustments). Excluding these items, the unrestricted surplus for the year ended 31 July 2022 stood at £382,000.

- After a recruitment freeze and pay freeze for the previous year, recruitment started again and a 2% pay award from 1 August 2021.
- With further Covid restrictions in late 2021, further savings on travel and office costs were realised.
- The Woburn House Conference Centre insurance claim for business interruption in 2020 was successful in the year, and this payment filtered through to the covenant for Universities UK.

Unrestricted income in 2022 increased on last year to £9,412,000 (2021: £8,337,000).

- Woburn House Conference Centre Ltd saw income (net of internal charges) increase from £91,000 to £944,000 with a positive year rebuilding after the Covid restrictions.
- Unrestricted subscription income increased by £194,000.
- The conference and events programmes saw improvement with the lifting of Covid restrictions and the income increased by £91,000 to £667,000 compared to £576,000 in 2021.

Restricted income of £8,506,000 was higher than the 2021 level of £5,363,000. This increase related to WIN (Welsh Innovation Network) and Global Wales activities.

The organisation's net assets were £4,752,000 at 31 July 2022 (2021: £6,573,000). The decrease in net assets is due to the increase in the USS pension deficit recovery plan provision. The increased liability was due to the extension of the term of the USS deficit recovery repayment plan from 2028 to 2038, along with an increase in the discount rate and salary inflation rates used in the calculation.

Principal funding sources

Membership subscriptions provides 68% of the unrestricted income, and the balance comes from covenant income (10%), conference receipts (7%), grants and contracts (3%) and investment and other income (12%). This income is used principally to support charitable activities, but also the cost of charged-for goods and services. Universities UK does not fundraise from the public and is therefore not registered with the Fundraising Regulator.

Significant events affecting financial performance and position

Covid-19 continued to have an impact on commercial income streams in the year, the operation of Woburn House Conference Centre and the events and conference program in the year with the emergence of the Omicron variant and further restrictions impacting income generation activities in December 2021 and January 2022. The industrial action on the rail networks in June and July 2022 also impacted the income of the conference centre.

Impact of material pension liability

The deficit recovery plan for the USS pension scheme first agreed in 2017 and updated following the 2020 valuation has, as a result of Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 102, required a provision for the extra employer pension contributions required over the life of the plan. This in turn has reduced reserves, though without any immediate impact on the cash position or on financial risk. The impact is dealt with in more detail in relation to the effect on performance against the reserves policy.

Fixed assets

The changes to intangible and tangible fixed assets during the year are shown in notes 12 and 13 to the financial statements.

Other interests

The long leasehold interest in Woburn House is owned by CVCP Properties plc, a business set up by the membership in 1995 for the purpose of acquiring the building. CVCP Properties plc also owns a central London residential flat which is let out at commercial rates with the revenue contributing to the annual covenant to Universities UK.

Investment policy

Universities UK plans strategically over a five-year time horizon and budgets annually to expend substantially all anticipated unrestricted income, subject to retaining a prudent amount in reserves. It has no permanent endowment and provides for capital expenditure from unrestricted reserves.

The Board of Trustees does not consider that it is necessary to accumulate and invest income for the longer term. Its investment policy is therefore to retain surplus funds as cash and place them on bank deposit and treasury reserve at the best rate consistent with a prudent treasury management policy. As a result, the organisation does not have an ethical investment policy.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The UK Board, supported by the Audit and Risk Committee which carries responsibility for risk management, keeps under review the strategic and operational risks facing the organisation and its subsidiaries together with the programmes and activities that help manage those risks effectively.

As a membership organisation, Universities UK's principal risk is failing to respond adequately to developments in higher education policy and funding or to its members' needs, which would risk damage to its reputation and influence and a possible loss of members and subscription revenue. Horizon scanning and member feedback mechanisms are in place to minimise and mitigate this risk and other external financial and operational risks and uncertainties.

Specifically, potential policy divisions within the membership and Universities UK's response to those are monitored via the Board, members' meetings and the Policy Networks. Operational risks include IT systems and the infrastructure of Woburn House, and strategies are in place to identify and mitigate those risks. Our statutory role as the employers' representative in the USS pension scheme brings with it risks to our reputation and resources.

Reserves policy

The trustees have reviewed the requirements for free reserves (unrestricted reserves less any amounts designated or otherwise committed) in the light of the principal strategic and operating risks to the organisation, as outlined above. The nature and likely timing and financial impact of these risks are not considered to be either sufficiently immediate or material to warrant carrying higher reserves. Accordingly, the current target of four to six months of unrestricted expenditure is deemed appropriate as this would ensure sufficient funds are available to meet current commitments if income streams were erratic or exceptional expenditure was incurred.

Universities UK reports its results under the Charity SORP, based on revised UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (GAAP): FRS 102. This has a significant impact on free reserves as Universities UK has to provide for the present value of employer contributions to past service deficits in multi-employer defined benefit pension

schemes previously accounted for solely as defined contribution schemes, and the cost of untaken staff leave. The trustees have considered the impact of this and agreed to focus on cash liquidity of assets and risk, so levels of reserves would be stated before and after the provisions required under FRS 102 but using levels before for any provisions for operational and decisions making purposes.

The impact of the reporting regime has been to reduce reported unrestricted reserves by £4.4m (2021: £2.1m) and to cause Universities UK's group free reserves to be negative and therefore less than the target range of months of unrestricted expenditure. The trustees do not believe the impact of FRS 102 to be significant as most of the provision is for extra pension payments that will be made over a number of years up to 2038. These will be budgeted for and accommodated as extra expenditure for management purposes in each individual year. The remaining provision is for the cost of unused leave, lower this year as staff have used leave accumulated during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Performance against reserves policy	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Total unrestricted reserves	1,068	3,066
Less: committed to fixed assets	(954)	(1,000)
Less: designated funds	(675)	(584)
Free reserves under SORP (A)	(561)	1,482
Add back: pension and annual leave liabilities	4,417	2,063
Reserves for Universities UK policy purposes (B)	3,856	3,545
Total unrestricted expenditure (non-designated) (C)	9,782	6,454
Exclude: pension and annual leave costs	(2,354)	140
Unrestricted expenditure for Universities UK policy purposes (D)	7,428	6,594
Months of expenditure expressed in reserves:		
Under SORP (12 X A / C)	0	2.8
Under Universities UK policy (12 X B / D)	6.2	6.5
Months (target)	4.0 – 6.0	4.0 – 6.0

Political and charitable donations

The company made no political donations in the year (2021: nil). During the year, charitable donations made in lieu of buying and sending hard copy Christmas cards were £250 (2021: £261)

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of Universities UK for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and the group and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company and group for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and the group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Audit information

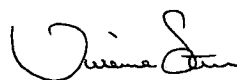
So far as each of the trustees at the time the Trustees' report is approved is aware:

- there is no relevant information of which the auditors are unaware; and
- they have taken all relevant steps they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

Auditor

Haysmacintyre LLP has indicated its willingness to continue as auditor, subject to re-appointment at the next annual general meeting.

