THE UNIVERSITY OF BUCKINGHAM

England & Wales · Charity number 1141691

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	2011-05-04
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	The University Of Buckingham Yeomanry House Hunter Street Buckingham MK18 1EG
Phone	01280814280
Email	governance@buckingham.ac.uk
Website	www.buckingham.ac.uk

Activities

Objects: THE ADVANCEMENT OF LEARNING AND KNOWLEDGE BY TEACHING AND RESEARCH, AND TO ENABLE STUDENTS TO OBTAIN THE ADVANTAGES OF UNIVERSITY EDUCATION

Activities: The advancement of education for the public benefit and the foundation, maintenance and support of an educational establishment for students, to include residential accommodation and all necessary and proper ancillary services for such establishment.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- **What:** Education/training
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

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Geography

- **Area of benefit:** BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
- Throughout England

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£58,134,000	£59,580,000	£25,795,000	473
2023-12-31	£53,589,000	£47,327,000	£26,980,000	487
2022-12-31	£47,943,000	£50,326,000	£20,749,000	358
2021-12-31	£43,529,000	£40,415,000	£23,564,000	383
2020-12-31	£40,660,000	£42,817,000	£17,735,000	388

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Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Mark St John Qualter	Chair	2022-12-12
Andrew Albert Dunkley		2024-05-13
Anthea Maria Jane Bailey		2023-11-24
Camilla Rose Soames		2020-01-07
Christopher William Hollis		2021-07-26
David John Cole		2026-01-01
Dr Adekunle Ayodeji Osibogun		2025-05-19
Dr Jessica Alexandra Stephanie Walsh		2026-02-25
Graham Jones		2023-10-30
Iva Kamvalethu		2025-02-24
Katherine Nykanen		2024-05-13
Kristina Louise Webster		2024-05-13
Lord Peter Lilley		2022-11-21
MARTIN KERSEY		2025-05-19
Maneeka Hillary Bhujun		2026-01-01
Nadia Strone		2024-05-13
Nicholas Hillman		2018-03-15
Nitesh Magdani		2025-05-19
Phillip Andrew Wolfenden		2024-05-13
Professor Harriet Dunbar-Morris		2023-12-04
Professor Nils Goran Arne Roos		2023-10-30
Professor Timothy Edward Calvar Evans		2022-11-21
Sarah Jane Myhill		2023-10-30

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THE UNIVERSITY OF BUCKINGHAM

England & Wales - Charity number 1141691

Accounts

THE UNIVERSITY OF BUCKINGHAM

Annual Report & Financial Statements

For the year ended
31 December 2024

For Independent Minds

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Legal and Administrative Information

Corporate Status

The University of Buckingham (the “University”) is incorporated by Royal Charter, number RC000730. The University is a Registered Charity, number 1141691.

Principal place of business

The University of Buckingham
Yeomanry House
Hunter Street
Buckingham
MK18 1EG

Independent auditors

MHA
6th Floor
2 London Wall Place
London
EC2Y 5AU

Bankers

National Westminster Bank plc
Milton Keynes Branch
Unit 164
166 Midsummer Boulevard
Milton Keynes
MK9 3BA



The Chair's Statement

As I reflect on my second year as Chair of Council at The University of Buckingham, I do so with a mixture of gratitude and determination. The higher education sector continues to face growing pressures, from shifting student demographics to rising operational costs, yet our university has remained resolute in proactively addressing these challenges. By reinforcing our core strategies and investing selectively in vital infrastructure, we have taken important steps to ensure the University's continued resilience and success.

Responding to Sector Pressures
We have witnessed increased competition for students and tighter financial constraints across the sector. In response, we have continued to refine our strategic and financial planning, placing particular emphasis on smart cost management, subject portfolio discipline and robust forecasting. These measures reflect our commitment to future-proofing the University and safeguarding a high-quality student experience.

Conclusion of Crewe Joint Venture
During the year, we brought our joint venture at Crewe to a satisfactory conclusion for all parties. I extend my sincere appreciation to the dedicated staff and students involved, who managed this transition with professionalism and sensitivity. Their hard work ensured minimal disruption to our broader University community.

Advancing Our Strategic Objectives
Our forward-looking strategy and the guiding principles contained therein remain the bedrock of all that we do. We are methodically aligning our resources and activities with clear objectives, supported by rigorous execution plans. This unwavering focus underlines our drive to deliver an outstanding academic environment and an enriched student journey.

Digital Transformation
As part of our ambition to remain competitive and offer an exceptional experience, we have accelerated our digital transformation. This goes beyond simply upgrading 'software' systems; it involves creating an integrated, intuitive ecosystem designed from the ground up to support innovative teaching, operational efficiency, and collaborative research opportunities, benefiting both students and staff.

Strengthening Governance
Building on our commitment to transparent, high-quality governance, we have adopted the Independent Higher Education (IHE) Code of Governance, recognising its alignment with our institution's values and aspirations. We also have continued to work through the detailed recommendations of the Halpin Review and I am delighted to report we are on track with our plans. We have also welcomed new trustees to Council, including new Chairs of the Finance and Resources Committee and the Remuneration Committee, alongside co-opted members on our committees with diverse and high quality, relevant expertise. These additions bring fresh perspectives and reinforce our dedication to strong, inclusive governance.

Leadership and Community Support
I am delighted to record that our Vice-Chancellor has returned to work, and I look forward to collaborating to drive the institution forwards. Further information on this matter is included in the Trustee's Report.

We owe a debt of gratitude to all donors, supporters, and partners, whose contributions have been instrumental in helping us meet evolving priorities and invest in areas of greatest need.

Looking ahead, The University of Buckingham's longstanding tradition of independent thinking and freedom of speech, something very close to my heart, continues to guide our endeavours. We are actively exploring ways to broaden and amplify this distinctive heritage, ensuring we not only deliver outstanding academic provision but also foster an environment where new ideas and debate can flourish. My heartfelt thanks go to everyone who has played a part in our successes over the past year—students, staff, alumni, Council, and the wider community.

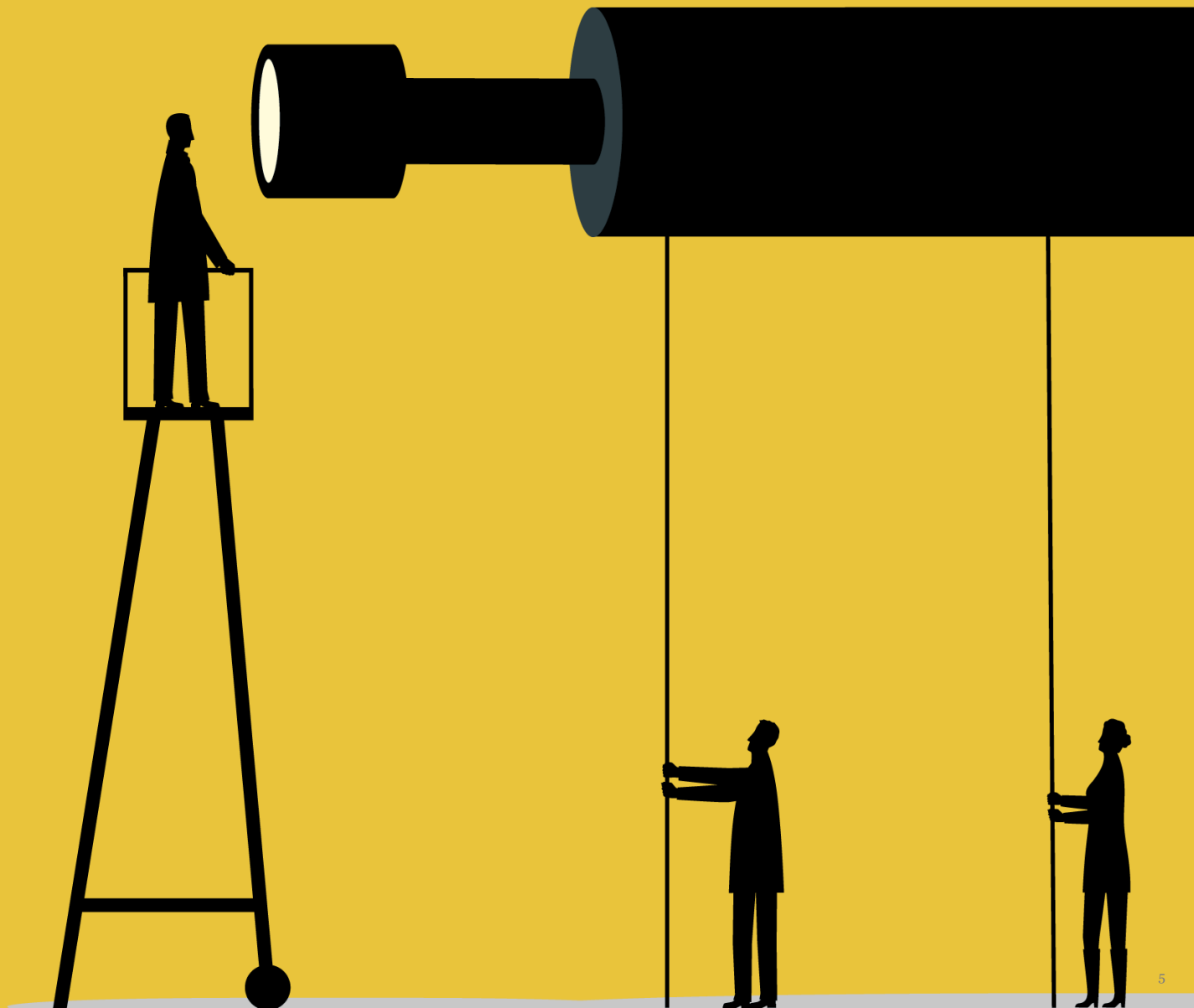
Together, we stand well-prepared to meet the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead, ever determined to uphold Buckingham's proud legacy.



Mark St John Qualter
Chair of Council 19 May 2025

Trustees' Report

The Trustees' Report represents the strategic review for The University of Buckingham (the "University") and its subsidiaries (together "the Group").



CORPORATE STATUS, REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

The University of Buckingham was incorporated by Royal Charter on 11 February 1983. Prior to that, the University College at Buckingham was founded in 1973 and admitted its first students in 1976.

The University is not-for-profit and is a Recognised Body under Statutory Instrument No.573 (The Education (Recognised Bodies) (England) Order 2020). It is authorised by its Royal Charter to award taught and research degrees in perpetuity.

The University is registered at the Charity Commission for England and Wales (Charity number: 1141691). The principal place of the University's business, as well as the names and addresses of the University's auditor and bankers, have been presented separately in the Legal and Administrative Information section of these accounts.

The University is registered with the Office for Students ('OfS') in the Approved provider category. Approved higher education providers ('HEPs') differ from Approved ('Fee Cap') HEPs in being able to levy uncapped tuition fees for undergraduate degrees but with the caveat that students at Approved providers can only access student loan funding to the lower limit. Since 2018 this has been £6,165 per annum for three-year programmes and £7,400 per annum for two-year programmes.

Despite the University's exemption from being required to have an Access and Participation Plan it remains committed to broadening opportunities for students from all backgrounds to access university education. During 2024 the University continued to progress innovative funding arrangements targeted to help UK students bridge the gap between fees and student loan levels via Future Earnings Agreements (FEAs) underwritten by the University. £0.4m of our tuition fees over the last 2 years have been funded by FEA agreements. Accessibility through financial support is further strengthened by bursary and scholarship programmes. Student numbers have continued to rise in 2024 as explained in more detail on p10 with UK students on a positive trajectory. In addition to the noted constraints on student funding, as an Approved provider, the University is unable to access any direct government funding for learning and teaching, research or capital activity. The University is committed to diversity and inclusion as embedded in its Royal Charter. Article 20 states:

'There shall be no discrimination on the grounds of any person's origin, belief, gender or disability such as to prevent him or her being admitted as a Member, Professor, teacher, other employee or student at the University or to hold office therein or to graduate thereat or to hold any advantage or privilege thereof.'

In accordance with the Charter, the University is committed to creating and maintaining an environment within which inclusive learning, fair treatment and diversity are valued, and discrimination is challenged. In September 2024 we launched our new Dyslexia Hub which aims to raise awareness and develop effective study support strategies for dyslexia and other Specific Learning Differences. This is run by the Wellbeing, Skills and Diversity (WSD) team who are dedicated to making a positive difference by working closely with the students to promote their health and wellbeing whilst providing practical support to ensure all students have the best chance to complete their studies successfully.



STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The University's governing instruments are published on its website, which include:

- the University's Royal Charter and Statutes;
- Ordinances and Scheme of Delegation;
- our academic, management and committee structures, and the terms of reference and membership of all committees.

In Autumn 2023, the University completed a detailed independent Governance Effectiveness Review as part of our commitment to good governance and quality improvement. The Halpin Partnership ('Halpin'), an independent, specialist Higher Education consultancy, undertook the review and completed a thorough assessment of the effectiveness of Council and the University's wider governance frameworks. This included conducting detailed interviews and discussions with representatives of Council, the Students' Union and members of the Executive, as well as undertaking observations of the University's key governance bodies. Halpin produced a final report, and the recommendations therein have been fully endorsed by Council and the resultant and continuing action and implementation plan is being overseen by an appointed Steering Group of Council members. The University's Ordinances and Scheme of Delegation have also undergone a regular periodic review with updated versions implemented in early 2024.

The University's Council agreed in late 2024 to adopt the Independent HE's Code of Governance as a means of evidencing the ways in which it adheres to good governance principles. Council agreed to review annually a compliance self-assessment against the requirements of this code and that this assessment be published on the University's website.

The University's consolidated financial statements include a subsidiary company and a charity, being Medical Property Management Ltd ("MPML") and The University of Buckingham Foundation, respectively. MPML is a wholly owned trading subsidiary whose purpose is to further the University's charitable purposes. The University of Buckingham Foundation is a charitable trust whose purpose is to advance education, in particular supporting and promoting the education of students at the University, and to promote research into academic and scientific fields of learning. Financial statements for these entities can be obtained from the University's principal place of business, which is noted on page 1 of these accounts.

The Trustees are required to ensure the University is carrying out its purposes for the public benefit, complies with the governing document and law, acts in the University's best interests, manages its resources responsibly and is accountable. They do so through the organisation and conduct of regular meetings for both the Council and its sub-committees. The agreed decisions and actions from the meetings are then appropriately delegated to and implemented by the University's senior management and functional departments.

With regards to the setting of remuneration, the University, through written commitment provided in the Ordinances, complies with the Higher Education Remuneration Code published by the Committee of University Chairs. In practice, the University's Remuneration Committee: considers the comparative information on the emoluments of the employees within its remit; ensures all arrangements are unambiguous and diligently recorded; determines annually the principles on which merit awards shall be made for all members of staff in the salary review for that year.

The University usually issues an annual salary increase to all staff, but does not presently have in place any bonus scheme, nor a standard annual remuneration review for senior staff. Any pay increases to be considered by the Committee are instigated via those staff within the Committee's remit the Pay and Progression process.



OBJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

As codified in the University's Statutes, the University's objectives are the advancement of learning and knowledge by teaching and research, and to enable students to obtain the advantages of a university education.

The Trustees have had due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit during their stewardship of the University's activities. Details of activities to further public benefit are set out in these accounts.

In particular, the Trustees have taken care to:

- make strategic decisions that further the charitable objectives;
- maximise public benefit to significant numbers of beneficiaries who are local to Buckingham, as well as more widely;
- manage and mitigate risks to our beneficiaries and to the University itself;
- offer Scholarships and Bursaries to promote access and participation to the public benefit as further noted below;
- welcome the local community, as well as our staff and students, to attend academic and social events at the University, including lectures, fireside chats with renowned guest speaks, taster days, musical concerts and festivals such as the History and Literature Festivals;
- extending outreach activities to local schools and community to broaden access to Higher Education;
- allow public use of certain University facilities.

BUCKINGHAM'S DISTINCTIVE POSITION

The distinctive position of The University of Buckingham is that it is an early innovator, having pioneered the accelerated two-year honours degree some 40 years ago. This is a cost-effective route for students to spend less on tuition and living costs than if they were taking a three-year degree, and enter employment a year earlier if they wish, or leave after three years with both an honours and a master's degree. Three-year honours degree options are also available. Our Medicine course is also unique, offering a GMC accredited four-and-a-half year course with a January start date, the removal of long holidays allowing for shorter overall study time whilst still enabling graduated students to enter the NHS foundation programme commencing in August each year.

STAFF

As with any organisation, staff numbers fluctuate through the year, therefore average numbers are used in these financial statements. In 2024, there was an average of 457 full time equivalent members of staff (2023: 487), comprising 143 academic (2023: 185), 7 research (2023: 7), 268 support (2023: 255) and 39 manual staff (2023: 40).



ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE ON TEACHING & RESEARCH

The founders of the University were driven by a desire to cultivate an institution that was rigorously independent and innovative. This ethos has underpinned three striking features of the University's provision:

- the pioneering of a two-year accelerated undergraduate degree and four-and-a-half-year MB ChB Medicine degree;
- an early focus on the student experience;
- a resourcing model in which academic staff teach and have time given over to research; external engagement and programme review ensures the availability of senior and permanent teaching staff throughout the full calendar year.

At The University of Buckingham, students learn from the best in a supportive environment; where they are always a name, and never a number. This approach is highly commended by our students and we were within the Top 10 for University of the Year for South-East England in the Sunday Times Good University Guide, 2024.

We pride ourselves in delivering more than just an education; we provide a launchpad for careers. Our commitment to career- focused courses earned us the top 20 spot for graduate salaries by The Mail University Guide, 2024. Students consistently praise our teaching quality and appreciate our small class sizes, ensuring they have all the tools for success.

Our top priority continues to be the health and wellbeing of our students and during 2024 we are extremely proud to have launched the Dyslexia Hub to raise awareness and develop effective student support strategies for dyslexia and other specific learning difficulties.

Our student body is diverse and is actively engaged in decision-making at all levels due to our ethos of staff-student partnership. Students sit on academic committees, formal and informal, providing valuable feedback that shapes courses, the learning environment, and strategic decisions by the University's Executive and Governance Groups.

During the process of exiting the Crewe campus our focus remains on delivering the teach out of courses for our Crewe students whilst maintaining the quality of the experience throughout the process.



Trustees' Report

STUDENT NUMBERS

For the Autumn 2024 intake, the overall student population continues its positive trajectory, with 3,603 total student population, up from Autumn 2023 (and Autumn 2022) as shown in the table below. This positive direction is a result of the increased number of new students as well as the individual schools preserving a higher number of continuing students.

We continue to attract students from across the world along with solid student numbers from United Kingdom and UK territories.

STUDENT NUMBERS	Autumn 2024	% increase on 2023	2023 Student increases
Total	3,603	7.4%	+268
Continuing	1,366	3.2%	+62
Total split over: -			
Under-graduate	1,721	10.6%	+182
Post-graduate Taught	1,499	4.3%	+64
Post-graduate Research	376	10.4%	+39
Other	7	-257.1%	-18

3,603 students from around the world studying across **8** discipline areas



2,373 UK (inc overseas territories)

551 Asia and Pacific

179 Sub Saharan Africa and Indian Ocean

76 European Union

182 Middle East and North Africa

57 Europe (other than UK and EU) and Central Asia

185 Americas and Caribbean

The University has students of all ages, with 86% being over 21.

48% of students identified as white and **41%** as Black Asian Minority Ethnic (BAME), with **11%** of surveyed students preferring not to respond.

13% of students declared a disability and we are proud to announce our new Dyslexia Hub, launched in September 2024.

55% of students identify as female.

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS

The University of Buckingham subscribes to the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA). The University has also developed several important partnerships which are geographically spread and culturally diverse and has collaborations with key academic institutions such as British University in Georgia, International Business School in Budapest, Sarajevo School of Science and Technology in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Anglo Mexican Foundation.

RESEARCH

Like other British universities, an important part of our intellectual mission is for our academics and graduate students to contribute to research and scholarship. We are committed to continuing to strive in this area with a strategy plan for 2023-2028 that sets out how we aim to educate and inspire our community of research students, scholars and support staff through an abiding commitment to our four core values, summarised in the acronym CARE: Community, Authenticity, Responsibility and Excellence. The University has 20 research areas across its research institutes and centres such as the Humanities Research Institute, Centre for Health and Relationships, Buckingham Centre for Astrobiology, Centre for Education and Employment Research, Centre for Research in Expertise Acquisition, Training and Excellence, Denning Law Journal, Dickens Journals Online, and the Max Beloff Institute.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES

The University's Scholarships and Bursaries programme is an important part of assisting students to benefit from a university education, regardless of their financial circumstances. We have bursaries and scholarships available for both home and international students at undergraduate and postgraduate study levels. These are awarded based on location, merit or financial need.

The University of Buckingham Foundation holds funds as endowed investments and property, generating income to support scholarships, bursaries, grants and other projects available for the benefit of the University.

In 2024, the University awarded total scholarships, bursaries, and prizes of £0.9m (2023: £1.3m). These scholarships and bursaries include funded, named scholarships from the Foundation of £0.1m (2023: £0.3m). These are recorded within Curriculum costs, itself within Other operating expenses. The University, and students who have benefited are ever grateful to all donors who have supported funded scholarships and bursaries.

The Group is currently reviewing its Scholarships and Bursaries to ensure that they are best focused on the needs of our students.



FINANCIAL REVIEW

Income

Total income for the Group at £58.1m in 2024 increased by 8% (2023: £53.6m).

Tuition fees remain the principal income source for the Group and financially support much of our day-to-day teaching and research activities. Tuition fees represent 85% of total income in 2024 (2023: 84%). Tuition income has increased in all areas except for our pre- and non-degree courses.

Residences and catering income on the Buckingham campus totalled £3.6m, (2023: £3.9m).

At the consolidated level, donation and endowment income in 2024 was £0.5m (2023: £0.9m).

Expenditure

Group expenditure increased in 2024 by £12.2m to £59.6m. Reasons for these movements include:

- Staff costs (excluding write back of USS pension provision costs £3.3m in 2023) increased by £5.8m and we continue to see rising campus running costs.
- The Digital Transformation journey we embarked upon late 2023 has a full year cost of £1.4m in 2024. This is a long-term project to improve the technologies used across the University to enhance the student journey and improve efficiencies in workloads of staff.

The University continues to use scholarships and bursaries to improve student access, and to support those who would otherwise struggle financially to join the University and benefit from what the University has to offer. The Group spent £0.9m on this support, (2023: £1.3m). The University is currently reviewing its offerings in this area to ensure they are best focused on the needs of our students.

In early 2024 we acquired a lease on what was previously a hotel in Buckingham ('Mount Pleasant') to extend our offerings of student accommodation. 2024 includes a full year of these lease costs.

The reported Group deficit of £1.2m (2023 surplus of £6.2m) includes the impact of several one-off events. Excluding these one-off events the “operational performance” of the Group was a deficit of £0.7m as noted below:

	Group 2024 £000	University 2024 £000	Group 2023 £000	University 2023 £000
Reported surplus (deficit)	(1,185)	(1,448)	6,231	7,171
One-off Changes in provisions	291	291	(6,502)	(5,957)
One-off Impairment charge	-	-	1,352	-
One-off & non-operational income & expenditure	244	244	(740)	(862)
Operational surplus (deficit)	**(650)**	**(913)**	**341**	**352**



FINANCIAL REVIEW

Key performance indicators

KPIs covering financial strength of The University of Buckingham Group	2024	2023
Cash and cash equivalents	£13.9m	£13.5m
External borrowing as a percentage of total income	9%	9%
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year	(£1.2m)	£6.2m

University Investments

No market investments on behalf of the University can be made without the approval of the Finance & Resource Committee and no new market investments were made during 2024. The priorities for investment are identified by the Vice-Chancellor and University's senior management, through business, social and environmental considerations.

Statement of Financial Position

Group net assets decreased to £25.8m from £26.9m in 2023 as a result of the operational deficit.

Tangible fixed asset additions totalled £2.0m (2023 £2.7m), and predominantly related to the work in progress on the Franciscan Building refurbishment being completed and refurbishment of the student facilities in our Medicine Faculty.



FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves

The Group aims to maintain an appropriate level of unrestricted reserves and cash resources for the following reasons:

- Market factors may impact the number of students attending University courses, and the mix of courses and students. The University gains most of its income from academic programmes and may rely on reserves if there is a reduction in student numbers, whether permanent or temporary.
- The University has substantial ongoing commitments relating to the welfare and education of the students and needs to maintain a level of reserves sufficient to continue to meet these commitments.
- The University has commitments to its lenders to repay capital and interest on its borrowings.

The Trustees are committed to improving the long-term financial sustainability through effective use and deployment of resources. A Reserves and Liquidity policy has been established targeting improvements in these areas. Specifically, the number of days of unrestricted reserves (unrestricted reserves divided by annual expenditure less depreciation, amortisation and changes to pension provisions, multiplied by 365) and liquidity days (cash plus cash equivalents plus current asset investments less any overdrafts or loans repayable within 12 months, divided by annual expenditure less depreciation, amortisation and changes to pension provisions multiplied by 365).

At the balance sheet date, the unrestricted reserves measure equates to 78 days, and net liquidity 88 days which are both within the targeted range (unrestricted reserves range being 40 to 120 and net liquidity 60 to 120) such that the Trustees are satisfied with progress.

The Group's unrestricted reserves decreased to £12.3m as at 31 December 2024 (31 December 2023: £13.9m), driven by the financial performance in the year as discussed throughout these accounts.

The consolidated restricted reserves increased to £5.6m as at 31 December 2024 (31 December 2023: £5.5m). The consolidated total endowment reserves increased to £7.8m (2023: £7.6m) due to an increase in market value of investments.

The timing of expenditure of restricted funds is based on when the costs required to complete the specific purposes of the funds arise, as well as the award of bursaries and scholarships to students in certain degree courses, which are sponsored by specific funds.

The Trustees consider the level of reserves at the balance sheet date to be adequate for the purposes outlined above and anticipate that over the course of the next five years unrestricted reserves will increase following pursuit of income growth and cost efficiency.

A more detailed view of the University's future is covered under the 'going concern' section of this Report.

At the date of the signing of these accounts progress has been made on the review of Endowment and Restricted funds, and the presentation of income and expenditure associated with endowment funds. We are attempting to draw this review to a conclusion as quickly as possible.

Cash Flow and Financing

The Group held liquid cash balances of £13.9m at the year-end (2023: £13.5m).

As at the balance sheet date, a loan drawn in 2021 with NatWest of £5m remained repayable within 5 years, with no capital repayment due within the next 12 months. However, subject to the normal credit review process, NatWest see no reason why this facility cannot be renewed nearer to the expiry date of the current loan. The University also has a £5m revolving credit facility available to it from NatWest which was not used during 2024.

The University continues to consider ways of improving our cash position through investment of our own funds and philanthropic support to ensure we continue to provide the student experience to enable our students to flourish.



Trustees' Report

Principal risks

The University considers its principal risks (which include external factors outside of its control) to lie in the key areas below and has taken active steps to identify and mitigate these as well as other detailed operational risks.

1. Financial

In the HE sector financial stability in the current climate is key to the University's success in delivering its objectives. The cost-of-living crisis and the changes in visa rules to exclude dependents continues to impact the sector. The Government planned increases in the student loan values for UK students will assist the future student growth pathway although the increase in the Employers National Insurance will inevitably dampen the bottom-line growth, as it will in all headcount heavy sectors.

Through the University's commitment to providing degrees in a shorter timescale and with new means of funding via our FEA scheme, as well as multiple bursaries and scholarships, we strive to continue to be attractive to new students.

The University remains focused and diligent to ensure our financial position remains sustainable both in the short term and long into the future.

Overall, the Trustees are confident in the University's ability to manage the provision of academic delivery and student outcomes and experience whilst maintaining a focus on income generation and cost control through the uncertainties that may arise through the operationalisation of the approved strategy.

2. Staffing

Like many organisations, there is a risk of being able to recruit and retain proficient staff – with a resultant adverse impact on the student experience and the quality of administrative services. Management across the University ensure sufficient staff resources are available at crucial times. Among the mitigation measures, particular care is taken around staff engagement, well-being, and professional development. The Vice-Chancellor holds regular 'town hall' meetings to encourage engagement and debate with staff colleagues, and there are regular events to promote staff well-being. As a relatively small organisation there is recognition that the University is reliant on several key individuals, but our collegiate approach allows information and expertise to be shared so that absences can be covered where needed and, in some cases, interim staffing brought in.

In early 2025 the University chose to open a voluntary severance scheme to assist in its financial stability . The scheme was open for a short period only, to all eligible staff, and resulted in 14 individuals leaving the University at the end of March 2025 with £0.4m annualised savings.

3. Built Estate

With our Estates buildings being a mix of new builds and historic, the older buildings need our ongoing attention and investment to ensure they still meet the needs of our students and staff alike.

In early 2024 a lease was entered into for what was previously a Buckingham hotel, now renamed Mount Pleasant, to secure further student accommodation on a twin room basis. This has allowed us to not only temporarily reaccommodate students to enable us to upgrade one of our accommodation blocks but also grow our on-campus student numbers in Buckingham.

Following feedback through the 'your voice matters' initiative with our students we have renovated one accommodation building to provide modern, comfortable and stylish accommodation with brand new furniture and double beds to elevate the living experience. Furthermore, another accommodation building has received a heating system upgrade, replacing an outdated gas heating system with energy-efficient electric heaters and water systems powered by a cutting-edge solar energy solution.

Work has commenced on our Medicine faculty's teaching facilities with improvements to enhance our teaching and social spaces.

We are committed to continually improving the student experience on campus.



4. Information Systems and Data Security

The University of Buckingham is, like many universities, at risk of malicious cyber incursions and unforeseen infrastructure failures that can impact its staff and students; however, as was shown during the pandemic, the University is agile enough to respond to emerging threats quickly and pivot to new forms of delivery should this be necessary. As a small institution, Buckingham must remain cognisant of risks to its market share and seek to address these proactively through technology investment, consistent messaging, awareness and a personalised approach.

Significant upgrades to the technology infrastructure commenced during 2024 that will continue through 2025 to both improve technology performance and experience throughout the University.

To further strengthen our IT security and resilience, and improve the technology delivery to students and staff, the University launched a Digital Transformation programme at the end of 2023. We successfully launched the new the Finance system in November 2024 and are testing our HR and Payroll systems which are due to go live in 2025. We are also planning and scoping for our new student management solutions to go live in 2026 with a commitment to bring improvements to the student management and end to end student journey.

5. Regulatory Compliance

We are committed to ensure we maintain compliance in all areas of regulation and have revamped our approach to internal audits with a new outsourced provider to further support improvements in our control environment.

The Group's principal regulatory bodies are:

- The University of Buckingham: Office for Students and The Charity Commission, and Ofsted, Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and The General Medical Council for more specific activities.
- The University of Buckingham Foundation: The Charity Commission
- Medical Property Management Limited: Companies House

The University is also mindful of regulatory compliance relating to immigration, employment law and our academic activities generally (and particularly within healthcare and education).

6. Joint Venture

As disclosed as a post balance sheet events in the 2023 accounts, in February 2024 the University completed mutually acceptable agreements with Apollo Education UK and other parties concerning our Crewe Campus. As a result of a series of connected agreements:

- A new replacement campus lease was established, running through to the end of 2026;
- the guarantee of the Booth Hall lease between Apollo Buckingham Health Science Campus (ABHSC) and Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU) was extended until the end of 2026;
- the shares in ABHSC were transferred to Apollo Education UK;
- all historic agreements with Apollo Education UK and ABHSC were superseded by the above new arrangements.

It was also announced in March 2024 that the strategic decision had been taken to relocate teaching activities and educational provision from Crewe to Buckingham on a phased basis to complete before the end of 2026. All uncertain matters relating to the Crewe operations have been resolved. Attention and focus remain on a controlled teach out of operations in Crewe, whilst maintaining the experience of our students based there.

7. Reputational Risk

The University is acutely aware of the need to maintain a positive reputation to attract future students, staff and other stakeholders. Maintaining a positive reputation around all governance and sector specific topics, such as free speech, is proactively discussed and managed by the Trustees and governance committees.

The suspension of the Vice Chancellor from the University between October 2024 and January 2025 did attract significant media interest and concern across various stakeholders. The independent report, completed by a member of the King's Council and with the regulators informed throughout, concluded that allegations against him were not substantiated, resulting in his suspension being lifted. Efforts continue to ensure there is no lasting reputational damage.