The Trustees' report is approved by the trustees of the charity. The Strategic report, which forms part of the Trustees' report, is approved by the trustees in their capacity as directors in company law of the Charity.



Vivienne Stern MBE
Chief Executive



Stephen Marston
Treasurer

11 November 2022

Independent auditor's report to the members of Universities UK

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Universities UK for the year ended 31 July 2022 which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the Consolidated Balance Sheet, the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and of the parent charitable company's affairs as at 31 July 2022 and of the group's and parent charitable company's net movement in funds, including the income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the group's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Trustees' Report (incorporating the Strategic report). Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report (which includes the strategic report and the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the strategic report and the directors' report included within the Trustees' Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the group and the parent charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report (which incorporates the strategic report and the directors' report).

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the parent charitable company; or
- the group and charitable company financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit

Responsibilities of trustees for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 21, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a *true and fair view*, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the group's and parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the group or the parent charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Based on our understanding of the group and the environment in which it operates we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as include the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011, and consider other factors such as income tax, payroll tax and sales tax.

We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls), and determined that the principal risks were related to posting inappropriate journal entries to income and management bias in accounting estimates and judgements. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- Inspecting correspondence with regulators and tax authorities;
- Discussions with management including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulation and fraud;
- Evaluating management's controls designed to prevent and detect irregularities;
- Identifying and testing journals, in particular journal entries posted with unusual account combinations, postings by unusual users or with unusual descriptions; and
- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in their critical accounting estimates including the calculation for the liability in respect of the pension deficit recovery plan.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Thomas Wilson, Senior Statutory Auditor
For and on behalf of Haysmacintyre LLP,
Statutory Auditor

10 Queen Street Place
London
EC4R 1AG

Date: 24 November 2022

Consolidated statement of financial activities – year ended 31 July 2022

Income and expenditure	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total Funds 2022 £'000	Total Funds 2021 £'000
Income from:					
Donations	2	941	-	941	973
Charitable activities	3	7,351	8,459	15,810	12,443
Other trading activities	4	1,054	40	1,094	236
Investments		49	6	55	31
Other income		17	1	18	17
Total		9,412	8,506	17,918	13,700
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		481	39	520	403
Charitable activities		10,914	8,305	19,219	12,903
Total	7	11,395	8,344	19,739	13,306
Net income		(1,983)	162	(1,821)	394
Transfers between funds	20	11	(11)	-	-
Net movements in funds		(1,972)	151	(1,821)	394
Total funds at 1 August 2021		3,065	3,508	6,573	6,179
Total funds at 31 July 2022	20	1,093	3,659	4,752	6,573

All activities are continuing. There are no gains or losses other than those disclosed in the consolidated statement of financial activities.

The notes on pages 28 to 51 form part of these financial statements.

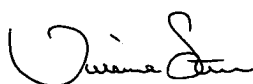
Balance sheets – 31 July 2022

	Notes	The Group		Universities UK	
		2022 £'000	2021 £'000	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Fixed assets					
Intangible fixed assets	12	110	130	99	115
Tangible fixed assets	13	283	323	255	285
Investments	14	600	600	600	600
		993	1,053	954	1,000
Current assets					
Debtors					
- due within one year		2,968	1,758	3,427	1,661
- due after more than one year		750	750	900	900
	15	3,718	2,508	4,327	2,561
Investments – short term deposits		5,594	5,587	3,994	3,987
Cash at bank and in hand		3,519	2,199	1,397	943
		12,831	10,294	9,718	7,491
Liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(5,054)	(3,136)	(4,548)	(2,716)
<i>Net current assets</i>		7,777	7,158	5,170	4,775
<i>Total assets less current liabilities</i>		8,770	8,211	6,124	5,775
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	18	(4,018)	(1,638)	(4,018)	(1,638)
Total net assets		4,752	6,573	2,106	4,137
Funds and reserves					
Restricted funds		3,659	3,508	1,038	1,071
Unrestricted funds		1,068	3,066	1,068	3,066
Non-charitable trading funds		25	(1)	-	-
Total funds	20	4,752	6,573	2,106	4,137

Gross income for the parent charity was £15,478,000 and gross expenditure was £17,509,000, resulting in a deficit of £2,031,000 (2021: surplus of £474,000).

Approved by the Board of Directors and authorised for issue on 11 November 2022.

Signed on their behalf:



Vivienne Stern MBE
Chief Executive



Stephen Marston
Treasurer

Company Number: 2517018

The notes on pages 28 to 51 form part of these financial statements.

Consolidated cash flow statement – year ended 31 July 2022

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000	
a Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash flow from operating activities			
Net income for the year	(1,821)	394	
Interest income	(55)	(31)	
Depreciation and amortisation charges	141	145	
(Increase) / decrease in debtors	(1,210)	110	
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	4,298	(169)	
Net cash used in operating activities	1,353	449	
b Statement of cash flows			
Cash flows from operating activities	1,353	449	
Cash flows for investing activities			
Purchase of fixed assets	(81)	(178)	
Interest income	55	31	
Net cash used in investing activities	(26)	(147)	
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	1,327	302	
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 August	7,786	7,484	
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 July	9,113	7,786	
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 July is made up of:			
Investments – short term deposits	5,594	5,587	
Cash at bank and in hand	3,519	2,199	
Total cash and cash equivalents	9,113	7,786	
	At 1 August 2021 £'000	Cash flows £'000	At 31 July 2022 £'000
Analysis of changes in net funds:			
Cash	2,199	1,320	3,519
Cash equivalents	5,587	7	5,594
Total net funds	7,786	1,327	9,113

Notes to the financial statements – year ended 31 July 2022

1. Principal accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) – Charities SORP (FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Universities UK meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. It is a company limited by guarantee and is incorporated in the UK. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

The consolidated financial statements incorporate the results of Universities UK and its subsidiaries, Woburn House Conference Centre Limited, Medical Schools Council and MSC Assessment. No separate Universities UK statement of financial activities has been prepared, as permitted by Section 408 of the Companies Act 2006.

a. Critical accounting judgements and estimates

In preparing these financial statements, management has made judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of the charity's accounting policies and the reported assets, liabilities, income and expenditure and the disclosures made in the financial statements. Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historic experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

The liability in respect of the pension deficit recovery plan has been calculated using key assumptions concerning future payroll growth and the discount rate (see note 24).

b. Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. The trustees reviewed financial position, reserves levels and future plans and this has given the trustees confidence that the charity remains a going concern into the future.

c. Income

Income from donations and grants (including government grants) is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement, receipt is probable and its amount can be measured reliably.

Subscriptions are recognised over the period to which they relate.

Conference fee and other trading income is recognised on an accruals basis.

Investment income is credited in the period in which it is earned.

d. Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs relating to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributable to a particular heading, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of the resource.

Direct costs, including directly attributable salaries, are allocated on the basis of time to the key strategic areas of activity.

Overheads and other salaries are allocated between activities on the bases of usage, ie the same basis as expenditure incurred directly in undertaking the activity.

Governance costs are those incurred in connection with the management of Universities UK's assets, the organisation's administration and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Unconditional grants payable are charged to the statement of financial activities in the year in which they are communicated to the recipient as at that time a valid expectation has been created that the grants will be paid. Conditional grants are charged on a similar basis when conditions fall outside the control of the charity. Any unpaid amounts are shown as liabilities at the balance sheet date.

e. Intangible and tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. A full year's depreciation is charged in the year of acquisition and none in the year of disposal.

Leasehold improvements assets are stated at cost less depreciation. A full year's depreciation is charged in the year the asset is brought into use and none in the year of disposal.

The rates of depreciation used per asset class were reviewed in the year, based on the company's experience of the useful life of its assets. This resulted in a change in useful lives, as shown below.

Before:

Furniture and equipment	- over four years
Office technology (including website development)	- over three years
Leasehold improvements	- over the life of the lease

After:

Furniture and equipment	- before four and ten years
Computer equipment	- over three years
Website development and IT systems	- over four years
Leasehold improvements	- over the life of the lease

Universities UK capitalisation policy is to capitalise individual assets costing over £2,500.

f. Investments

Investments held as fixed assets are stated at cost, as permitted by FRS 102.

g. Cash and cash equivalents

Surplus cash funds are held on deposit for up to a year in order to achieve a better rate of interest.

h. Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value. Liabilities are recognised on an accruals basis. Loans receivable are measured initially at fair value and are measured subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

i. Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

j. Debtors

Short term debtors are measured at transaction price, less any impairment.

k. Operating leases

Rental costs under operating leases are charged to the statement of financial activities in equal amounts over the period of the lease.

l. Employee benefits*Short term benefits*

Short term benefits including holiday pay are recognised as an expense in the period in which the service is received.

Employee termination benefits

Termination benefits are accounted for on an accruals basis and in line with FRS 102.

m. Pensions

Universities UK participates in the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) and Superannuation Arrangements of the University of London (SAUL).

Both these pension schemes are defined benefit, multi-employer schemes (contracted out of the State Second Pension [S2P] up until 31 March 2016), with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The funds are valued every three years by a professionally qualified independent actuary using the projected unit method, the rates of contribution payable being determined by the trustees on the advice of the actuary. In the intervening years the actuary reviews the progress of the scheme.

Because of the mutual nature of the schemes, the schemes' assets are not hypothecated to individual institutions and scheme-wide contribution rates are set. Universities UK is therefore exposed to actuarial risks associated with members employed at other participating employers in the schemes and is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the scheme on a consistent and reasonable basis and therefore, as required by Section 28 of FRS 102 "Employee benefits", accounts for the schemes as if they were defined contribution schemes.

As a result, the amount charged to income and expenditure through the Statement of Financial Activities represents the contributions payable to the schemes in respect of the accounting period.

Given the mutual nature of the schemes, participating employers are not expected to be liable for any other current participating employer's obligations, but in the event of an insolvency of any participating employer within each scheme, an amount of any pension shortfall which cannot otherwise be recovered in respect of that employer, may be spread across the remaining participating employers and reflected in the next actuarial valuation.

Since Universities UK has entered into an agreement to participate in a deficit recovery plan for USS, it now also recognises a liability under FRS 102 for the future contributions payable that arise from this agreement to the extent that they relate to the deficit and the resulting expense in the statement of financial activities.

As SAUL had a Technical Provisions surplus at 30 April 2021 there is no defined benefit liability to be recognised by Universities UK.

n. Universities Scotland and Universities Wales

The funds of these National Councils are included within the designated unrestricted funds of Universities UK. In line with the group reserves policy, the year end fund balances are expected to be utilised within four to six months.

2. Donations

CVCP Properties plc is a company owned by 100 higher education institutions, whose executive heads are members of Universities UK. The company owns two leasehold properties and the net profits from its activities are covenanted annually to Universities UK.

Covenanted income receivable during the year from CVCP Properties plc was £940,940 (2021: £973,399). Other transactions with CVCP Properties plc are included in note 26.

3. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total 2022 £'000	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total 2021 £'000
Subscriptions from membership	6,394	4,208	10,602	6,200	2,514	8,714
Grants and contracts	290	4,251	4,541	343	2,761	3,104
Conference income	667	-	667	576	49	625
	7,351	8,459	15,810	7,119	5,324	12,443

See notes 5 and 6 for further analysis.

4. Other trading activities

Trading activities relate principally to Woburn House Conference Centre Ltd, a subsidiary. They are stated net of intra-group trading.