Financial Risk Management Objectives and Policies

The Group's main financial instruments are cash and quoted investments held by the University and the Foundation. In addition, items such as trade debtors and trade creditors arise directly from its operations. The main purpose of these financial instruments is to fund the Group's operations. The existence of these financial instruments exposes the Group to several financial risks, namely market risk, liquidity risk and credit risk. The Trustees review and agree policies for managing each of these risks and they are summarised below.

a. Market Risk

- Currency risk: The Group is exposed to some translation and transaction foreign exchange risk in respect of cash, cash equivalents, and investments. This risk is not significant to the Group and accordingly there are no hedging provisions in place.
- Interest rate risk: At the balance sheet date the University had a £5m bank loan outstanding. Details of the loan are in Note 14. Since the loan interest rate is fixed, there is no current interest rate risk.
- Share price risk: The Group's exposure to share price risk consists mainly of movements in the value of the Group's investments in quoted shares.

b. Liquidity risk

The University has sufficient liquid cash resources partially arising from funds drawn down from the loan. The University manages its liquidity risk through regular cash flow forecasts and other financial management information tools. Also, the University monitors cash resources as a proportion of operating costs through the year, considering peaks and troughs in cash flows and the projected impacts on banking covenants. Furthermore, the University has a £5m revolving credit facility with NatWest available which has been unused since it was established in 2021.

The University's investments are guided by the University's Financial Regulations, and the University's Finance and Resource Committee, which also has oversight of the Reserves and Liquidity policy setting out the strategy and policies for cash management, long term investments and borrowings.

c. Credit Risk

The Group's principal financial assets are quoted investments held by the University and the Foundation, cash and trade debtors. Quoted investments are managed by independent professional advisers, working with a cautious risk appetite set by The University of Buckingham and The University of Buckingham Foundation. The credit risk associated with the investments and cash is limited, as the counterparties are well-established financial institutions. The principal credit risk arises therefore from the Group's receivables. The nature of the Group's client base, being mainly undergraduate and postgraduate students, is such that it is not significantly exposed to any single individual customer, although there are several commercial and institutional clients. For example, the University validates other providers' programmes in the UK and internationally. The Trustees therefore concentrate their efforts on ensuring that the processes around credit approval and debt collection are sufficiently robust and the new finance system implemented in 2024 provides a foundation to further improve control of this inherent risk.

Fraud and error

As with any business, there are potential risks to the integrity of financial assets and financial information. The primary safeguards are the staffing and ongoing training of the finance office and its financial procedures, some of which have been reviewed during 2024 to ensure we are continuing to adhere to robust control mechanisms. Staff are regularly updated on fraud risks and there is a schedule of training for staff. Some processes and controls have been further automated through the new finance system implementation.

The Audit and Risk Committee undertakes rolling reviews of risk management. The Finance and Resources Committee and the Council receive financial reports and information which enable them to engage in significant financial decisions.



Climate change

The Trustees recognise climate change as an important matter for the University and the wider community. The University has already taken steps to reduce consumption of energy (such as by installing modern heating and lighting systems, and insulation). Furthermore, reusing and recycling materials is done where possible, and University vehicles are predominantly electric. During 2024 gas-powered water and heating systems in one accommodation block were replaced by electric plant, and solar panels added to the roof. The Trustees recognise there is more to do over the coming years to assess and respond to climate risks.

The University, like other organisations, needs to transition to more environmentally friendly means of delivering its objectives. There is desire for this from within the University and our students and we will see increasing demands to make changes to our working practices and our built estate because of societal changes and legislation. The Executive Group continue to create a wider engagement across staff, students, and other stakeholders to drive awareness and activity around sustainability. Environmental considerations are required for all projects and significant decisions.

Risk of exposure to Ukraine, Russia, Israel & Palestine

Occasionally, a handful of students from these countries enrol, and the tragic conflicts that exist currently in Ukraine and the Middle East are noted, though the University does not have business operations connected to these countries, so there is minimal and immaterial risk exposure.

Perspectives on future direction

The University of Buckingham launched its Strategic Plan 2023-2028 in 2023.
Setting out the University's ambitions for the coming five years, the Strategic Plan emphasises the importance of sustainable growth in numbers, income and surplus alongside growth of the University's academic provision and growth of the University's employees, personally and professionally. Underpinning these aims are four guiding principles that build on the University's foundations while speaking to the future: independence and academic freedom, academic excellence, student partnership, and innovation and entrepreneurship. The University has spent the intervening period crystallising this exciting vision into an ambitious programme of strategic and transformational work, the former targeting the Buckingham of the future and the latter providing a solid infrastructure upon which to build.

The following section sets out a summary of those Strategic plans.



One Strategic Aim Four Guiding Principles

We will grow our student numbers, income and operational surplus in a planned, measured and sustainable manner.

We will grow our academic provision in breadth, depth and rigour.

We will grow our people by supporting them with professional development and state-of-the-art systems and processes.

We will underpin our growth and sustainability with four guiding principles: independence and academic freedom; academic excellence; student partnership; innovation and entrepreneurship.



Our Vision

A beacon of independence and academic freedom, we will be a university internationally recognised for fostering the leaders, thinkers and achievers of the future.

Our Mission

Inspiring and empowering individuals to achieve the extraordinary through excellence in learning, teaching, research and entrepreneurship.

Our Pitch

Discover the Buckingham difference: learn with the best in a university where you're always a name, never a number.

Our Guiding Principles

- **INDEPENDENCE AND ACADEMIC FREEDOM**
- **ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE**
- **STUDENT PARTNERSHIP**
- **INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

Our Values

COMMUNITY

We are a global community of students, scholars, professionals and alumni, sharing our passion for understanding.

AUTHENTICITY

We are true to who we are: an independent university, wholly committed to the pursuit of free enquiry.

RESPONSIBILITY

We take responsibility for our actions and our words, and how we maintain and utilise our physical, financial and natural resources and environment.

EXCELLENCE

We are professional, collegiate and hard-working, and we strive for success in all that we do.



Our Motto

Alis Volans Propriis

Flying on our own wings

Trustee's Report

Going concern

The Group and University's financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis, based on Trustees' assessment of the financial position, operating model, and forecast cash flows. This assumes the Group and University will continue in operation for the foreseeable future including meeting its future obligations as they fall due.

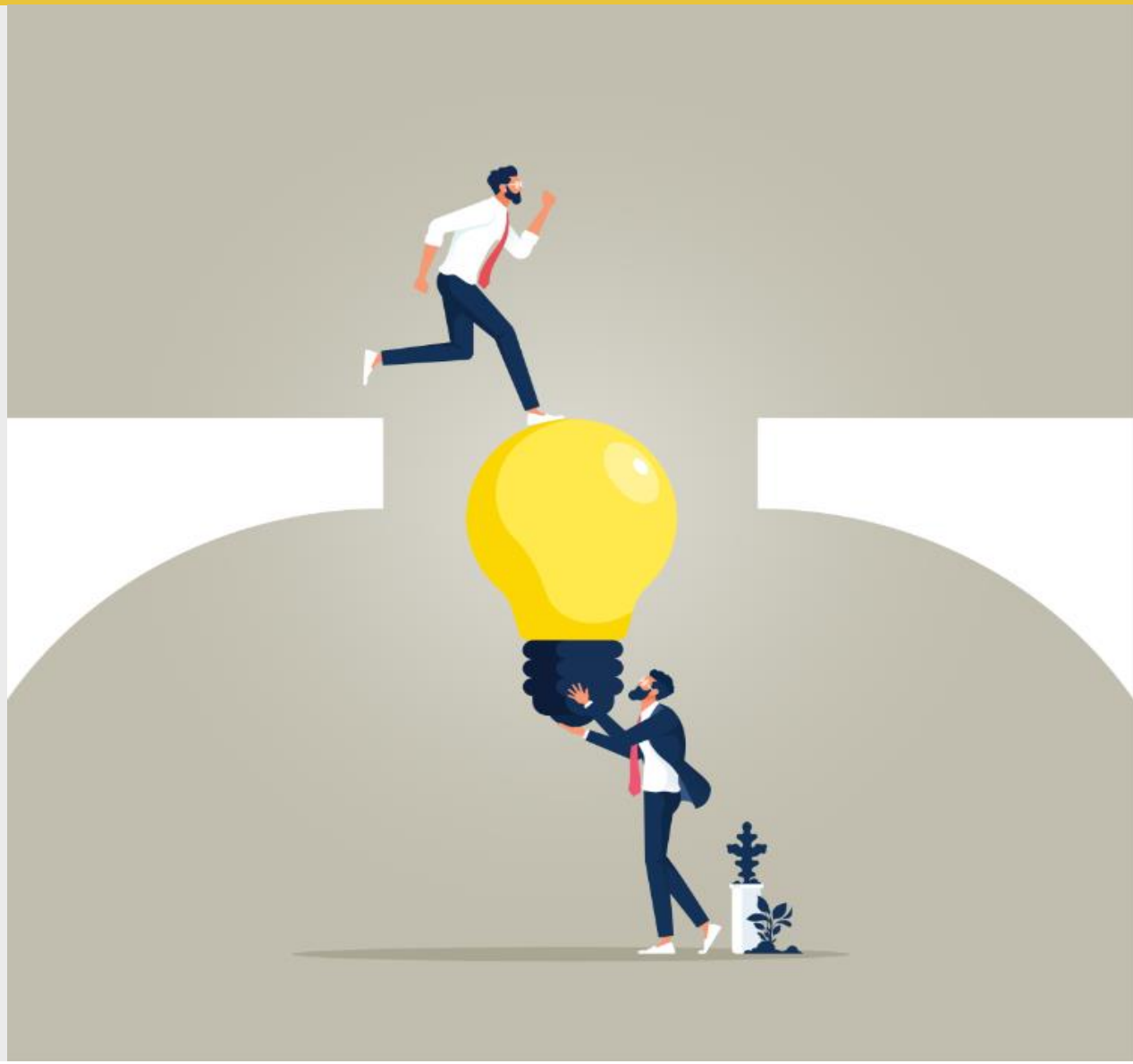
The University continues to take actions to further improve governance and financial sustainability, and the new Strategic plan provides the focus and direction for the further growth and success of the University.

At the balance sheet date, the Group is reporting net current assets of £0.01m (University: net current liabilities £5.7m), which is an improvement of £2.0m for the Group (University shows an increase in liabilities of £3.0m).

Throughout 2024 the Group continued to comply with the debt service covenants. Based on forecasts and projections, the Group also expects to comply with such covenants for the foreseeable future, with the ability to withstand plausible negative variations in those forecasts.

After considering significant potential risks to plans and forecasts and the potential actions, which could include the sale of additional capital assets and a programme of cost restructuring, the Trustees are satisfied that it remains appropriate to prepare the Group and University financial statements on a going concern basis.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf on __ May 2025 by:



Mark St John Qualter
Chair of Council

Professor James Tooley
Vice-Chancellor

David Cole
Chief Financial Officer

19 May 2025

Chancellor and Members of Council

THE COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL

Pursuant to Statute 15, the Council shall comprise ex-officio members, independent members and elected members.

Membership of the sub-committees of Council for 2024 are listed below, with the Chair denoted in bold. The list below represents the committee members as at 31 December 2024.

Finance & Resources Committee

Mr Andy Dunkley
Ms Anthea Bailey
Ms Annabel Awosika
Ms Kristina Church
Ms Nadia Strone
Professor James Tooley
Mr Phil Wolfenden
Mr Martin Kersey (co-opted)

Audit & Risk Committee

Mr Chris Hollis
Mr Nicholas Hillman
Lord Peter Lilley
Ms Katie Nykanen
Professor Göran Roos
Mr Nitesh Magdani (co-opted)

Nominations & Governance Committee

Mr Mark St John Qualter
Ms Annabel Awosika
Mr Chris Hollis
Professor Jacqueline O'Dowd
Ms Katie Nykanen
Ms Camilla Soames
Professor James Tooley
Mr Phil Wolfenden

Remuneration Committee

Ms Nadia Strone
Mr Andy Dunkley
Ms Josephine Mbuya
Mr Mark St John Qualter
Mrs Camilla Soames

Chancellor Dame Mary Archer		
Independent Members of Council		
Mr Mark Qualter	(Chair of Council)	
Mrs Camilla Soames	(Vice-Chair of Council)	
Mr Andy Dunkley		Appointed May 2024
Mr Christopher Hollis		
Sir Francis Habgood		Resigned 1 November 2024
Professor Goran Roos		
Ms Katie Nykanen		Appointed May 2024
Mrs Kristina Church		Appointed May 2024
Mrs Nadia Strone		Appointed May 2024
Mr Nicholas Hillman		
Lord Peter Lilley		
Mr Phil Wolfenden		Appointed 1 May 2024
Professor Timothy Evans		
Elected Members of Council		
Mrs Anthea Bailey	(Professional Services)	
Mr Graham Jones	(Senate-elected academic)	
Professor Jacqueline O'Dowd	(Senate-elected academic)	
Ms Josephine Mbuya	(Alumni Representative)	
Mrs Sarah Myhill	(Senate-elected academic)	
Mr Toluwani Osamolu	(Student member)	Resigned 5 October 2024
Mr Kamva Gazca	(Student member)	Appointed 24 February 2025
Ex-Officio Members of Council		
Professor James Tooley	(Vice-Chancellor)	
Professor Harriet Dunbar-Morris	(Pro-Vice Chancellor (Academic) & Provost)	Appointed December 2023
Mr Toby Corbett	(President of the Students' Union)	Term ended 31 December 2024
Ms Annabel Awosika	(President of the Students' Union)	Appointed 3 December 2024

Statement of responsibilities of the University Council in relation to the financial statements

RESPONSIBILITIES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE COUNCIL IN RELATION TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Council is responsible for preparing the Annual Report and financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards, comprising FRS 102 "Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland", and applicable law). In accordance with its regulatory responsibilities under section 18 of Schedule 7 of the Education Reform Act 1988, the University's Council presents audited financial statements for each financial year.

The financial statements have also been prepared in accordance with:

- The Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)"; and
- The Charities Act 2011.
- The provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting for Further and Higher Education 2019 and meet the requirements of the Office for Students accounts direction dated 25 October 2019.

The Council is required to keep proper accounting records which: disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Group and University; which enable it to ensure that the annual financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the

Group and University and of the income and expenditure for that year; and comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the provisions of its Royal Charter. In causing the financial statements to be prepared, Council has ensured that:

- Judgements and estimates are made that are reasonable and prudent.
- Financial statements are prepared on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Group and University will continue in operation for the foreseeable future.

Council is responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Group and University and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Council is further responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the information, charity and financial, included on the University's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Operations of Council

Council's powers are exercised through a number of sub-committees and sub-groups:

- Audit and Risk Committee (ARC)
- Finance and Resources Committee (FRC)
- Nominations and Governance Committee (NGC)
- Remuneration Committee (Rem Com)
- Inclusion Committee*
- Honorary Appointments and Awards Committee*

(* Joint Committee of Council and Senate)

Operations of Senate

Senate's powers are exercised through a number of sub-committees, whose terms of reference were approved by Senate:

- University Research Committee
- University Learning & Teaching Committee
- Inclusion Committee*
- Honorary Appointments and Awards Committee*

(* Joint Committee of Council and Senate)



Mark St John Qualter
Chair of Council



Professor James Tooley
Vice-Chancellor



David Cole
Chief Financial Officer

19 May 2025

Statement of Corporate Governance and Internal Control

This statement of corporate governance and internal control covers the period from 1 January 2024 to the date of approval of these financial statements.

Corporate governance structure

The University is incorporated by Royal Charter (number RC000730) and the conduct of the University's affairs is governed by the Royal Charter and accompanying Schedule (Statutes), approved by the Privy Council.

The University is registered as an Approved Provider with the Office for Students (UKPRN: 10007787) and is a registered charity (number 1141691). It is authorised by its Royal Charter to award taught and research degrees in perpetuity. The University is a member of Universities UK.

The University has a bicameral constitution comprising the Council and the Senate. Whereas the Council is the governing body, and its members are Trustees of the University, the Senate is the governing academic authority, responsible for the setting and maintenance of threshold academic standards and for assuring and enhancing the quality of students' learning opportunities.

The Council of the University has responsibility for the stewardship of the University's assets; its members focus on strategic decision making and ensuring adherence to its charitable objectives whilst delegating day-to-day operational responsibilities to the Vice-Chancellor, the Executive and senior management team. It receives assurances that the University meets all legal and regulatory requirements imposed on it as a corporate body.