5. Subscriptions from membership

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total 2022 £'000	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total 2021 £'000
Universities UK	5,256	411	5,667	5,115	411	5,526
Universities Scotland	647	109	756	631	60	691
Universities Wales	491	2,460	2,951	454	153	607
Medical Schools Council	-	799	799	-	720	720
MSC Assessment	-	429	429	-	433	433
Council of Deans of Health	-	-	-	-	737	737
	6,394	4,208	10,602	6,200	2,514	8,714

6. Grants and contracts

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total 2022 £'000	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total 2021 £'000
Higher Education Funding Council for Wales *	-	2,427	2,427	-	1,174	1,174
Health Education England *	-	588	588	-	508	508
Research England *	-	566	566	-	440	440
British Council *	124	85	209	180	8	188
Scottish Government *	-	86	86	-	41	41
Scottish Funding Council *	-	69	69	-	107	107
All Party Parliamentary University Group	43	26	69	42	4	46
Department of Health & Social Care *	-	65	65	-	70	70
FCDO *	-	63	63	-	-	-
The Wellcome Trust	-	50	50	-	4	4
Conservatoires UK	14	30	44	14	29	43
Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy *	-	41	41	-	94	94
Royal College of Nursing Scotland	39	-	39	-	-	-
Insight Direct UK Ltd	-	30	30	-	-	-
UK Research and Innovation *	-	25	25	-	30	30
London Higher	24	-	24	-	-	-
Office for Students *	-	23	23	-	75	75
Department for Education *	-	16	16	-	-	-
University of the West of England	14	-	14	-	-	-
HMRC *	9	-	9	86	-	86
Burdett	-	-	-	-	62	62
NCUK	-	-	-	-	15	15
European Commission	-	4	4	-	16	16
Other organisations	23	57	80	21	84	105
	290	4,251	4,541	343	2,761	3,104

* Grants from government and government agencies.

7. Total resources expended

	Direct costs £'000	Support costs £'000	Total 2022 £'000	Direct costs £'000	Support costs £'000	Total 2021 £'000
Cost of raising funds	491	29	520	360	43	403
Charitable activities						
Activities for members						
Core (see split below)	13,693	2,726	16,419	7,548	2,397	9,945
Conferences	357	86	443	272	95	367
Medical & health	1,706	124	1,830	1,843	263	2,106
Exam delivery	475	52	527	417	68	485
Total activities for members	16,231	2,988	19,219	10,080	2,823	12,903
Total resources expended	16,722	3,017	19,739	10,440	2,866	13,306
Split of core activities						
England, NI and UK-wide	6,598	2,201	8,799	3,713	1,860	5,573
International	3,738	155	3,893	2,604	139	2,743
Universities Wales	2,612	142	2,754	526	88	614
Universities Scotland	745	228	973	705	310	1,015
Total resources expended	13,693	2,726	16,419	7,548	2,397	9,945

8. Support costs allocations

	Premises £'000	Govern- ance £'000	Deprecia- tion £'000	Finance, HR, IT £'000	Other £'000	Total 2022 £'000
Trading activities: costs of goods sold and other costs	7	4	11	5	2	29
Charitable activities						
Core	1,050	158	123	962	433	2,726
Conferences	33	5	4	30	14	86
Medical and health	52	16	3	18	35	124
Exam delivery	21	11	-	17	3	52
Total resources	1,163	194	141	1,032	487	3,017

	Premises £'000	Govern- ance £'000	Deprecia- tion £'000	Finance, HR, IT £'000	Other £'000	Total 2021 £'000
Trading activities: costs of goods sold and other costs	20	3	2	13	5	43
Charitable activities						
Core	1,015	148	101	767	366	2,397
Conferences	40	6	4	31	14	95
Medical and health	100	32	16	106	9	263
Exam delivery	25	5	-	21	17	68
Total resources	1,200	194	123	938	411	2,866

	Total 2022 £'000	Total 2021 £'000
Governance costs are made up of the following:		
Staff costs	147	151
External audit	28	24
Other professional fees	14	19
Meeting costs and expenses	5	-
	194	194

Other direct costs include:

Auditor's remuneration:

For audit services	28	27
For other services	4	8

Operating lease rentals:

Land and buildings	943	977
Office and equipment	10	8

9. Analysis of staff costs

	Total 2022 £'000	Total 2021 £'000
Total staff costs including full and part-time employees were:		
Wages and salaries	6,269	6,256
Social security costs	696	672
Other pension costs	4,022	1,501
Termination payments	55	8
	11,042	8,437

'Other pension costs' includes a £2,392,000 debit relating to the movement on the USS pension deficit funding liability (2021: credit of £126,000). The increase in liability is due to the extension of the term of the deficit recovery repayment plan from 2028 to 2038, along with an increase in the discount rate and salary inflation rates.

	2022 no.	2021 no.
The average number of employees throughout the year was:		
Charitable activities	116	122
Support staff	20	22
Trading activities – Woburn House Conference Centre Limited	5	4
	141	148

The number of employees whose emoluments exceeded £60,000 (excluding employer's pension contributions) was 32 (2021: 28).

	2022 no.	2021 no.
£60,001–£70,000	11	6
£70,001–£80,000	12	12
£80,001–£90,000	-	1
£90,001–£100,000	6	7
£100,001–£110,000	1	-
£120,001–£130,000	-	1
£130,001–£140,000	2	-
£150,001–£160,000	-	1

The total employer pension contributions for these staff were £511,742 (2021: £462,288).

10. Trustees' emoluments and emoluments of other key management personnel

No trustees received any remuneration for their services.

During the year £2,556 in travel and accommodation expenses were reimbursed to the institution of one trustee. (2021: nil).

The total employee benefits of the Senior Leadership Team who are considered to be key management personnel (in addition to trustees) was:

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Wages and salaries	782	764
Social security costs	93	87
Other pension costs	165	161
	1,040	1,012

The Senior Leadership comprises the Chief Executive and Directors of Policy, Member Services, Universities UK International, Communications and External Affairs, Operations, Universities Scotland and Universities Wales.

11. Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax under Sections 466-497 of the Corporation Taxes Act 2010 as all its income is applied to charitable purposes.