It is a requirement of the University's Ordinances that Council's membership be formed of a majority of independent members who are external to the University and that it is made up of at least 15 and no more than 25 members in total. Council is currently made up of 21 members, of whom three are ex-officio members (the Vice-Chancellor, Pro Vice-Chancellor and President of the Students' Union), three are academic staff members elected by Senate to Council, one is a professional services staff member elected by their constituency and one is a further student member nominated by the Students' Union. The remaining members are independent, of whom a member is nominated by the University's alumnus.

In 2024, Council appointed five new independent members and co-opted two members to committees following a transparent recruitment process overseen by members of the Nominations and Governance Committee. The membership of Council is considered by the Nominations and Governance Committee, based on a skills matrix and diversity information that enables decisions to be made about future recruitment activity.

The Senate of the University is its governing academic authority. Senate's responsibilities include: the regulation and control of all academic awards as well as the programming and teaching that facilitates students' admission to said academic awards, the management of the formalities associated with making academic awards and the regulation of University discipline. The Senate is responsible for overseeing the development of the University's academic portfolio (including all associated research, learning and teaching and assessment activities), for the admission of students and for all areas pertaining to academic delivery and support.

The principal academic and administrative officer of the University is the Vice- Chancellor, who has a general responsibility to the Council for maintaining and promoting the efficiency and good order of the University and who is the Chair of the Senate. The Vice-Chancellor also chairs the Executive Group, comprising the members of the University's senior management.

The University completed a detailed independent review of the effectiveness of its governance in 2023 which made a number of recommendations and suggestions for improvement, the implementation of which is being overseen by a Steering Group of Council members. A number of these improvements have already been implemented, and communications are provided regularly to staff on this process. Halpin conducted an 'Impact Review' with the University in January 2025 which included a review of progress made since they issued their report. In their Impact Review report, Halpin were 'delighted that such a detailed report had been actioned so quickly'. Further work will continue through 2025 to ensure that the remaining actions continue to be prioritised.

Oversight of Corporate Governance, Risk Management, Statutory and Regulatory Responsibilities

The Audit and Risk Committee of the Council (ARC) provides much of the oversight of the University's compliance, corporate governance and risk management. This is through reports from senior management, the University's Internal and External auditors, and from the University's risk management lead from whom a report is received at each meeting. The Council, in turn, receives the minutes of ARC and an update at each of its meetings from the Chair of ARC. The Council receives updates on matters relating to Corporate Governance from the Vice-Chancellor.

The Council and its Committees ensure that the University complies with its statutory and regulatory responsibilities. The ARC, together with Senate, provide much of the oversight of compliance with OfS' ongoing conditions of registration. Additionally, the Finance and Resources Committee (FRC) oversees compliance with the University's statutory obligations in relation to health and safety.

The University's management accounts are considered by the Council, the FRC and the ARC on at least a quarterly basis.

Statement of Corporate Governance and Internal Control

Scope of responsibility

The Council has ultimate responsibility for the University's system of internal control and reviewing its effectiveness. The Council has delegated to the Vice- Chancellor the day-to-day responsibility for maintaining sound systems of internal control that support the policies, aims and objectives of the University whilst safeguarding all funds and assets in accordance with responsibilities set out in the Office for Students' conditions of registration. The effectiveness of these controls is reviewed by the ARC. The Vice- Chancellor is also responsible for reporting to the Council any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

The purpose of the system of internal control

The system of internal control is an on- going process designed to identify the principal risks to the achievement of the University's plans, policies and objectives; to evaluate the extent of those risks; and to manage them efficiently, effectively, and economically. Such a system is designed to manage and mitigate rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve business objectives and can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss.



Statement of Corporate Governance and Internal Control

The risk and control framework

The Council has taken reasonable steps to ensure:

- There are appropriate financial and management controls in place to safeguard the assets of the Group and University and prevent and detect fraud, with any concerns investigated thoroughly before the financial statements are signed off.
- The economical, efficient, and effective management of the Group and University's resources and expenditure.
- Funds from whatever sources and administered by the University for designated purposes have been applied properly for those purposes and managed in accordance with applicable legislation.
- It is in receipt of regular reports and additional meetings are scheduled, to discuss the issues arising from significant matters if and as required.

A process is in place for identifying, evaluating, and managing the significant risks facing the University, and ensuring the associated procedures have been in place and operational throughout the year, notably through the regular review and updating of the University's Risk Register. The Risk Register details strategic and recurrent risks and covers governance, management, quality of service, reputational, operational, compliance as well as financial risks together with the range of mitigating controls in place and the early warning indicators for each risk.

The Risk Register is under continuous review by senior management and by the ARC at each of its meetings. This enables the University to ensure that it can monitor and manage risks in an ever-changing environment.

The key elements of the University's system of risk assessment and internal control, which is designed to discharge the responsibilities set out above, include the following:

- Risk Management, which is led by the Registrar, supported by senior managers, and reports into ARC.
- A medium and short-term financial planning process, supplemented by detailed annual income, expenditure, capital, and cash flow budgets.
- Regular reviews of academic performance and monthly reviews of financial results involving variance reporting and updated of forecast outturns.
- Clearly defined requirements for approval and control of expenditure
- - with investment decisions involving capital or revenue expenditure being subject to review according to approval levels set by FRC; and
- An outsourced internal audit function. A new provider was appointed in 2023 which has created and implemented a new framework and program of internal audit across the University's operations, reporting directly to ARC.

Review of effectiveness

The Council receives periodic reports from ARC (including copies of minutes of its meetings), and arrangements are in place to ensure regular reports are received from the University management on their actions to manage risks in their areas of responsibility. Reviews by Council of the effectiveness of the system of internal control are informed by the reports of Council, committees, and Officers of the University. ARC is satisfied with the improving maturity of the risk control framework, and is supportive of the use of the internal audit expertise to deliver training workshops to Executive. ARC and the Trustees are satisfied with the resultant effectiveness of the implemented framework.

Nominations and Governance Committee

The Nominations and Governance Committee ('NGC') normally meets at least bi-annually to oversee the skills base of Council, the appointment of independent and other members of Council and Officers of the University, review terms of office of members and the governing documents of the University, making recommendations thereon as required for the approval of Council.

Remuneration Committee

The Remuneration Committee (Rem Com) monitors the performance of Officers of the University falling within its remit (including the Vice-Chancellor) and determines any changes in their remuneration.

The Rem Com sets the salary of the Vice-Chancellor and other staff members falling within its remit considering the nature of the role, the institution and performance in the role, and does so in accordance with Senior Staff Remuneration Framework it has approved in compliance with the Committee of University Chairs' Higher Education Senior Staff Remuneration Code (November 2021).

The Chair of Council undertakes the annual appraisal of the Vice-Chancellor's performance in the previous year, agreeing objectives for the next 12-month period. This takes place at the end of each calendar year.



Mark St John Qualter
Chair of Council



Professor James Tooley
Vice-Chancellor



David Cole
Chief Financial Officer

19 May 2025

Independent Auditors' report to the Council of The University of Buckingham

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The University of Buckingham (the 'University') and its subsidiaries ('the Group') for the year ended 31 December 2024 which comprise the Group and University Statements of Comprehensive Income, Group and University Statements of Changes in Reserves, Group and University Statements of Financial Position, Group Statement of Cashflows and the related notes, including a Statement of Principal 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).

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting for Further and Higher Education 2019 in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations, The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, but has been withdrawn.

This has been done in order for the accounts to provide a true and fair view in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015. In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the University's and Group's affairs as at 31 December 2024 and of their incoming resources and application of resources 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 Charities Act 2011.

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 University and the Group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council'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 Council's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, including consideration of financial forecasts and cashflows and compliance with bank covenants, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the University's and 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 Council with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Independent Auditors' report to the Council of The University of Buckingham

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our Auditors' Report thereon. The Council are responsible for the other information contained within the Annual 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. 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 course of 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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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.

Responsibilities of the Governing Body

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities of the University's Council in Relation to the Financial Statements, the Council are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements which give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Council 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 Council are responsible for assessing the Group and University'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 Council either intend to liquidate the Group or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

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 Auditors' 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 specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance concerning actual and potential litigation, regulatory actions and claims;
- Enquiry of staff to identify any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness;
- Evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business;
- Reviewing accounting estimates for bias;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

Independent Auditors' report to the Council of The University of Buckingham

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.

Report on other legal and regulatory

We are required to report on the following matters by the Accounts Direction dated 25 October 2019 issued by the Office for Students ('the Accounts Direction').

In our opinion, in all material respects:

- funds from whatever source administered by the University for specific purposes have been properly applied to those purposes and managed in accordance with relevant legislation; and
- the financial statements meet the requirements of the Accounts Direction dated 25 October 2019 issued by the Office for Students.

We are also required by the Accounts Direction to report where the results of our audit work indicate that the University's grant and fee income, as disclosed in the notes to the financial statements, has been materially misstated. We have nothing to report in these respects.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Council, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Council 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 Group and University and its Council, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



MHA, Statutory Auditor
London, United Kingdom

Date: 29 May 2025

MHA is the trading name of MHA Audit Services LLP, a limited liability partnership in England and Wales (registered number OC455542).

MHA Audit Services LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

Group and University statements of comprehensive income for year ended 31 December 2024

Note		Group 2024 £000	University 2024 £000	Group 2023 £000	University 2023 £000
	Income				
1	Tuition fees and education contracts	49,671	49,671	45,066	45,066
2	Research grants and contracts	325	325	374	374
3	Other income	7,178	7,147	7,044	6,819
4	Investment income	464	219	246	162
	Total income before donations and endowments	57,638	57,362	52,730	52,421
5	Donations and endowments	496	590	859	642
	Total income	58,134	57,952	53,589	53,063
	Expenditure				
6	Staff costs	25,041	25,041	19,154	19,154
7	Other operating expenses	32,274	32,832	25,593	24,528
11	Depreciation	2,158	2,098	2,340	2,061
8	Interest and other finance costs	107	107	240	240
9	Total expenditure	59,580	60,078	47,327	45,983
	(Deficit)/Surplus before other gains/(losses)	(1,446)	(2,126)	6,262	7,080
	(Losses)/gains on disposal of fixed assets	(129)	-	(534)	(534)
11	Gains on investments	390	678	503	625
	(Deficit)/surplus for the year	(1,185)	(1,448)	6,231	7,171
	Total comprehensive income/(expenditure) for the year	(1,185)	(1,448)	6,231	7,171
	Represented by:				
16	Endowment income/(expenditure) for the year	160	118	346	139
17	Restricted income/(expenditure) for the year	267	55	(465)	(505)
	Unrestricted income/(expenditure) for the year	(1,612)	(1,621)	6,350	7,537
	(Deficit)/surplus for the year	(1,185)	(1,448)	6,231	7,171

The consolidated income is attributable to the University and its subsidiaries. There is no non-controlling interest. All income and expenditure of the University and its subsidiaries relates wholly to continuing operations. The notes on pages 41 to 60 form part of these financial statements.

Group and University statements of changes in reserves for year ended 31 December 2024

Group	Endowment £000	Restricted £000	Unrestricted £000	Total £000
Balance at 1 January 2023	**7,051**	**5,653**	**8,045**	**20,749**
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	346	(465)	6,350	6,231
Release of restricted funds spent in the year	-	-	(370)	(370)
Transfer of expenditure between reserves	170	(9)	(161)	-
New donations and reclassifications	-	305	65	370
Surplus/(deficit) for the year ended 31 December 2023	516	(169)	5,884	6,231
Balance at 1 January 2024	**7,567**	**5,484**	**13,929**	**26,980**
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	-	-	(1,185)	(1,185)
Release of funds spent in the year	(75)	(684)	(821)	(1,580)
Transfers between reserves	(155)	155	-	-
New donations and reclassifications	390	796	394	1,580
Surplus/(deficit) for the year ended 31 December 2024	160	267	(1,612)	(1,185)
Balance at 31 December 2024	**7,727**	**5,751**	**12,317**	**25,795**

University	Endowment £000	Restricted £000	Unrestricted £000	Total £000
Balance at 1 January 2023	**3,686**	**5,979**	**5,102**	**14,767**
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	139	(505)	7,537	7,171
Release of restricted funds spent in the year	-	-	(144)	(144)
Transfer of expenditure between reserves	(22)	185	(163)	-
New donations and reclassifications	-	144	-	144
Surplus/(deficit) for the year ended 31 December 2023	117	(176)	7,230	7,171
Balance at 1 January 2024	**3,803**	**5,803**	**12,332**	**21,938**
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	-	-	(1,448)	(1,448)
Release of funds spent in the year	(60)	(579)	(639)	(1,278)
Transfers between reserves	-	-	-	-
New donations and reclassifications	178	634	466	1,278
Surplus/(deficit) for the year ended 31 December 2024	118	55	(1,621)	(1,448)
Balance at 31 December 2024	**3,921**	**5,858**	**10,711**	**20,490**

Group and University statements of financial position at 31 December 2024

Note		Group 2024 £000	University 2024 £000	Group 2023 £000	University 2023 £000
	Fixed assets				
10	Tangible assets	27,552	26,714	32,252	26,749
11	Investments	7,293	8,630	6,984	8,012
	Total fixed assets	34,845	35,344	39,236	34,761
	Current assets				
11	Investments	-	-	87	-
12	Trade and other receivables	12,721	12,805	12,295	13,728
	Cash and cash equivalents	13,897	12,213	13,468	11,213
	Total current assets	26,618	25,018	25,850	24,941
13	**Less creditors amounts falling due within one year**	(26,489)	(30,693)	(27,756)	(27,677)
	Net current assets/(liabilities)	129	(5,675)	(1,906)	(2,736)
14	**Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year**	(5,000)	(5,000)	(5,000)	(5,000)
15	Pensions provisions	(50)	(50)	(134)	(134)
15	Other provisions	(4,129)	(4,129)	(5,216)	(4,953)
	Total net assets	**25,795**	**20,490**	**26,980**	**21,938**
	Restricted reserves				
16	Income and expenditure reserve – Endowment	7,727	3,921	7,567	3,803
17	Income and expenditure reserve – Restricted	5,751	5,858	5,484	5,803
	Unrestricted reserves				
	Income and expenditure reserve – Unrestricted	12,317	10,711	13,929	12,332
18	**Total reserves**	**25,795**	**20,490**	**26,980**	**21,938**

The financial statements on pages 30 to 60 were approved by Council on 19 May 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:



Mark St John Qualter
Chair of Council



Professor James Tooley
Vice-Chancellor



David Cole
Chief Financial Officer

Group Cash Flow Statement

Cashflow from operating activities	Group 2024 £000	Group 2023 £000
(Deficit)/surplus for the year	(1,185)	6,231
Adjustments for non-cash items		
Depreciation	2,158	2,340
Release of funds spent in the year	(1,580)	(370)
Decrease/(increase) in current investments	87	(2)
Increase in impairment of tangible assets	-	1,352
Decrease in student receivables	2,239	1,630
(Increase) in other debtors, prepayments, and accrued income	(2,665)	(620)
(Decrease) in creditors	(1,267)	(1,346)
(Decrease) in other provisions	(1,171)	(3,186)
(Decrease) in pension provision	-	(3,316)
Adjustments for investing or financial activities		
Interest payable	107	240
Investment income	(464)	(246)
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	129	536
(Gain) in investments	(390)	(503)
Net cash (outflow)/inflow from operating activities	(4,002)	2,740
Cashflows from investing activities		
Investment income	464	246
Gain in investments	390	503
(Purchase) of investments	(309)	(351)
(Payments) to acquire tangible assets	(2,063)	(2,723)
Proceeds of fixed asset disposals	4,476	-
Net inflow/(outflow) from investing activities	2,958	(2,325)
Cash flows from financing activities		
Interest paid	(107)	(240)
New donations – restricted and endowment	1,580	370
Net cash inflow from financing activities	1,473	130
Increase in cash and cash equivalents in the year	429	545
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	13,468	12,923
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	13,897	13,468

Details of the analysis of changes in net debt can be found in Note 19.

Statement of Principal Accounting Policies

The consolidated and University financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP 2019): Accounting for Further and Higher Education, and in accordance with United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102, "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland' (FRS 102)", and the Charities Act 2011.