12. Intangible fixed assets

Website development and software	Group £'000	Universities UK £'000
Cost		
At 1 August 2021	530	389
Additions	23	23
Assets written off	(215)	(215)
At 31 July 2022	338	197
Depreciation		
At 1 August 2021	400	274
Charge for year	43	39
Assets written off	(215)	(215)
At 31 July 2022	228	98
Net book value		
At 31 July 2022	110	99
At 31 July 2021	130	115

13. Tangible fixed assets

Group	Leasehold Improvements £'000	Furniture & Equipment £'000	Office Technology £'000	Total £'000
Cost				
At 1 August 2021	687	602	108	1,397
Additions	-	18	40	58
Written off	(160)	(58)	(76)	(294)
At 31 July 2022	527	562	72	1,161
Depreciation				
At 1 August 2021	426	560	88	1,074
Charge for year	64	9	25	98
Written off	(160)	(58)	(76)	(294)
At 31 July 2022	330	511	37	878
Net book value				
At 31 July 2022	197	51	35	283
At 31 July 2021	261	42	20	323

Universities UK	Leasehold Improvements £'000	Furniture & Equipment £'000	Office Technology £'000	Total £'000
Cost				
At 1 August 2021	687	401	79	1,167
Additions	-	18	41	59
Written off	(160)	(43)	(63)	(266)
At 31 July 2022	527	376	57	960
Depreciation				
At 1 August 2021	426	389	67	882
Charge for year	64	4	21	89
Written off	(160)	(43)	(63)	(266)
At 31 July 2022	330	350	25	705
Net book value				
At 31 July 2022	197	26	32	255
At 31 July 2021	261	12	12	285

14. Investments held as fixed assets

	Total 2022 £'000	Total 2021 £'000
Group and Universities UK		
CVCP Properties plc ordinary shares of £1 each	50	50
CVCP Properties plc preference shares of £1 each	550	550
Total	600	600

CVCP Properties plc is an unquoted company and the shares are stated at cost.

15. Debtors

	Group		Universities UK	
	2022 £'000	2021 £'000	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Trade debtors	1,627	378	1,406	160
Amounts due from subsidiary undertakings	-	-	858	305
Other debtors	968	994	968	994
Prepayments and accrued income	373	386	345	352
Loan	750	750	750	750
	3,718	2,508	4,327	2,561

The £750,000 loan is due for repayment within five years, and no later than 25 November 2026.

The loan is secured by way of a fixed charge over the Woburn House building. Interest is payable on the loan at 3% above National Westminster Bank plc base rate.

16. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Group		Universities UK	
	2022 £'000	2021 £'000	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Trade creditors	2,563	480	2,349	281
Amounts due to subsidiary undertakings	-	-	8	3
Taxation and social security	316	265	316	265
Other creditors	154	148	154	148
Accruals	948	954	734	851
Deferred income	1,073	1,289	987	1,168
	5,054	3,136	4,548	2,716

At the year end outstanding pension contributions amounted to £153,771 (2021: £147,956).

17. Deferred income

	Group		Universities UK	
	2022	2021	2022	2021
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Brought forward	1,289	1,174	1,168	1,160
Released in the year	(1,289)	(1,109)	(1,168)	(1,095)
Deferred in the year	1,073	1,224	987	1,103
Carried forward	1,073	1,289	987	1,168

Deferred income comprises membership subscriptions received in advance, grant income deferred when conditions exist which prevent recognition of the income, and income received for future events and conferences.

18. Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	Total 2022 £'000	Total 2021 £'000
Group and Universities UK		
Pension deficit funding payments in relation to USS	4,018	1,638

See note 24 for further details regarding these liabilities.

19. Operating lease commitments

The group and company have the following future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases for each of the following periods:

	Total 2022 £'000	Total 2021 £'000
Group and Universities UK		
Land and buildings:		
Within one year	627	413
Between one and five years	2,045	78
After five years	-	6
Office equipment:		
Within one year	3	6
Between one and five years	4	8
	2,679	511

20. Movement in funds

	At 1 Aug 2021 £'000	Incoming resources £'000	Resources expended £'000	Transfers £'000	At 31 July 2022 £'000
Unrestricted funds					
Investment fund (see note 14)	600	-	-	-	600
Universities Scotland / Universities Wales (see note 1(n))	584	1,239	(1,613)	465	675
General funds	1,882	7,720	(9,355)	(454)	(207)
	3,066	8,959	(10,968)	11	1,068
Restricted funds					
Medical Schools Council	1,257	703	(680)	(4)	1,276
University Hospital Association	206	62	(90)	-	178
Dental Schools Council	159	115	(78)	(1)	195
Pharmacy Schools Council	91	88	(68)	(1)	110
Association of Dental Hospitals	18	48	(39)	-	27
Summer School	82	492	(409)	-	165
MSC Assessment	623	498	(448)	(5)	668
Council of Deans of Health	565	-	(565)	-	-
Universities UK International	-	526	(526)	-	-
Ukraine Twinning	-	63	(63)	-	-
SIEM	-	4	(4)	-	-
BEIS ODA	11	41	(52)	-	-
Mitacs	-	16	(16)	-	-
Global Wales II	144	769	(830)	-	83
Global Wales II + 1	-	1,600	(1,334)	(31)	235
Vietnam Partnership	3	45	-	31	79
India Scholarship	-	40	(30)	-	10
Universities Wales International	120	-	(5)	-	115
Welsh Innovation Network (WIN)	130	2,460	(2,113)	-	477
Welsh Governance	-	21	(21)	-	-
Civic Mission	-	12	(12)	-	-
US International	87	39	(93)	-	33
Scotland is Now	-	159	(159)	-	-
Pensions reform	-	396	(396)	-	-
KE Concordat	-	69	(68)	-	1
The Concordats review	-	75	(75)	-	-
Research development Concordat	-	79	(79)	-	-
Student MH partnerships	-	18	(18)	-	-
OFS – Analytics	-	3	(3)	-	-
Other	12	65	(70)	-	7
	3,508	8,506	(8,344)	(11)	3,659
Non-charitable trading funds	(1)	453	(427)	-	25
Group – total funds	6,573	17,918	(19,739)	-	4,752

20. Movement in funds continued

	At 1 Aug 2020 £'000	Incoming resources £'000	Resources expended £'000	Transfers £'000	At 31 July 2021 £'000
Unrestricted funds					
Investment fund (see note 14)	600	-	-	-	600
Universities Scotland / Universities Wales (see note 1(n))	579	1,182	(1,608)	431	584
General funds	1,563	6,995	(6,247)	(429)	1,882
	2,742	8,177	(7,855)	2	3,066
Restricted funds					
Medical Schools Council	1,227	641	(606)	(5)	1,257
University Hospital Association	267	63	(123)	(1)	206
Dental Schools Council	123	88	(52)	-	159
Pharmacy Schools Council	84	76	(69)	-	91
Association of Dental Hospitals	22	21	(25)	-	18
Summer School	164	407	(489)	-	82
MSC Assessment	581	513	(466)	(5)	623
Council of Deans of Health	427	915	(771)	(6)	565
Universities UK International	-	515	(515)	-	-
SIEM	-	15	(15)	-	-
Short-term mobility	53	7	(60)	-	-
BEIS ODA	7	94	(90)	-	11
Global Wales II	156	1,123	(1,135)	-	144
Universities Wales International	85	20	-	15	120
WIN	-	153	(23)	-	130
Civic Mission	22	14	(36)	-	-
US International	105	89	(107)	-	87
Scotland is Now	-	60	(60)	-	-
Pensions reform	-	396	(396)	-	-
KE Concordat	41	29	(70)	-	-
The Concordats review	-	30	(30)	-	-
Student MH partnerships	-	32	(32)	-	-
OFS – Analytics	-	7	(7)	-	-
Algorithms	13	-	(13)	-	-
Other	14	55	(54)	-	15
	3,391	5,363	(5,244)	(2)	3,508
Non-charitable trading funds	46	160	(207)	-	(1)
Group – total funds	6,179	13,700	(13,306)	-	6,573

Transfers during the year between funds relate to contributions made from unrestricted monies to restricted funds for specific projects, where there are insufficient restricted funds available to meet expenditure or where the charity is committed to contributing towards projects from its own resources.

Background information on each of the restricted funds is set out below:

- The **Medical Schools Council** represents the interests and ambitions of UK Medical Schools as they relate to the generation of national health, wealth and knowledge through biomedical research and the profession of medicine
- The **University Hospital Association** promotes the unique interests of university hospitals across the UK. Its role is to represent the unique tripartite – service, teaching and research – interests of UK University Hospital Trusts in partnership with other national bodies.
- The **Dental Schools Council** represents the interests and ambitions of the UK's Dental Schools as they relate to the generation of national health, wealth and knowledge acquisition through research and the profession of dentistry.
- The **Pharmacy Schools Council** is building on the work of the Council of UK Head of Pharmacy and has benefited from being able to access increased resources through being hosted by a secretariat which also supports equivalent groups for other healthcare professionals.
- The **Association of Dental Hospitals** represents the voices of dental hospitals across the UK and Ireland.
- The **Summer School** programme is HEE funding to deliver summer schools for students from a widening participation background.
- **MSC Assessment** is a subsidiary of the Medical Schools Council set up to run medical assessment activities.
- The **Council of Deans of Health** represents the UK's university faculties engaged in education and research for nurses, midwives and allied health professionals. On the 1 August 2021, the assets, liabilities and activities of the Council of Deans of Health restricted fund were transferred from Universities UK to the Council of Deans of Health, an independent organisation (company number 12341200 and charity numbers 1186780 and SC049982).
- **Universities UK International** is the international arm of Universities UK, representing UK universities and acting in their collective interests globally. It actively promotes universities abroad, provides trusted information for and about them, and creates new opportunities for the sector.
- FCDO are providing up to £190k to support the development of the UK-Ukraine twinning scheme set up by the Cormack Consultancy Group.
- **SIEM** – Social Inclusion and Engagement in Mobility project relates to research into the barriers and enablers of mobility for the next Erasmus programme. This project is aimed at identifying and sharing good practice in short-term mobility programmes and will produce research to understand the impact and benefits, and identify models of good practice that will inform a digital toolkit to support universities.
- **BEIS ODA** - The Newton and Global Challenges Research Fund aims to use UK research expertise to solve developmental and global challenges through fostering research and institutional partnerships between UK universities and emerging-market countries.
- Funding has been received from the DfE to support the facilitation of the UK's expanding participation in the **Mitacs** Globalink Research Internship programme. Mitacs is a Canadian research and development funding agency.
- **Universities Wales** is the lead partner of Global Wales II and Global Wales II + 1. Funding is received from HEFCW to develop existing target markets, expand into new markets and invest in the 'Study in Wales' brand domestically and internationally.

- The **Vietnam partnership** resulted in Global Wales II being matched with five partner universities in Vietnam under the Higher Education Partnerships (HEP) programme and running training programmes in Leadership and Governance and University Industry Links. HEP was rebranded as Going Global Partnerships in 2022, with Global Wales co-ordinating a new consortium project involving four Vietnamese universities and four Welsh universities.
- **India Scholarship** is a partnership commitment between British Council India and Global Wales to jointly fund 16 post graduate scholarships of £5k per scholarship, for students from Telerana in India to attend university in Wales for one year.
- The **Wales Innovation Network (WIN)** supports Welsh Universities in increasing research competitiveness. A team, hosted by Universities Wales will streamline the creation of new collaborations in research and innovation, secure additional investment through the development of collaborative bids, and raise the profile of Wales' research and innovation capabilities. WIN will receive funding over three years from HEFCW and network members (the Welsh Universities).
- The Review of **Governance** in **Welsh** Universities was funding to support an independent review of governance in Welsh universities, to critically examine the current arrangements, and to assist the development of a charter and revised guidance for governors.
- **Civic Mission & Community Engagement** in Wales is a programme funded by HEFCW, to identify and develop key success factors in civic mission and community engagement work in Universities in Wales and support promotion of this work to stakeholders.
- The **Universities Scotland International Unit** develops and implements policy and research on international issues on behalf of the Scottish higher education sector. This supports the 'Connected Scotland' initiative with Scottish Government, Scottish Funding Council and others for targeted international promotion of Scottish higher education.
- **Scotland is Now** is joint sector funding that supports targeted paid-for social media campaign activities in a set of focus countries to support the recruitment of international students, to increase the sector's positioning and awareness, and to extend its focus on being welcome and open.
- A restricted subscription was raised from members towards the **pensions reform** programme following from our statutory role as the employers' representative in the USS pension scheme.
- The **Knowledge Exchange Concordat** is supporting the development, improvement and promotion of good practice across the UK with a development year in England involving institutional self-assessment, submission of action plans and peer evaluation.
- The **Concordats Review** is a joint project between Universities UK, UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) and the Wellcome Trust. The project will review evidence to help stakeholders improve the ways concordats, agreements and initiatives affect research culture and environment.
- The **Researcher Development Concordat** is an agreement that sets out conditions to create the very best culture for researchers to thrive. It contains principles relating to 'Environment and Culture', 'Employment', and 'Professional and Career Development' and outlines key responsibilities for researchers, managers of researchers, institutions, and funders. Universities UK took on the secretariat role for the Concordat in 2021
- **Student MH partnerships** - exploring models of partnership between universities and NHS mental health services via five local hubs - Bristol, N London, Sheffield, Liverpool, Manchester - and a national learning collaborative. OfS funded project led by UWE [Bristol].
- **OfS - analytics** - project involving universities, sector bodies and digital business to apply digital analytics to improve student mental health & wellbeing.
- **Algorithms** covers match-funding agreed through the UK Standing Committee for Quality Assessment from the UK funders and regulators (OfS, SFC, HEFCW and DfE-NI) to undertake work on effective practice in algorithm design and a progress review of sector action on degree algorithms and wider grade inflation activity.