The University is a public benefit entity and therefore has applied the relevant public benefit requirement of FRS 102. The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis, under the historical cost convention as modified by the recognition of certain financial assets and liabilities measured at fair value. The accounting policies have been applied consistently over the period.

The financial statements reflect the requirements of the Accounts Direction dated 25 October 2019 issued by the Office for Students.

The functional currency of the group is UK Sterling, and all financial statements have been prepared to the nearest thousand pounds.

The financial statements have been prepared and give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair' view. This departure is required following Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting for further and higher education issued on 1 October 2018, since this statement of recommended practice is most relevant to the University, rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 January 2019.

The University has taken advantage of exemptions in FRS 102 from:

- Preparing a statement of cash flows for the University, on the basis that it is a qualifying entity, and the consolidated statement of cash flows included in these financial statements includes the University's cash flows.
- The financial instrument disclosures, required under FRS 102 paragraphs 11.39 to 11.48A and paragraphs 12.26 to 12.29, as the information is provided in the consolidated financial statement disclosures.

1. BASIS OF PREPARATION - GOING CONCERN

The Consolidated and University financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis, based on Trustees' assessment of the financial position, operating model, and forecast cash flows. This assumes the Group and University will continue in operation for the foreseeable future including meeting its future obligations as they fall due.

The University continues to take actions to further improve governance and financial sustainability, and the new Strategic plan provides the focus and direction for the further growth and success of the University.

At the balance sheet date, the Group is reporting net current assets of £0.1m (University: net current liabilities £5.7m), which is an improvement of £2.0m (University shows an increase in liabilities of £2.9m).

The University forecasts that it will meet all its banking covenant and debt servicing requirements for the foreseeable future.

After considering significant potential risks to plans and forecasts and the potential actions, which could include the sale of additional capital assets and a programme of cost restructuring, the Trustees are satisfied that it remains appropriate to prepare the Group and University financial statements on a going concern basis.

2. BASIS OF CONSOLIDATION

The financial statements for the Group are the consolidation of the financial statements of The University of Buckingham (The "University"), the University of Buckingham Foundation ("the Foundation") and Medical Property Management Ltd ("MPML"). The University has not consolidated its other subsidiaries, being:

- Buckingham Business Enterprises Ltd, whose net assets and financial performance are immaterial for the purpose of giving a true and fair view.

- University of Buckingham Medical Sciences North Ltd, a dormant company whose net assets and financial performance are immaterial for the purpose of giving a true and fair view. In 2025 this company will be dissolved.

The close relationship between the University and the Foundation is a determining factor in the University exercising effective control. The Trustee board, including the Chair of Trustees, agree that the primary intent of the Foundation is to support the University and are guided by the University in decisions relating to the distribution of funds.

The makeup of the Foundation board is an important, but not the only, factor. Trustees are appointed by the trustee board and the University has a specified minimum number set out in the Foundation trust deed. At the financial year end the Foundation Board comprises four Trustees appointed by the University and two independent of the University. Membership of the Board fluctuates over time, but the Trustees are clear that their intent is to manage and invest endowments and thereby provide funds for the University in support of its students and staff. They are strongly guided by the University in where funds should be directed, such guidance contributed to the decision to consolidate the results of the Foundation.

Associated companies are accounted for using the equity method. Investment in an associate is held at cost less accumulated impairment losses.

An investment in a subsidiary company is held at cost less accumulated impairment losses in the University's financial statements.

Statement of Principal Accounting Policies

3. INCOME RECOGNITION

This accounting policy covers: Tuition fees and education contracts, Research grants and contracts, other income, Investment income, and Donations and endowments.

Income arising from the sale of goods or provision of services (including student accommodation and catering) is recognised and credited to the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income on exchange of such goods and services, or when the terms of the contracts have been satisfied fully. These accounts are shown net of VAT, returns, discounts, and rebates as appropriate. Where services are rendered but are not complete at the end of the period, income is recognised by stage of completion/degree of provision.
Tuition fee income is stated gross of any expenditure which is not a discount.

Tuition fee income is credited to the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income on a pro-rata basis across the length of the course, in line with the provision of courses to students. For any portion of the income paid for via a Future Earnings Agreement (FEA) this is not recognised in the income statement until the FEA is repaid when the student leaves the University and starts paying it back via their earnings.

Bursaries and scholarships are accounted for as expenditure and not deducted from income. These are reflected as a cost to the University, as part of its delivery of student support.

Validation involves the University reviewing the educational offerings of third-party providers of being a suitable standard for those providers' students to receive University of Buckingham degrees. Validation fee income is recognised when the University is satisfied that its contractual services including academic due diligence have been delivered/ satisfied and the collection of the fees will occur with reasonable certainty. Validation income is shown separately within Note 3.

Investment income is credited to the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income on a receivable basis.

Grant Funding

All grant funding, including research grants and capital grants from government and other sources, is recognised in income when the University is entitled to the funding, and any performance-related conditions have been met. Performance conditions are defined as 'a condition that requires the performance of a particular level of service or units of output to be delivered, with payment of, or entitlement to, the resources conditional on that performance.'
Income received in advance of performance related conditions being met is recognised as deferred income within Creditors on the Statement of Financial Position and released to income as or when any conditions are met.

Donations and Endowments

Non-exchangeable transactions without performance related conditions are donations and endowments. Donations and endowments with donor-imposed restrictions are recognised as income when the University is entitled to the funds. Income is retained within the restricted reserve until such time that it is utilised in line with such restrictions at which point the income is released to general reserves through a reserve transfer. Donations with no restrictions are recognised as income once the University is entitled to the funds.

Investment income and appreciation of endowments is recorded in income in the year in which it arises and as either restricted or unrestricted income according to the terms applied to the individual endowment fund.
Investment income and appreciation of endowments is recorded in income in the year in which it arises and as either restricted or unrestricted income according to the terms applied to the individual endowment fund.

There are five main types of donations and endowments identified within reserves:

i. Restricted donations – the donor has specified that the donation must be used for a particular objective.
ii. Unrestricted donations – the donor has not specified the use of the donation and so it is to be used for the general benefit of the University.
iii. Unrestricted permanent endowments - the donor has specified that the fund is to be permanently invested to generate an income stream for the general benefit of the University.
iv. Restricted expendable endowments - the donor has specified a particular objective other than the purchase or construction of tangible fixed assets, and the University has the power to use the capital.
v. Restricted permanent endowments - the donor has specified that the fund is to be permanently invested to generate an income stream to be applied to a particular objective.



Statement of Principal Accounting Policies

4. PENSION SCHEMES

The Aviva Group Personal Pension Plan (GPP) is a defined contribution scheme, established by contract. The employer's contributions payable for each accounting period are accounted for as expenditure in the period in which they are incurred.

The NEST Auto Enrolment Scheme (NEST-AES) is a defined contribution scheme, established by contract. The employer's contributions payable for each accounting period are accounted for as expenditure in the period in which they are incurred.

The Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) is a defined benefit scheme, established by trust deed with assets held in a separate fund. The employer's contributions payable for each accounting period are accounted for as expenditure in the period in which they are incurred. The debt recovery plan put in place by USS has resulted in the suitable recovery of the funds, so there is no longer a provision in place for this. This scheme is closed to new members.

The University of Buckingham Employee Benefits Plan (EBP), established as a defined contribution scheme by trust deed was closed to further contributions on 31 December 2007. However, the scheme provides a Guaranteed Minimum Pension in respect of periods of membership prior to 6 April 1997. The University accounts for any funding deficit, based on the actuary's reports to the scheme's Trustees on the funding of the scheme at the schemes most recent valuation date, April 2023.

5. TAXATION AND CHARITABLE STATUS

The University is a Registered Charity within the meaning of Part 3 of the Charities Act 2011. It is also a charity within the meaning of Paragraph 1 of Schedule 6 to the Finance Act 2010. The University is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by section 472 – 488 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied to exclusively charitable purposes.

Charitable status provides no similar exemption from VAT, but the University is defined as an Eligible Body by Schedule 9 Group 6 of the VAT Act 1994. This means that the education provided is exempt from VAT, but that VAT cannot be recovered on education related purchases. Irrecoverable VAT is therefore included in both revenue and capital expenditure.

6. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS AND DEPRECIATION

Tangible fixed assets are stated at historic purchase cost less accumulated depreciation. Cost includes the original purchase price of the asset and the costs attributable to bringing the asset to its working condition for its intended use.

Equipment and property costing more than £3,000 per item or project is capitalised. Other equipment is written off in the year of purchase. Land is not depreciated. Depreciation is provided on a straight-line basis on other assets at the following annual rates to write off the cost/valuation

Buildings		**2%**
Equipment	Furniture, furnishings, equipment	**10%-20%**
	Office equipment	**10%-20%**
	Science laboratory equipment	**20%-25%**
	Motor vehicles	**20%**
	Computing equipment and software	**25%-33%**
	Specialist laboratory equipment	**33%**

On the grounds of materiality, the above six categories have been aggregated as equipment.

The carrying amount of fixed assets is tested for impairment in accordance with the policy described in Note 9.



Statement of Principal Accounting Policies

7. INTANGIBLE ASSETS

Intangible assets are stated at cost less accumulated amortisation and any impairment losses. Cost includes the original purchase price of the asset and costs attributable to bringing the asset to its working condition for intended use.
Amortisation is provided on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful life of the asset. The carrying amount of intangible assets is tested for impairment in accordance with the policy described in Note 9.

8. INVESTMENTS AND JOINT VENTURES

Investments

Investments in listed shares are re- measured to fair value at each year-end date. Gains and losses on re-measurement are recognised in surplus or loss for the period. Gains or losses on disposal are recognised within Gains/(losses) on investments within the Statement of Comprehensive Income.
Investments in subsidiaries are carried as cost less impairment.

Joint ventures

Interests in joint ventures are accounted for using the equity method, after being recognised initially at cost in the consolidated Statement of Financial Position.
Under the equity method of accounting, the investments are initially recognised at cost and adjusted thereafter to recognise the Group's share of the post-acquisition profits or losses of the investee in the Group Statement of Comprehensive Income.
Dividends received or receivable from associates and joint ventures are recognised as a reduction in the carrying amount of the investment.
Where the Group's share of losses in an equity-accounted investment equals or exceeds its interest in the entity, including any other unsecured long-term receivables, the Group does not recognise further losses, unless it has incurred obligations or made payments on behalf of the other entity.
Unrealised gains on transactions between the Group and its associates and joint ventures are eliminated to the extent of the Group's interest in these entities. Unrealised losses are also eliminated unless the transaction provides evidence of an impairment of the asset transferred.
Accounting policies of equity-accounted investees have been changed where necessary to ensure consistency with the policies adopted by the group.
The carrying amount of equity-accounted investments is tested for impairment in accordance with the policy described below.

9. IMPAIRMENT OF ASSETS

Assets are tested for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount might not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount. The recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less costs of disposal and value in use. For the purposes of assessing impairment, assets are grouped at the lowest levels for which there are separately identifiable cash inflows which are largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets (cash generating units). Non-financial assets other than goodwill that suffered an impairment are reviewed for possible reversal of the impairment at the end of each reporting period.

10. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash includes cash in hand, deposits repayable on demand and overdrafts. Deposits are repayable on demand if they are in practice available within 24 hours without penalty.
An investment qualifies as a cash equivalent only when it has a short-term maturity of three months or less from the acquisition date.

11. PROVISIONS

Provisions are recognised in the financial statements when:

i. The University has a present obligation (legal or constructive) as a result of a past event;
ii. It is probable that an outflow of economic benefit will be required to settle the obligation; and
iii. A reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

12. RESERVES

Reserves are classified as restricted or unrestricted. There are two types of restricted reserves:

i. The first type of restricted reserve, "Endowment reserves", include balances which, through endowment to the University, are held as a permanently restricted fund which the University must hold in perpetuity.
ii. The second type of restricted reserve, called "Restricted reserves", includes balances where the donor has designated a specific purpose and therefore the University is restricted in the use of these funds, and unspent balances of restricted donations are treated in line with the British Universities Finance Directors Group (BUFDG) Implementation Guidance to the SORP. Reserve transfers are made between Restricted and Unrestricted reserves for the depreciation on assets that were funded by grants or donations with restrictions on those underlying assets.

13. LEASES

The Group and the University are lessees of property and whether an arrangement is or contains a lease depends on the substance of that arrangement. Leases in which substantially all the risk and rewards incidental to the ownership of an asset are transferred to the lessee by the lessor are classed as finance leases. Leases which are not finance leases are classified as operating leases. Gross rental expenditure in respect of operating leases is recognised on a straight-line basis over the term of the leases, unless another systemic basis is representative of the time pattern of the lessee's benefit from the use of the leased asset. Rent free periods are accounted for within the Statement of Financial Position as Accruals and deferred income.

Statement of Principal Accounting Policies

14. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Group has chosen to adopt Sections 11 and 12 of FRS 102 in respect of financial instruments.

i) Financial assets

Basic financial assets, including trade and other receivables, cash and bank balances and investments in commercial paper, are initially recognised at transaction price, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest.

Such assets are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

At the end of each reporting period financial assets measured at amortised cost are assessed for objective evidence of impairment. If an asset is impaired, the impairment loss is the difference between the carrying amount and the present value of the estimated cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. The impairment loss is recognised in the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income.

If there is a decrease in the impairment loss arising from an event occurring after the impairment was recognised, the impairment is reversed. The reversal is such that the current carrying amount does not exceed what the carrying amount would have been had the impairment not previously been recognised. The impairment reversal is recognised in profit or loss.

Other financial assets, including investments in equity instruments which are not subsidiaries, associates or joint ventures, are initially measured at fair value, which is normally the transaction price.

Such assets are subsequently carried at fair value and the changes in fair value are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income, except that investments in equity instruments that are not publicly traded and whose fair values cannot be measured reliably are measured at cost less impairment.

Financial assets are derecognised when:

- the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire or are settled; or
- substantially all the risks and rewards of the ownership of the asset are transferred to another party; or
- despite having retained some significant risks and rewards of ownership, control of the asset has been transferred to another party who has the practical ability to unilaterally sell the asset to an unrelated third party without imposing additional restrictions.

ii) Financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including trade and other payables, bank loans, and loans from fellow Group entities are initially recognised at transaction price, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Fees paid on the establishment of loan facilities are recognised as transaction costs of the loan to the extent that it is probable that some or all the facility will be drawn down. In this case, the fee is deferred until the draw-down occurs. To the extent there is no evidence that it is probable that some or all the facility will be drawn down, the fee is capitalised as a pre-payment for liquidity services and amortised over the period of the facility to which it relates.

Trade payables are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Trade payables are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade payables are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the liability is extinguished, that is when the contractual obligation is discharged, cancelled, or expires.

iii) Offsetting

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, and the net amounts presented in the financial statements when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

iv) Financial guarantee contracts

A financial guarantee contract is a contract that requires the issuer to make specified payments to reimburse the holder for a loss it incurs because a specified debtor fails to make payments when due in accordance with the original or modified terms of a debt instrument. These are accounted for under Section 21 of FRS 102. Where appropriate, a provision has been made and/or a contingent liability disclosed.

15. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING JUDGEMENTS AND ESTIMATES

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make judgements and adopt estimates that affect the financial statements during the reporting period.

These estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

a) Critical judgements in applying the Group and University's accounting policies

i) Evaluation of the Universities Superannuation Scheme as a multi-employer scheme

The University has judged that the USS meets the definition of a multi-employer scheme for the reasons set out in Note 21.

The scheme is a hybrid pension scheme, providing defined benefits for all members as well as defined contribution benefits. The assets of the scheme are held in a separate trustee administered fund. Because of the mutual nature of the scheme, the assets are not attributed to individual institutions and a scheme-wide contribution rate is set. The University is therefore exposed to actuarial risks associated with other institutions' employees and is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the scheme on a consistent and reasonable basis. Therefore, as required by Section 28 of FRS 102 "Employee benefits", the University accounts for the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme.

Effective control of The University of Buckingham Foundation

The University has judged that it is in a position of effective control arising from several factors, notwithstanding that the Foundation is a distinct charitable trust, therefore the results of the Foundation have been consolidated in the consolidated financial statements.

The trust deed for the Foundation declares that its primary purpose is to advance the education of the public by, in particular, supporting and promoting the education of students attending the University and by benefiting the wider academic community and purposes of the University as a whole.

The close relationship between the University and the Foundation is a determining factor in the University exercising effective control. The Trustee board, several of whom are officers of the University, agree that the primary intent of the Foundation is to support the University and are guided by the University in decisions relating the distribution of funds.

ii) The extent of control over a joint venture, Apollo Buckingham Health Sciences Campus Ltd (ABHSC)

Further to agreements signed in February 2024 the University the joint venture with Apollo Buckingham Health Sciences Campus Ltd has come to an end and shares in ABHSC transferred to Apollo Education UK.

iii) Estimate of financial guarantee contract

The University has provided a commitment to make good up to 50% of any lease payment shortfall for the Booth Hall student residences in Crewe. The lease of Booth Hall was taken out by ABHSC Limited from Manchester Metropolitan University. The full value of the guarantee, less dilapidations paid to date, is maintained in a separate Escrow bank account in favour of Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU). The Trustees of The University of Buckingham consider that due to the level of uncertainty around the full recovery of the guarantee value and the possibility the guarantee may need to be invoked to pay for dilapidations, the provision remains at an appropriate level.

b) Critical estimates in applying the Group and University's accounting policies

In the preparation of the consolidated financial statements, management has made estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported for assets and liabilities as at the Statement of Financial Position date and the amounts reported for income and expenses during the year. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

i) Depreciation and impairment of fixed assets

Assets are depreciated as set out in Note 6, Principal Accounting Policies, which are judged to be an appropriate assessment of the useful life of assets, and assuming that the University is operating as a going concern on the Buckingham campus for the foreseeable future. The University's material fixed assets are reviewed annually to determine whether their book value should be reduced due to their value being impaired. Estimates are made of the extent of any impairment on individual assets or related groups of assets.

ii) Crewe exit provision

Following the decision and communication to relocate teaching activities and educational provision from Crewe to Buckingham by the end of 2026, an exit costs provision based on the 2026 lease and running costs (by which time the campus will be substantially unused), and future retention, relocation and redundancy of staff has been established.

Statement of Principal Accounting Policies

15. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING JUDGEMENTS AND ESTIMATES (CONTINUED)

(iii) Impairment of receivables

Student and commercial/trade receivables are reviewed at least annually to determine the extent to which a provision is required against debts that have a reasonable risk of non- payment. The risk reflects the length of time for which the debt has been unpaid and the reason for non-payment.

The University assesses such debts on an individual student or customer basis and does not include general provisions. The University continues to seek payment of such debts until all reasonable efforts have been exhausted.

16. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Group and University discloses transactions with related parties which are not wholly owned within the same Group. Where appropriate, transactions of a similar nature, such as regular payments, are aggregated unless, in the opinion of the Council, separate disclosure is necessary to understand the effect of the transactions on the consolidated financial statements.

17. TERMINATION BENEFITS

Termination benefits of any kind relating to staff are based upon the relevant employment contracts, length of service, discretionary awards, and any statutory requirements.



1. Tuition fees and education contract

	Group 2024 £000	University 2024 £000	Group 2023 £000	University 2023 £000
Full-time undergraduates - Home	15,336	15,336	13,888	13,888
Full-time undergraduates - International	23,946	23,946	20,144	20,144
Part-time undergraduates	159	159	158	158
Postgraduates - Home	6,650	6,650	5,958	5,958
Postgraduates - International	3,410	3,410	3,384	3,384
Pre and non-degree courses	170	170	1,534	1,534
	49,671	**49,671**	**45,066**	**45,066**

The table above includes Apprenticeship income in 2024 of £2.9m (2023: £1.2m).

2. Research grants and contracts

	Group 2024 £000	University 2024 £000	Group 2023 £000	University 2023 £000
Research charities	208	208	223	223
Industry and commerce	117	117	151	151
	325	**325**	**374**	**374**

3. Other income

	Group 2024 £000	University 2024 £000	Group 2023 £000	University 2023 £000
Residences	3,327	3,327	3,650	3,650
Catering and Bar	260	260	290	290
Validation and franchise fees	2,109	2,109	1,899	1,899
Other income *	1,482	1,451	1,205	980
	7,178	**7,147**	**7,044**	**6,819**

* Other income comprises, in particular: registration fees, Grant income, VAT partial exemption recovery, credit card commissions earned, rental income from parties outside The University of Buckingham, and income from designing a new curriculum for a 4-year Medicine degree for NHS England.

4. Investment income

	Group 2024 £000	University 2024 £000	Group 2023 £000	University 2023 £000
Investment income	76	-	67	-
Interest income	388	219	179	162
	464	**219**	**246**	**162**

5. Donations and endowments

	Group 2024 £000	University 2024 £000	Group 2023 £000	University 2023 £000
Donations with restrictions	471	531	459	459
University of Buckingham Foundation donations	25	59	400	183
	496	**590**	**859**	**642**

6. Staff costs

	Group 2024 £000	University 2024 £000	Group 2023 £000	University 2023 £000
Salaries*	21,122	21,122	18,318	18,318
Social security costs	2,273	2,273	2,334	2,334
Pensions costs, excluding USS	1,559	1,559	1,877	1,877
USS exceptional provisions	-	-	(3,449)	(3,449)
Apprenticeship levy	87	87	74	74
	25,041	**25,041**	**19,154**	**19,154**

*Within salaries, compensation for loss of office (including voluntary severance) of £236,176 was paid in 2024 (2023: £121,430) which relates to 20 employees (2023: 12 employees). Within these figures, no payments were made in 2024 in respect of compensation for loss of office to members of the key management personnel (2023: £nil).

6. Staff costs (continued)

Average number of full- time equivalent members of staff	Group 2024 Number	University 2024 Number	Group 2023 Number	University 2023 Number
Academic	173	173	185	185
Research	7	7	7	7
Support	257	257	255	255
Manual	36	36	40	40
	473	**473**	**487**	**487**

Average headcount of staff	Group 2024 Number	University 2024 Number	Group 2023 Number	University 2023 Number
Academic	240	240	208	208
Research	7	7	8	8
Support	270	270	287	287
Manual	38	38	45	45
	555	**555**	**548**	**548**

6. Staff costs (continued)

Remuneration of the Vice-Chancellor	2024 £	2023 £
Basic salary	175,888	175,138
Taxable benefits – living accommodation	17,120	16,425
Pension contribution to USS	25,504	37,830
	218,512	**229,393**

Remuneration of the Interim Vice-Chancellor during the absence of the Vice-Chancellor in Oct-Dec 2024	2024 £
Basic salary	26,121
Pension contribution	2,424
	28,545

During the Vice-Chancellor's absence the Registrar & Chief Administrative Officer covered this post and as such the table directly above shows the remuneration paid to them during this period.

As a requirement of the contract of employment, the Vice-Chancellor is required to reside at the University in order to discharge their duties fully. There is considerable value to the University in the Vice-Chancellor residing on the University campus. The living accommodation taxable benefit has been calculated based on HMRC benefit in kind rules.

The Vice-Chancellor's salary is 4.42 times the median salary of staff (2023: 6.96), where the median pay is calculated on a full-time equivalent basis for the salaries paid by the University to its staff. The Vice-Chancellor's remuneration is 5.11 times (2023: 8.68) the median total remuneration of staff where the median total remuneration is calculated on a full-time equivalent basis for the total remuneration by the University of its staff. In 2024, the judgements of the basis of these calculations was reassessed and the medians for comparison for 2023 would have been 4.81 and 6.30 respectively. These calculations have been performed on the Vice-Chancellor and do not include those paid to the Interim Vice-Chancellor.

The Vice-Chancellor has the overall responsibility for ensuring the effective and efficient management of the University. The Vice-Chancellor is the Accountable Officer as per OfS Regulatory Advice 10 and as such, bears the responsibility of effective governance and financial stewardship of the University.

The University undertakes collaborations with other institutions around the world and its undergraduate and postgraduate students come from various parts of the world. The Vice-Chancellor is responsible for promoting the University's interests at home and overseas, developing good business relationships between the University and its Collaboration Partners and other stakeholders, including Government representatives, the Office for Students, and the Charity Commission.

The Vice-Chancellor works closely with both Council and Senate bodies and leads the Executive Board of the University in all matters relating to governing and running the operations of the University. This ensures appropriate strategic development to deliver the University's academic and financial sustainability.
Assessment of the Vice-Chancellor's performance is conducted on an annual basis. This is conducted by the Chair of Council, in consultation with the Nomination Performance and Remuneration Committee, and is based on achievements against the set objectives and the overall performance of the University. These include student recruitment and completion, student satisfaction, staff satisfaction and the overall financial performance.

The Nomination Performance and Remuneration Committee is responsible for ensuring the right remuneration is set for the Vice-Chancellor to reflect the strategic workload, achievement of performance targets and the general remuneration for Higher Education Heads in the United Kingdom.

6. Staff costs (continued)

Below are the numbers of staff members throughout the University whose basic pay exceeded £100k. Following the guidance issued by the OfS, amounts reimbursed by another body, bonus payments, employer pension contributions, compensation for loss of office and payments under early retirement schemes are not included in these figures.

£	2024 Number	2023 Number
100,000-104,999	1	-
110,000-114,999	-	1
115,000-119,999	2	-
120,000-124,999	1	1
130,000-134,999	1	1
140,000-144,999	2	2
150,000-154,999	2	1
175,000-179,999	1	1
	10	**7**

Key management personnel

Key management personnel are those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the University.

During 2024 the Key Management Personnel at the University were considered to be the following personnel: the Vice Chancellor, Pro Vice Chancellor, Registrar & Chief Administrative Officer, Chief Financial Officer, and Secretary to Council. Last year the Deans and other Heads of Professional Departments were also considered to be Key Management.

	Group/ University 2024	Group/ University 2023
Key management personnel – total remuneration	£0.7m	£1.27m
Number of key management personnel	5	10
Key management personnel – average remuneration	**£145k**	**£127k**

Council members

Council members are the Trustees for charitable law purposes.

A list of Council members who served at any time during the financial year and until the date these financial statements were formally approved is contained in the “Chancellor and Members of Council” section on page 22.

Due to the nature of the University’s operations and the composition of the Council, drawn from local public and private sector organisations, it is inevitable that transactions may take place with organisations in which a member of Council may have an interest. All transactions involving organisations in which a member of Council have an interest, including those identified below, are conducted at arm’s length and in accordance with the University’s Financial Regulations and usual procurement procedures. Note 22 contains details of related party transactions in the year.

No members of Council received honoraria from the University during the year (2023: Nil). The total expenses paid to or on behalf of the Council members in the year was £4.7k (2023: £2.5k), representing travel and subsistence incurred in attending meetings and events in their official capacity.

7. Other operating expenses

Other operating expenses include:	Group 2024 £000	University 2024 £000	Group 2023 £000	University 2023 £000
External auditors' remuneration in respect of audit services	147	141	113	107
Other costs (see below for further analysis)	32,127	32,691	25,480	24,421
	32,274	**32,832**	**25,593**	**24,528**

Further analysis of other costs	Group 2024 £000	University 2024 £000	Group 2023 £000	University 2023 £000
Curriculum costs	5,338	5,312	4,971	4,842
Medical student placement fees	11,265	11,265	9,170	9,170
Staff and student travel	1,291	1,291	1,297	1,297
Premises costs*	3,389	3,332	4,423	2,905
Residence costs	1,929	1,990	638	700
General administrative expenses**	8,238	8,824	4,389	4,915
Catering and merchandising costs	677	677	592	592
	32,127	**32,691**	**25,480**	**24,421**

*2023 Includes the Impairment on the Medical Property Management Ltd fixed assets of £1.4m and 2024 includes the Capital Goods Scheme refund which crystallised on the sale of the MK Academy.

**General administrative expenses include the reduction in provisions of -£0.5m (2023: -£3.4m). In addition, bad debt provision has decreased in 2024 by 0.5m, Student recruitment agency fees have increased by £0.5m and Invoice labour by £0.5m along with other general cost increases.

8. Interest and other finance costs

Other operating expenses include:	Group 2024 £000	University 2024 £000	Group 2023 £000	University 2023 £000
Bank loans	107	107	107	107
Pension finance interest	-	-	133	133
	107	**107**	**240**	**240**

For 2023 the Pension finance interest relates to interest charges, incurred by The University of Buckingham, relating to the USS pension scheme.

9. Total expenditure

Other operating expenses include:	Group 2024 £000	University 2024 £000	Group 2023 £000	University 2023 £000
Academic and related expenditure	30,939	30,915	24,117	24,288
Administration and central services	21,730	22,252	14,956	15,175
Premises	3,767	3,723	5,861	4,065
Residences	2,129	2,173	1,345	1,407
Catering and bar	615	615	579	579
Research grants and contracts	400	400	469	469
	59,580	**60,078**	**47,327**	**45,983**

2023 Academic & related expenditure includes the £3.4m adjustment for the USS provision. For 2024 increases in our operating costs include £1.4m of costs relating to our Digital Transformation project (shown in Administration and central services), the January 2024 acquired lease on Mount Pleasant (in Residences), and a continued increase on both staff costs and the running costs of the campus.

The University has two classes of business being the provision of education and the delivery of research. The provision of residences, catering, bar plus administration and central services are ancillary activities.

10. Tangible assets

Group	Freehold land £000	Freehold Buildings £000	Equipment £000	Assets held for sale £000	Assets in course of construction £000	Total £000
Cost:						
At 1 January 2024	3,521	28,637	15,373	7,671	2,290	57,492
Transfer between asset categories	193	(193)	-	-	-	-
Additions	-	-	2,026	-	37	2,063
Disposals	-	-	(3,064)	(7,671)	-	(10,735)
Transfer completed assets in course of construction	-	-	2,290	-	(2,290)	-
At 31 December 2024	**3,714**	**28,444**	**16,625**	**-**	**37**	**48,820**
Depreciation:						
At 1 January 2024	-	11,197	11,021	3,022	-	25,240
Charge for the year	-	576	1,538	44	-	2,158
Disposals	-	-	(3,064)	(3,066)	-	(6,130)
At 31 December 2024	**-**	**11,773**	**9,495**	**-**	**-**	**21,268**
Net book amount:						
At 31 December 2024	**3,714**	**16,671**	**7,130**	**-**	**37**	**27,552**
At 31 December 2023	3,521	17,440	4,352	4,649	2,290	32,252

During 2023 a review of the use of the Milton Keynes Academic Centre building was performed, concluding that the University's School of Medicine had outgrown its ability to make effective use of the building.

In March 2024 the sale of the building was completed realising £4.75m proceeds (inclusive of VAT), realising a loss of £129K.

10. Tangible assets (continued)

University	Freehold land £000	Freehold Buildings £000	Equipment £000	Assets in course of construction £000	Total £000
Cost:					
At 1 January 2024	3,521	27,672	15,372	2,290	48,855
Additions	-	-	2,026	37	2,063
Disposals	-	-	(3,064)		(3,064)
Transfer	-	-	2,290	(2,290)	-
At 31 December 2024	**3,521**	**27,672**	**16,624**	**37**	**47,854**
Depreciation:					
At 1 January 2024	-	11,085	11,021	-	22,106
Charge for the year	-	560	1,538	-	2.098
Disposals	-	-	(3,064)	-	(3,064)
At 31 December 2024	**-**	**11,645**	**9,495**	**-**	**21,140**
Net book amount:					
At 31 December 2024	**3,521**	**16,027**	**7,129**	**37**	**26,714**
At 31 December 2023	3,521	16,587	4,351	2,290	26,749

11. Investments

	Group 2024 £000	University 2024 £000	Group 2023 £000	University 2023 £000
Investments in subsidiary undertaking	-	4,686	-	4,186
Shares in ABHSC (a joint venture)*	-	-	-	-
Shares in CVCP Properties Plc	23	23	23	23
Other listed investments	7,078	3,757	6,844	3,686
Cash investment deposits: Non-current	192	164	117	117
Cash investment deposits: Current	-	-	87	-
	7,293	**8,630**	**7,071**	**8,012**

*Further details of the joint venture can be found in Note 24.

The University owns 0.54% of the issued ordinary share capital in CVCP Properties plc, the company that owns the offices of Universities UK.

The University has an immaterial dormant subsidiary, University of Buckingham Medical Sciences North Ltd., as detailed in Note 24.

Other listed investments represent equity shares, principally UK equities, managed by external independent professional fund managers. These are recognised as non-current asset investments, as they are held with a long-term intention to earn recurring income that pays for expenditure connected with Restricted and Endowment Funds. The Endowment funds held in the Group and University have earned small returns in the year as shown in Note 16.