21. Allocation of net assets between funds

The net assets held for various funds are as follows:

	Restricted funds £'000	Unrestricted funds £'000	Non-charitable trading funds £'000	2022 Total £'000
Fixed assets	10	354	29	393
Investments	-	600	-	600
	10	954	29	993
Current assets	6,751	5,438	642	12,831
Current liabilities	(3,102)	(1,306)	(646)	(5,054)
Net assets	3,659	5,086	25	8,770
Long-term liabilities	-	(4,018)	-	(4,018)
Group total	3,659	1,068	25	4,752

	Restricted funds £'000	Unrestricted funds £'000	Non-charitable trading funds £'000	2021 Total £'000
Fixed assets	14	400	39	453
Investments	-	600	-	600
	14	1,000	39	1,053
Current assets	3,594	6,678	22	10,294
Current liabilities	(100)	(2,974)	(62)	(3,136)
Net assets	3,508	4,704	(1)	8,211
Long-term liabilities	-	(1,638)	-	(1,638)
Group total	3,508	3,066	(1)	6,573

22. Subsidiaries

Woburn House Conference Centre Limited

The charity owns 100% of the share capital of Woburn House Conference Centre Limited, a company limited by shares (company number 03031467). The company is incorporated in the UK and registered at Woburn House, 20 Tavistock Square, London, WC1H 9HQ.

The £2 cost of the investment has been written down to zero in the accounts of the parent company. The trading activity of Woburn House Conference Centre Limited is the management of the conference centre and meeting rooms at Woburn House. The results and financial position of Woburn House Conference Centre Limited are consolidated with those of Universities UK in preparing the consolidated accounts.

A summary of the trading results for the year ended 31 July 2022 and 2021, and the aggregate amount of the assets, liabilities, share capital and reserves as at 31 July of each year are shown. Audited accounts have been filed with the Registrar of Companies.

	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Profit and loss account:		
Turnover	1,023,129	91,315
Cost of sales	(291,712)	(85,515)
Gross profit	731,417	5,800
Administration costs	(48,418)	(49,772)
Staff costs	(144,732)	(91,975)
Operating profit /(loss)	538,267	(135,947)
Interest receivable	188	22
Profit / (loss) on ordinary activities before taxation	538,455	(135,925)
Taxation	-	-
Profit / (loss) on ordinary activities after taxation	538,455	(135,925)
Gift aid payment to Universities UK	(512,001)	88,556
Retained profit / (losses) carried forward	26,454	(47,369)
Balance sheet:		
Fixed assets	29,087	38,926
Current assets	792,514	171,922
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(646,293)	(61,994)
Net current assets	146,221	109,928
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	(150,000)	(150,000)
Total net assets / (liabilities)	25,308	(1,146)
Represented by:		
Share capital	2	2
Profit and loss account	25,306	(1,148)
	25,308	(1,146)

Medical Schools Council

Universities UK is also the holding member of the Medical Schools Council, a company limited by guarantee (company number 8817383) and registered with the Charity Commission (number 1155370). The company is incorporated in the UK and registered at Woburn House, 20 Tavistock Square, London, WC1H 9HD.

The objects of the Medical Schools Council are to promote, encourage and develop medical schools in the UK and thereby advance education for the public benefit, in particular (but without limitation) medical education, research and training.

A summary of income and expenditure for the year to 31 July 2022 and 2021, and the aggregate amount of the assets, liabilities, share capital and reserves as at 31 July of each year are shown below. Audited accounts have been filed with the Registrar of Companies.

Unrestricted funds and free reserves at 31 July 2022 were £1.3m.(2021 free reserves: £1.3m) which is equal to 22 months of unrestricted expenditure (2021: 25 months). This is in line with the organisation's reserves policy.

	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Income and expenditure account:		
Income	1,508,480	1,296,282
Expenditure	(1,370,426)	(1,369,999)
Surplus / (deficit)	138,054	(73,717)
Balance sheet:		
Assets	2,459,668	2,216,667
Liabilities	(507,439)	(402,492)
Net assets	1,952,229	1,814,175

MSC Assessment

The Medical Schools Council is the parent of MSC Assessment, a company limited by guarantee (company number 8578576) and registered with the Charity Commission (number 1153045). The company is incorporated in the UK and registered at Woburn House, 20 Tavistock Square, London, WC1H 9HD.

The objects of MSC Assessment are to advance medical education for the benefit of the public including, without limitation, by the preparation, validation, accreditation, conduct and administration of any tests, examinations or other systems of assessing, evaluating and recording any aspect of medical education and training.

A summary of the income and expenditure for the year to 31 July 2022 and 2021, and the aggregate amount of the assets, liabilities, share capital and reserves as at 31 July of each year is shown below. Audited accounts have been filed with the Registrar of Companies.

	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Income and expenditure account:		
Income	498,399	512,921
Expenditure	(453,133)	(471,404)
Surplus	45,266	41,517
Balance sheet:		
Assets	742,060	737,423
Liabilities	(73,706)	(114,335)
Net assets	668,354	623,088

23. Conduit funding

	2022 £	2021 £
Funds received in advance b/fwd	-	3,269
Amount received	113,957	50,534
Amount paid out	(113,957)	(53,803)
Funds received in advance c/fwd	-	-

Amounts received and dispersed to universities on behalf of MITACS for Globalink Research Internships.

Certain trustees are Vice Chancellors of institutions in receipt of grants.

24. Pension

Universities Superannuation Scheme

The appointment of directors to the Board of USS is determined by USS's Articles of Association. Four of the directors are appointed by Universities UK; three are appointed by the University and College Union, of whom at least one must be a USS pensioner member; and a minimum of three and a maximum of five are independent directors appointed by the Board. Under the scheme trust deed and rules, the employer contribution rate is determined by the trustee, acting on actuarial advice.