12. Trade and other receivables

	Group 2024 £000	University 2024 £000	Group 2023 £000	University 2023 £000
Escrow funds	1,607	1,607	2,547	2,547
Student receivables	5,358	5,358	7,597	7,597
Other trade receivables	2,339	2,339	117	50
Prepayments and accrued income	3,295	3,295	2,010	2,006
Amounts due from subsidiary undertakings	-	84	-	1,504
Other debtors	122	122	24	24
	12,721	**12,805**	**12,295**	**13,728**

The amounts due from subsidiary undertakings are trading account balances and payable on demand.

The Group holds £1.6m of funds in an escrow account relating to the financial guarantee supporting the lease of the Booth Hall student accommodation by Apollo Buckingham Health Sciences Campus Limited from Manchester Metropolitan University. The University has judged that this should be treated in the financial statements as a receivable rather than cash and cash equivalents. The restricted cash is contained in a bank account held jointly in escrow with Manchester Metropolitan University and, whilst this does represent cash funds, it is freely available only to the extent released by both parties following payment of rents and lease liabilities.

At 31 December 2024 the full recoverability of the escrow account is not certain due to future rent and dilapidations liabilities. A provision of £1.6m (2023: £2m) (see Note 15) has therefore been made in these financial statements being the current judgement of the uncertain amount.

13. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Group 2024 £000	University 2024 £000	Group 2023 £000	University 2023 £000
Student fees received in advance	8,418	8,418	8,439	8,439
Trade payables	2,947	2,947	2,398	2,277
Social security and other taxation payable	616	616	519	519
Other payables	847	847	857	857
Accruals and deferred income	13,661	14,172	15,543	15,510
Amounts due to subsidiary undertakings	-	3,693	-	75
	26,489	**30,693**	**27,756**	**27,677**

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

	Group 2024 £000	University 2024 £000	Group 2023 £000	University 2023 £000
Bank loans due between one and two years	5,000	5,000	-	-
Bank loans due between two and five years	-	-	5,000	5,000
At 31 December 2024	**5,000**	**5,000**	**5,000**	**5,000**

The £5m term loan agreement that was set up in 2021 is repayable in 5 years and bears a fixed interest rate of 2.15%. As part of the agreement, a revolving credit facility is available to the University for the duration of the loan, initially at £7m for 2 years, reduced to £5m in 2023. The revolving credit facility has not been used since the start of the facility agreement. Financial covenants have been complied with during the term and NatWest have confirmed that subject to their normal credit review process, they can see no reason why the current facilities cannot be renewed.

15. Provisions

Group	Financial guarantee contract provision	Crewe lease	VAT provision	Crewe exit provision	Other provisions	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
At 1 January 2024	2,000	2,167	263	-	920	5,350
Changes in provisions	-	(2,167)	(263)	-	(206)	(2,636)
Utilised in the year	(420)	-	-	2,082	(197)	1,465
At 31 December 2024	**1,580**	**-**	**-**	**2,082**	**517**	**4,179**

University	Financial guarantee contract provision	Crewe lease	Crewe exit provision	Other provisions	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
At 1 January 2024	2,000	2,167	-	920	5,087
Changes in provisions	-	(2,167)	-	(206)	(2,373)
Utilised in the year	(420)	-	2,082	(197)	1,465
At 31 December 2024	**1,580**	**-**	**2,082**	**517**	**4,179**

Financial guarantee contract provision - See note 12 Trade & Other Receivables for more information**.**

Crewe lease and exit provisions

During the year the University simultaneously exited the original lease at Crewe and entered into a new lease to December 2026. However, with the students either on placements or at the Buckingham Campus, the lease will largely be unused by students. As such, what has historically been recognised as an onerous lease provision ('Crewe lease') has been replaced with a provision for the costs associated with the 2026 lease ('Crewe exit provision'), which include the redundancy and retention costs that have been agreed in consultation with the staff working at the Crewe campus.

VAT provision

The provision brought forward related to the Capital Goods Scheme associated with the Milton Keynes Academic Centre (MKAC), a property formally owned by a subsidiary of the University, Medical Property Management Limited. During 2024 the MKAC was sold and associated VAT liabilities crystalised and settled.

Other provisions

- The Employee Benefit Plan is an in-house pension scheme that is in the process of being wound up. Provisions relate to the current deficit on the scheme less recovery payments to date.
- Following internal reviews around various compliance areas the University has identified various one-off, individually immaterial matters which are in the process of being addressed. These are the same reviews from 2023 that whilst conversations have progressed, final settlements have not been finalised or paid.

16. Endowment reserves

2024 Capital	Group Restricted Permanent £000	Group Restricted Expendable £000	Group Total £000	University Restricted Permanent £000	University Restricted Expendable £000	University Total £000
As at 1 January 2024	5,612	848	6,460	3,277	22	3,299
Increase in market value of investments	344	46	390	178	-	178
Transfers between reserves	(319)	164	(155)	-	-	-
Capital Expenditure	(16)	-	(16)	-	-	-
As at 31 December 2024	**5,621**	**1,058**	**6,679**	**3,455**	**22**	**3,477**
Accumulated income						
As at 1 January 2024	994	113	1,107	526	(22)	504
Expenditure	(59)	-	(59)	(60)	-	(60)
As at 31 December 2024	**935**	**113**	**1,048**	**466**	**(22)**	**444**
Total funds						
As at 1 January 2024	6,606	961	7,567	3,803	-	3,803
As at 31 December 2024	**6,556**	**1,171**	**7,727**	**3,921**	**-**	**3,921**
Analysis by Fund Type						
Scholarships and bursaries	2,515	1,171	3,686	-	-	-
Grants and prizes	120	-	120	-	-	-
Development funds	3,921	-	3,921	3,921	-	3,921
As at 31 December 2024	**6,556**	**1,171**	**7,727**	**3,921**	**-**	**3,921**

Analysis by asset type 2024	Group total £000	University total £000
Fixed assets	838	-
Investments	6,889	3,921
As at 31 December 2024	**7,727**	**3,921**

16. Endowment reserves (continued)

2023 Capital	Group Restricted Permanent £000	Group Restricted Expendable £000	Group Total £000	University Restricted Permanent £000	University Restricted Expendable £000	University Total £000
As at 1 January 2023	4,940	848	5,788	3,004	22	3,026
New donations	442	53	495	273	-	273
Decrease in market value of investments	245	(53)	192	-	-	-
Capital Expenditure	(15)	-	(15)	-	-	-
As at 31 December 2023	**5,612**	**848**	**6,460**	**3,277**	**22**	**3,299**
Accumulated income						
As at 1 January 2023	1,128	135	1,263	660	-	660
Investment income	-	(22)	(22)	-	(22)	(22)
Expenditure	(134)	-	(134)	(134)	-	(134)
As at 31 December 2023	**994**	**113**	**1,107**	**526**	**(22)**	**504**
Total funds						
As at 1 January 2023	6,068	983	7,051	3,664	22	3,686
As at 31 December 2023	**6,606**	**961**	**7,567**	**3,803**	**-**	**3,803**
Analysis by Fund Type						
Scholarships and bursaries	2,689	961	3,650	-	-	-
Grants and prizes	114	-	114	-	-	-
Development funds	3,803	-	3,803			
As at 31 December 2023	**6,606**	**961**	**7,567**	**3,803**	**-**	**3,803**

Analysis by asset type 2023	Group total £000	University total £000
Fixed assets	869	-
Investments	6,698	3,803
As at 31 December 2023	**7,567**	**3,803**

16. Endowment reserves (continued)

Fund Name	Type	Purpose	As at 1 January 2024	Income & New Donations	Expenditure	Revaluation Gains/ (losses)	As at 31 December 2024
			£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Vinson	Permanent	Economics & Entrepreneurship	3,803	-	(59)	178	3,922
Gregory	Permanent	Scholarships & Bursaries	1,747	-	(16)	93	1,824
Desborough	Expendable	Scholarships & Bursaries	647	-	-	32	679

Each of the individually material endowment funds detailed above are represented by listed investments and cash investment deposits only, and each are of sufficient value and liquidity to enable them to be applied in accordance with their associated restrictions.

17. Restricted reserves

Reserves with restrictions are as follows:

2024	Group £000	University £000
As at 1 January 2024	5,484	5,803
Transfers between reserves	155	-
New donations and reclassifications	796	634
Income release to cover expenditure	(684)	(579)
Total restricted reserves comprehensive income for the year	**267**	**55**
As at 31 December 2024	**5,751**	**5,858**

2023	Group £000	University £000
As at 1 January 2023	5,653	5,979
Transfers between reserves	(9)	185
New donations and re-classifications	305	144
Income release to cover expenditure	(465)	(505)
Total restricted reserves comprehensive (expenditure)/ income for the year	**(169)**	**(176)**
As at 31 December 2023	**5,484**	**5,803**

18. Total reserves

	Group 2024 £000	University 2024 £000	Group 2023 £000	University 2023 £000
As at 1 January	26,980	21,938	20,749	14,767
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	(1,185)	(1,448)	6,231	7,171
Release of restricted funds spent in the year	(821)	(639)	(370)	(144)
New donations and re-classifications	821	639	370	144
As at 31 December	**25,795**	**20,490**	**26,980**	**21,938**

	Group 2024 £000	University 2024 £000	Group 2023 £000	University 2023 £000
Restricted donations	496	590	859	642
Unrestricted donations	-	-	-	-
	496	**590**	**859**	**642**

At the date of the signing of these accounts progress has been made on the review of Endowment, Restricted and Unrestricted funds, and the presentation of income and expenditure associated with endowment funds. During 2024, this work has progressed resulting in some transfers between reserves and will continue to move towards a conclusion of this review.

19. Consolidated net debt

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Cash and cash equivalents	13,897	13,468
Borrowings: amounts falling due after more than one year		
Unsecured loans	(5,000)	(5,000)
Net debt	**(8,897)**	**(8,468)**
Change in net debt	**429**	**(545)**

20. Capital commitments

At the year end the University had £0.3m in capital commitments (2023: £0.1m).

21. Pension commitments

The University participates in the following pension schemes:

- The Aviva Group Personal Pension Plan (GPP) and the NEST Auto Enrolment Scheme (NEST-AES) are defined contribution schemes, so no commitment exists beyond the employer's contractual contributions for each accounting period. The NEST- AES is a money purchase scheme contracted into the State Second Pension (S2P), which covers a small number of staff under auto enrolment.
- The Universities Superannuation Scheme ('USS') provides defined benefits, and the fund is no longer in a deficit. Membership of the fund is closed to new staff.
- The University of Buckingham Employee Benefits Plan ('EBP') has defined benefits for those members with Guaranteed Minimum Pension rights and the University accounts for the deficit of EBP's liabilities over assets.

The Universities Superannuation Scheme ('USS')

Basis of the scheme

This scheme is a hybrid pension scheme, providing defined benefits for all members as well as defined contribution benefits. The assets of the scheme are held in a separate trustee-administered fund. Because of the mutual nature of the scheme, the assets are not attributed to individual institutions and a scheme-wide contribution rate is set. The University is therefore exposed to actuarial risks associated with other institutions' employees and is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the scheme on a consistent and reasonable basis.

As required by Section 28 of FRS 102, "Employee benefits", the University accounts for the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. As a result, the amount charged to the Statement of Comprehensive Income represents the contributions payable to the scheme.

FRS 102 makes the distinction between a group plan and a multi-employer scheme. A group plan consists of a collection of entities under common control typically with a sponsoring employer. A multi-employer scheme is a scheme for entities not under common control and typically represents an industry-wide scheme such as USS

Financial impact of the scheme valuation

A schedule of contributions based on the 31 March 2023 valuation has been agreed as:

	Employer	Employee
1 January 2019 to 31 March 2019	18.0%	8.0%
1 April 2019 to 30 September 2019	19.5%	8.8%
1 October 2019 to 30 September 2021	21.1%	9.6%
1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022	21.4%	9.8%
1 April 2022 to 31 December 2023	21.6%	9.8%
1 January 2024 onwards	14.5%	6.1%

Actuarial information and assumptions

Since the University cannot identify its share of USS Retirement Income Builder assets and liabilities, the following disclosures reflect those relevant for the scheme's assets and liabilities as a whole.

The University has 65 active members as at 31 December 2024 (2023: 70 active members).

Pay increases: Future salaries increase rate 2%, no change in staff membership.

Mortality base table

The main demographic assumptions used relate to the mortality assumptions. These assumptions are based on analysis of the scheme's experience carried out as part of the 2023 actuarial valuation. The mortality assumptions used in these figures are as follows:

	2024	2023
Males currently aged 65 years	23.7 years	24.0 years
Females currently aged 65 years	25.6 years	25.6 years
Males currently aged 45 years	25.4 years	26.0 years
Females currently aged 45 years	27.2 years	27.4 years

21. Pension commitments (continued)

Cost to the University	Group/ University 2024 £000	Group/ University 2023 £000
Contributions to USS	603	921
Contributions to GPP	999	1,153
Contributions to AES	11	10
(Decrease)/increase in provision for USS liabilities	-	(3,448)
Total pension cost for the year (Note 6)	**1,613**	**(1,364)**

Contributions outstanding as at 31 December	Group/ University 2024 £000	Group/ University 2023 £000
To USS	71	111
To GPP	144	110
To AES	3	2
Total pension outstanding as at 31 December	**218**	**223**

Key financial assumptions used in 2023 valuation are described below:

CPI Assumption: Term dependent rates in line with the difference between the Fixed Interest and Index Linked yield curves less 1.0% p.a. to 2030, reducing linearly by 0.1% p.a. from 2030

Pension increases (subject to a floor of 0%):
- Benefits with no cap : CPI assumption plus 3bps
- Benefits subject to a "soft cap" of 5% (providing inflationary increases up to 5%, and half of any excess inflation over 5% up to a maximum of 10%) : CPI assumption minus 3bps

Discount rate (forward rates : Fixed interest gilt yield curve plus:
- Pre-retirement: 2.5% p.a.
- Post-retirement: 0.9% p.a.

Most recent actual variations
A deficit recovery plan was put in place as part of the 2020 valuation, which required payment of 6.2% of salaries over the period 1 April 2022 until 31 March 2024, at which point the rate would increase to 6.3%. As set out in the note above, no deficit recovery plan was required under the 2023 valuation because the scheme was in surplus on a technical provisions basis. The institution was no longer required to make deficit recovery contributions from 1 January 2024 and accordingly released the outstanding provision to the profit and loss account.

The latest available complete actuarial valuation of the Retirement Income Builder is as at 31 March 2023 (the valuation date), which was carried out using the projected unit The latest available complete actuarial valuation of the Retirement Income Builder is as method.

Since the institution cannot identify its share of USS Retirement Income Builder (defined benefit) assets and liabilities, the following disclosures reflect those relevant for those assets and liabilities as a whole.

The 2023 valuation was the seventh valuation for the scheme under the scheme-specific funding regime introduced by the Pensions Act 2004, which requires schemes to have sufficient and appropriate assets to cover their technical provisions (the statutory funding objective). At the valuation date, the value of the assets of the scheme was £73.1 billion and the value of the scheme's technical provisions was £65.7 billion indicating a surplus of £7.4 billion and a funding ratio of 111%.

The University of Buckingham Employee Benefits Plan (EBP)
The EBP is a defined contribution (money purchase)
scheme which includes guaranteed minimum pension (GMP) benefits. The scheme started to wind up on 31 January 2008 when it operated on a contracted in basis. The scheme was contracted out on a GMP basis prior to 6 April 1997.

Those members with GMP benefits in respect of contracted out service prior to April 1997 have pensions payable from the scheme which must not be less than the GMPs specified in legislation. The GMP rights mean the scheme provides a defined benefit. On retirement the full proceeds of each member's individual account with Royal London are used to secure benefits in terms of the rules of the scheme, via the purchase of an annuity policy.

The net assets of the fund as at 5 April 2024 (the plan's financial year-end) were £121,936 with the value of investments designated to members valued on this date as £55,219. The assets of the plan are invested in units of various funds with Royal London.

The latest actuarial valuation of the scheme in place at the year-end was prepared as at 6 April 2023. The valuation results indicated the scheme had a shortfall of £96,000. It was agreed that no further contributions will be made but UOB will continue to pay the cost of Pensions Protection Fund levies and the cost of any expenses other than those paid by Royal London. The next valuation for the period to April 2024 is due after the signing of these accounts and therefore will be reflected in the next Financial Statements.