The latest available complete actuarial valuation of the Retirement Income Builder is at 31 March 2020 (the valuation date), which was carried out using the projected unit method.

The 2020 valuation was the sixth valuation for the scheme under the scheme-specific funding regime introduced by the Pensions Act 2004, which requires schemes to adopt a statutory funding objective, which is to have sufficient and appropriate assets to cover their technical provisions. At the valuation date, the value of the assets of the scheme was £66.5 billion and the value of the scheme's technical provisions was £80.6 billion indicating a shortfall of £14.1 billion and a funding ratio of 83%.

A new deficit recovery plan was put in place as part of the 2020 valuation, which requires payment of 6.2% of salaries over the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2024, at which point the rate will increase to 6.3%. The 2022 deficit recovery liability reflects this plan. In the prior year, the deficit payments were 5% of salaries up to 30 June 2034. The USS liability is based on staff salary inflation of 2%, and a discount rate of 3.31% (2021: 2%, 0.87%).

At 31 March 2022, USS had 212,306 (2021: 203,995) members.

Superannuation Scheme of the University of London (SAUL)

SAUL's statutory funding objective is to have sufficient and appropriate assets to meet the costs incurred by the Trustee in paying SAUL's benefits as they fall due (the "Technical Provisions"). The Trustee adopts assumptions which, taken as a whole, are intended to be sufficiently prudent for pensions and benefits already in payment to continue to be paid and for the commitments which arise from Members' accrued pension rights to be met.

The Technical Provisions assumptions include appropriate margins to allow for the possibility of events turning out worse than expected. However, the funding method and assumptions do not completely remove the risk that the Technical Provisions could be insufficient to provide benefits in the future.

A formal actuarial valuation of SAUL is carried out every three years by a professionally qualified and independent actuary. The last actuarial valuation was carried out with an effective date of 31 March 2020. Informal reviews of SAUL's position, reflecting changes in market conditions, cash flow information and new accrual of benefits, are carried out between formal valuations.

The funding principles were agreed by the Trustee and employers in June 2021 and will be reviewed again at SAUL's next formal valuation in 2023.

At the 31 March 2020 valuation SAUL was 94% funded on its Technical Provisions basis. However, market movements following the valuation date were positive and the Trustee and the Employers agreed to allow for post-valuation experience to 30 April 2021. As SAUL was in surplus on its Technical Provisions basis at that date, no deficit contributions were required. However, the Trustee and the Employers have agreed that the ongoing Employers' contributions will increase from a rate of 16%.

At 31 March 2022, SAUL had 74,428 (2021: 68,714) members.

Summary	US\$	SAUL
Group contributions for the year to 31 July 2022	£1,296,986	£345,766
Active members at 31 July 2022	82	57
Group contributions for the year to 31 July 2021	£1,321,947	£318,105
Active members at 31 July 2021	82	55

25. Financial instruments

	2022 £	2021 £
Financial assets measured at amortised cost:		
Trade debtors	1,627	378
Cash	9,113	7,786
	10,740	8,164
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	2,717	628

Financial assets measured at amortised cost comprise trade debtors and cash.

Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost are creditors.

26. Related party transactions

Related party transactions are disclosed for CVCP Properties plc, Advance HE, QAA, Higher Education Statistics Agency, Universities and Colleges Admissions Service, Jisc, OIA and UCEA.

Universities UK owns all 550,000 preference shares in CVCP Properties plc and 50,000 (1%) of its ordinary shares. Universities UK is the original subscribing member of the other organisations and members of Universities UK contribute to governance oversight through Board membership and other involvement. Related party transactions are at arm's length where those terms can be substantiated.

	Year ended 31 July 2022		As at 31 July 2022	
	Purchases from / payments to related parties £	Income from related parties £	Amounts due from related parties £	Amounts due to related parties £
CVCP Properties plc	888,696	959,910	1,732,666	307
Advance HE	-	33,319	-	-
Quality Assurance Agency	-	470	285	-
HESA	-	755	285	-
UCAS	4,141	-	-	974
JISC	-	13,495	5,000	-
OIA	-	1,190	570	-
UCEA	450	8,506	285	-
	893,287	1,017,645	1,739,091	1,281

	Year ended 31 July 2021		As at 31 July 2021	
	Purchases from / payments to related parties £	Income from related parties £	Amounts due from related parties £	Amounts due to related parties £
CVCP Properties plc	911,644	996,489	1,772,591	-
Advance HE	-	42,584	-	-
Quality Assurance Agency	-	6,000	-	-
	911,644	1,045,073	1,772,591	694

There were no other related party transactions.

27. Members

The charity is incorporated as a private company limited by guarantee having no share capital and, in accordance with the Memorandum of Association, every member is liable to contribute a sum of £1 in the event of the company being wound up. At 31 July 2022 there were 140 members (2021: 140).

28. Income and expenditure by fund

	Notes	Unre- stricted Funds 2022 £'000	Unre- stricted Funds 2021 £'000	Restricted Funds 2022 £'000	Restricted Funds 2021 £'000	Total Funds 2022 £'000	Total Funds 2021 £'000
Income and expenditure							
Income from:							
Donations	2	941	973	-	-	941	973
Charitable activities	3	7,351	7,119	8,459	5,324	15,810	12,443
Other trading activities	4	1,054	197	40	39	1,094	236
Investments		49	31	6	-	55	31
Other income		17	17	1	-	18	17
Total		9,412	8,337	8,506	5,363	17,918	13,700
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds		481	366	39	37	520	403
Charitable activities		10,914	7,696	8,305	5,207	19,219	12,903
Total	7	11,395	8,062	8,344	5,244	19,739	13,306
Net (expenditure) / income		(1,983)	275	162	119	(1,821)	394
Transfers between funds		11	2	(11)	(2)	-	-
Net movements in funds		(1,972)	277	151	117	(1,821)	394
Total funds at 1 August		3,065	2,788	3,508	3,391	6,573	6,179
Total funds at 31 July		1,093	3,065	3,659	3,508	4,752	6,573

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Registered Company No. 2517018

Universities UK is the collective voice of 140 universities in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Our mission is to create the conditions for UK universities to be the best in the world; maximising their positive impact locally, nationally and globally.

Universities UK acts on behalf of universities, represented by their heads of institution.



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