21. Pension commitments (continued)

Most recent actuarial valuations

There are 12 members of the scheme (as at actuarial date 6 April 2023)

Funding Position	6 April 2023 Valuation £'000	6 April 2020 Valuation £'000	6 April 2017 Valuation £'000
Total GMP member liabilities	**139**	**153**	**201**
Assets			
GMP accounts	-	-	113
Contingency account	7	7	43
Net current assets	36	(6)	(6)
Total assets	**43**	**1**	**150**
(Deficit)	**(96)**	**(152)**	**(51)**
Funding ratio	31%	1%	75%
Discount rate:			
Before retirement -3.5% p.a. (10 year gilts)			
After retirement – 3.5% p.a. (10 year gilts)			
	2023	2020	
RPI inflation:	3.6% p.a.	3.1% p.a.	
CPI inflation:	3.0% p.a.	2.3% p.a.	
GMP increases in deferment:	Fixed rates	Fixed rates	
Increase in payment			
GMP earned before 6/4/88	0.0% p.a.	0.0% p.a.	
GMP earned on or after 6/4/88 (CPI max 3% p.a.)	3.0% p.a.	2.3% p.a.	

The main demographic assumption relates to the mortality assumptions. These assumptions are based on analysis of the scheme's experience carried out as part of the 6 April 2023 actuarial valuation. The mortality assumptions used in these figures are as follows:

	Male	Female
Current pensioner aged 65 – cohort	86.8	89.1
Current pensioner aged 65 – period	85.8	87.8
Future pensioner aged 65 – 20 year in future	89.0	91.4
Future improvement rate	2%	2%

The EBP pension provision of £50k in the University relates to the balance of potential payments to encourage a reduction in Scheme membership by way of transfer values or the purchase of annuities, where possible. The provisions are required for GMP equalisation costs and legal advice, together with wind up costs. If a member, after taking financial advice, decides that he/she wishes to transfer his/her benefits to a new provider, then the employer will need to provide this enhancement. The aim has been for the benefits of the GMP members to be bought and replaced with a deferred annuity. The intention is to wind up the scheme and distribute assets to remaining members.

22. Related party transactions

The table below shows any financial transactions not related to their employment between key staff and the University itself or anyone that the University has a relationship with:-

Individual Trustee or senior management	Related party and relationship	Transaction	2024			
			Receipts £	Payments £	Debtors £	Creditors £
Mr Nicholas Hillman	Director of HEPI	The University pays an annual membership to HEPI	-	2,700	-	-
Christopher Payne (Registrar)	Student & Registrar	Course fees	987	-	-	-

Debapita Bardhan-Correia, a member of Council and of senior management respectively, had family members employed by the University during 2024 and 2023. Their employment was on an arm's length basis from Debapita's employment.

Individual Trustee or senior management	Related party and relationship	Transaction	2023			
			Receipts £	Payments £	Debtors £	Creditors £
Mr Nicholas Hillman	Director of HEPI	The University pays an annual membership to HEPI	-	2,640	-	-
Christopher Payne (Registrar)	Student & Registrar	Course fees	1,411	-	-	243

22. Related party transactions (continued)

Related party transactions between Medical Property Management Ltd (MPML) and The University of Buckingham.

Transaction	2024				2023			
	Receipts £	Payments £	Debtors £	Creditors £	Receipts £	Payments £	Debtors £	Creditors £
Rental payments made by the University to MPML for the former's use of the Milton Keynes Academic Centre	-	-	-	-	-	225,000	75,000	-
Amounts owed by MPML for payments made by the University on behalf of MPML	-			-	-	-	356,111	-
Amounts held under Custodian Agreement by the University on behalf of MPML	-	-	-	4,645,798	-	-	-	
Amounts owed to University for Management Charges	-	-	532,270	-	-	-	64,332	-

Related party transactions between University of Buckingham Foundation and The University of Buckingham.

Transaction	**2024**				**2023**			
	Receipts £	**Payments £**	**Debtors £**	**Creditors £**	**Receipts £**	**Payments £**	**Debtors £**	**Creditors £**
Grants awarded by the Foundation to the University during 2024	312,453	-	84,081	-	-	-	312,453	-
Grants awarded by the Foundation to the University for prior years	1,016,286	-	-	-	-	-	1,016,286	-
Rent payment by the University regarding student accommodation properties owned by the Foundation	-	61,200	-	-	-	61,200	-	-
Balances owed by the University to the Foundation at year end for Swain's donation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	244,975

Other related party transactions and disclosures are as follows:

- Apollo Buckingham Health Sciences Campus Ltd ("ABHSC") was a related party of The University of Buckingham. During 2024, the University has disposed of its shares in ABHSC and the two representatives of the University resigned as Directors.

- The University provides a financial guarantee contract for 50% of the lease payments between ABHSC and Manchester Metropolitan University.

23. Contingent Liabilities

As is the case for all members of the USS pension scheme, an exit cost will be incurred when the University exits the scheme. There are a number of scenarios in which a member may exit the scheme, all of which would result in different exit costs. Whilst it is not the University's current plans to exit the scheme, the University is, at the date of the signing of these accounts, in the process of reviewing its obligations with the USS pension scheme. As such, the University consider it impracticable to disclose the estimate financial effect or timing of exiting the scheme

24. Subsidiary, joint venture, and associated undertakings

Company	Principal Activity	Status	Holding of ordinary shares	Registered office
Medical Property Management Ltd	Property holding and management, acquisition of academic curriculum	Subsidiary	100%	Yeomanry House, Hunter Street Buckingham MK18 1EG
Buckingham Business Enterprise Ltd	Used as academic support for business, enterprise, and innovation students	Subsidiary	100%	Yeomanry House, Hunter Street Buckingham MK18 1EG
The University of Buckingham Foundation	Receives, holds, and distributes donations, primarily in support of the University	A separately constituted unincorporated charity, under the effective control of the University	Not Applicable	Yeomanry House, Hunter Street Buckingham MK18 1EG
University of Buckingham Press Ltd	Publishers	Associate	25%	9 The Fairway Northwood HA6 3DZ
University of Buckingham Medical Sciences North Ltd	Dormant Company	Subsidiary	N/A Company limited by guarantee	Yeomanry House, Hunter Street, Buckingham, MK18 1EG

Medical Property Management Ltd
This wholly owned subsidiary has been consolidated in the University financial statements.

Buckingham Business Enterprise Ltd
The results of this wholly owned subsidiary are deemed to be immaterial to the results of the University so have not been consolidated.

The University of Buckingham Foundation (the Foundation)
The University is in a position of effective control arising from several factors, notwithstanding that the Foundation is a distinct charitable trust and therefore the results of the Foundation have been consolidated in the consolidated financial statements.

The trust deed for the Foundation declares that its purpose is to advance education, in particular supporting and promoting the education of students at the University, and to promote research into academic and scientific fields of learning.

The close relationship between the University and the Foundation is a determining factor in the University exercising effective control. The Foundation's Board of Trustees agrees that the primary intent of the Foundation is to support the University, and the Trustees are guided by the University in decisions relating to the distribution of funds.

Apollo Buckingham Health Sciences Campus Ltd (ABHSC)
As part of the agreements with regards to exiting the Crewe Campus, shares in ABHSC were transferred to Apollo Education UK in February 2024.

University of Buckingham Press Ltd
The results of the University's minority investment in this company are immaterial to the results of the University and have not been consolidated.

University of Buckingham Medical Sciences North Ltd
This subsidiary was registered on 29 January 2020. This company has remained dormant since its incorporation. Subsequent to the year end a decision was made to dissolve the company.

25. Lease Commitments

In February 2024, a new lease was entered into between ABHSC Limited and the University regarding the Crewe campus.

	Land and other buildings 2024 £000	Other Leases 2024 £000	Total 2024 £000	Land and other buildings 2023 £000	Other Leases 2023 £000	Total 2023 £000
Not later than one year	2,362	62	2,424	1,474	42	1,516
Later than one year and not later than five years	6,073	63	6,136	3,082	14	3,096
Later than five years	12,600	-	12,600	-	-	-
	21,035	**125**	**21,160**	**4,556**	**56**	**4,612**

Onerous lease provisions have been disclosed in Note 15.

Lease payments in the year amounted to £2.3m (2023: £1.4m) for land and buildings leases and £69k (2023: £45k) for other leases.

THE UNIVERSITY OF BUCKINGHAM

For Independent Minds

THE UNIVERSITY OF BUCKINGHAM

England & Wales - Charity number 1141691

Accounts

THE UNIVERSITY OF BUCKINGHAM

Annual Report & Financial Statements

For the year ended
31 December 2023

For Independent Minds

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Legal and Administrative Information

CORPORATE STATUS

The University of Buckingham (the "University") is incorporated by Royal Charter, number RC000730. The University is a Registered Charity, number 1141691.

PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS

The University of Buckingham
Yeomanry House
Hunter Street
Buckingham
MK18 1EG

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

MHA
6th Floor
2 London Wall Place
London
EC2Y 5AU

BANKERS

National Westminster Bank plc
Stony Stratford Branch
80 High Street Stony Stratford
Milton Keynes
MK11 1AJ



The Chair's Statement

As I reflect on my inaugural year as Chair of Council at The University of Buckingham, it is with a profound sense of accomplishment and optimism that I address our dedicated faculty, staff, students, alumni, and broader community in this year's annual report.

The past year has been a transformative period for our University, marked by substantial progress against five key objectives. This journey, though demanding, has significantly fortified our institution's foundation and now leaves us poised for sustainable growth and excellence.

1. **Returning to Compliance**: We achieved full compliance with our financial reporting and accounts, a milestone that underscores our commitment to transparency and responsible stewardship. Our team has been strengthened, and we are now investing in a state-of-the-art finance and accounting system, laying robust groundwork for effective future financial management.
2. **External Governance Review**: Following an extensive review conducted by Halpin, we have not only embraced their findings but have also actively started to implement changes. A dedicated task force is ensuring that these recommendations are woven into the fabric of our governance, enhancing our operational efficiency and institutional integrity. We are carrying out a similar process with our internal documents to ensure they are fit for purpose.
3. **Strategic Vision and Execution**: For the first time in many years, the University now operates with a clear and actionable strategy. We are meticulously working through detailed execution plans, setting milestones, and employing SMART actions to bring our vision to fruition.
4. **Sustainability and Infrastructure**: Our Transformation and Enabling Programme marks a significant leap towards building an infrastructure that supports our ambitious goals. This holistic approach ensures we remain at the forefront of educational and research excellence and guarantees priorities are met.
5. **Crewe - defining the strategic position**: with a mutually acceptable outcome for the respective parties.

Looking ahead, I am immensely optimistic about our future. The strides we have made this year are not just achievements in their own right, they are the building blocks of a legacy that prioritises a brilliant student experience — the heart of our mission.

Our focus remains steadfast on providing an environment where students can thrive, supported by innovative teaching methods, leading-edge research, and an inclusive community.

As we continue to navigate the evolving landscape of higher education, The University of Buckingham stands resilient and ready. With a fantastic community, strong strategic direction, robust governance, and a commitment to sustainability and inclusivity, we are better equipped than ever to empower our students and contribute meaningfully to society.

Our journey this past year reaffirms my belief in the bright future that lies ahead. Together, as a united Buckingham community, we will continue to nurture leaders, innovators, and independent thinkers, transforming lives through exceptional education and research.

Finally, I would like to pass on my sincere gratitude to colleagues across the University and on Council for the constructive and dedicated way they have approached the various challenges we faced over the past twelve months.



Mark St John Qualter
Chair of Council
20 May 2024

The Vice-Chancellor's Statement

2023 marked a significant turning point for the University. It was a year in which we were able to put the historical difficulties behind us, and thus begin the process of looking to our exciting future.

First, focusing on 2023, compliance with our regulators was achieved by 31 March 2023, when we published our audited accounts for 2021. We remained compliant with the publication of our audited accounts for 2022 on 31 May 2023, as required. I am exceedingly grateful to our CFO and his team for this exceptional accomplishment.

2023 was also important for the development of our three-year Strategic Plan, which was approved by Council at the end of July. The Plan had been developed through extensive consultation across the University. I am thankful to the Dean of Academic Affairs and Registrar for all the hard work they put in to getting this document across the line.

The Strategic Plan outlines the University's four Guiding Principles: Independence and Academic Freedom; Academic Excellence; Student Partnership; Innovation and Entrepreneurship. Regarding the first of these, in 2023 I was very pleased to welcome the new Professor of Political Science, to create a new Centre for Heterodox Social Science. They join us as a powerful advocate for academic freedom, with an esteemed background in political demography, and as an acknowledged expert in the phenomenon of "progressive illiberalism". Also related to the first of our guiding principles, in the National Student Survey we were ranked 1st for Freedom of Expression.

In general 2023 was good for the University's league table positions. It was especially encouraging that in September we were shortlisted for the 'University of the Year Award 2024' in the Sunday Times Good University Guide. We were in very good company – the other universities shortlisted were UCL, LSE, York, Liverpool and Exeter. We were included because we had managed to put the difficulties of the past behind us, and are now ranking 8th in the South East, and 56th nationally. In the National Student Survey our Business School was ranked in the top 10 nationally on all measures, a huge achievement.

Another regulatory milestone achieved in 2023 was the award of Silver in the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF), organised by the Office for Students. Universities that take part in the TEF receive an overall rating based on two measures, student experience and student outcomes. Buckingham was rated Silver in both. For student experience the Office for Student's (OfS) report noted 'evidence of some features of outstanding teaching practices'. It also remarked on the way the University fosters a supportive learning environment.

Throughout 2023, we continued to punch above our weight in terms of national visibility. For instance, on a very hot Tuesday in September we were honoured to be invited to No.10 Downing Street to celebrate our Royal Charter 40th Anniversary and the launch of fund-raising for the Margaret Thatcher Chair for the Constitution of Liberty.

The afternoon was hosted by the Deputy Prime Minister, The Rt Hon Oliver Dowden MP, and attended by 150 invited guests including University Staff, associates, donors, and members of our alumni community. Our Chancellor, Dame Mary Archer, gave a compelling opening address.

Looking to the future, many developments look very positive. Very importantly, the University is putting considerable budget resources into our "digital transformation" strategy, to improve our IT systems in areas such as finance, HR and student management. The first part of this

transformation will take place during 2024, and as the systems are improved, staff and students alike will see huge improvements in their ease of engagement with the University.

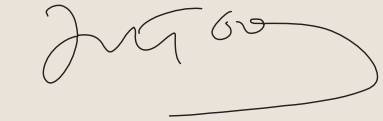
An area I am particularly excited about developing is in extending the reach of our collaborations. Our strategy at the University is twofold. First, to look at forming and maintaining partnerships with academically sound and profitable enterprises in the UK and overseas. Second, to locate and partner with projects that fit in closely with our values and guiding principles, to reach the parts other universities cannot or will not reach.

Concerning partnerships, we are also exploring potential links with new partners, which could dramatically help improve our offerings, both academically and in terms of our facilities and infrastructure. In 2024 I hope that we can make real progress in this regard.

Furthermore, in 2024, new areas of curriculum and research are being explored, guided by our newly agreed strategic direction, that will extend the University's offer. I look forward to announcing further developments throughout the year.

To further strengthen my senior team, Professor Harriet Dunbar-Morris joined us as Pro Vice-Chancellor (Academic) at the end of 2023. Harriet's PhD was completed via the universities of Sussex and Toulouse. Following a postdoc in Psycholinguistics, Harriet undertook research in Higher Education at the University of Oxford. Post-Oxford, Harriet held positions at UCAS, the 1994 Group, and the universities of Bath, Bradford and Portsmouth.

2024 has already given rise to serious problems in the university sector in this country at large, which makes our achievement of posting a surplus in 2023 a particularly important achievement. Though the magnitude of our surplus was driven by one-time impacts of resolving some historic challenges, our operational performance generated a surplus. Several universities have been in the news recently announcing huge deficits and announcing mass redundancies and closures of courses; there is talk of closures and mergers in the sector. Of course, we may not be entirely immune from these sector-wide trends, particularly in terms of the continuing cost of living crisis and the potential for further global instability. Nevertheless, I am very pleased to be able to report in these comments the huge progress that has been made across the board in the University, allowing us to be comfortably poised to ride any storms that may come our way.

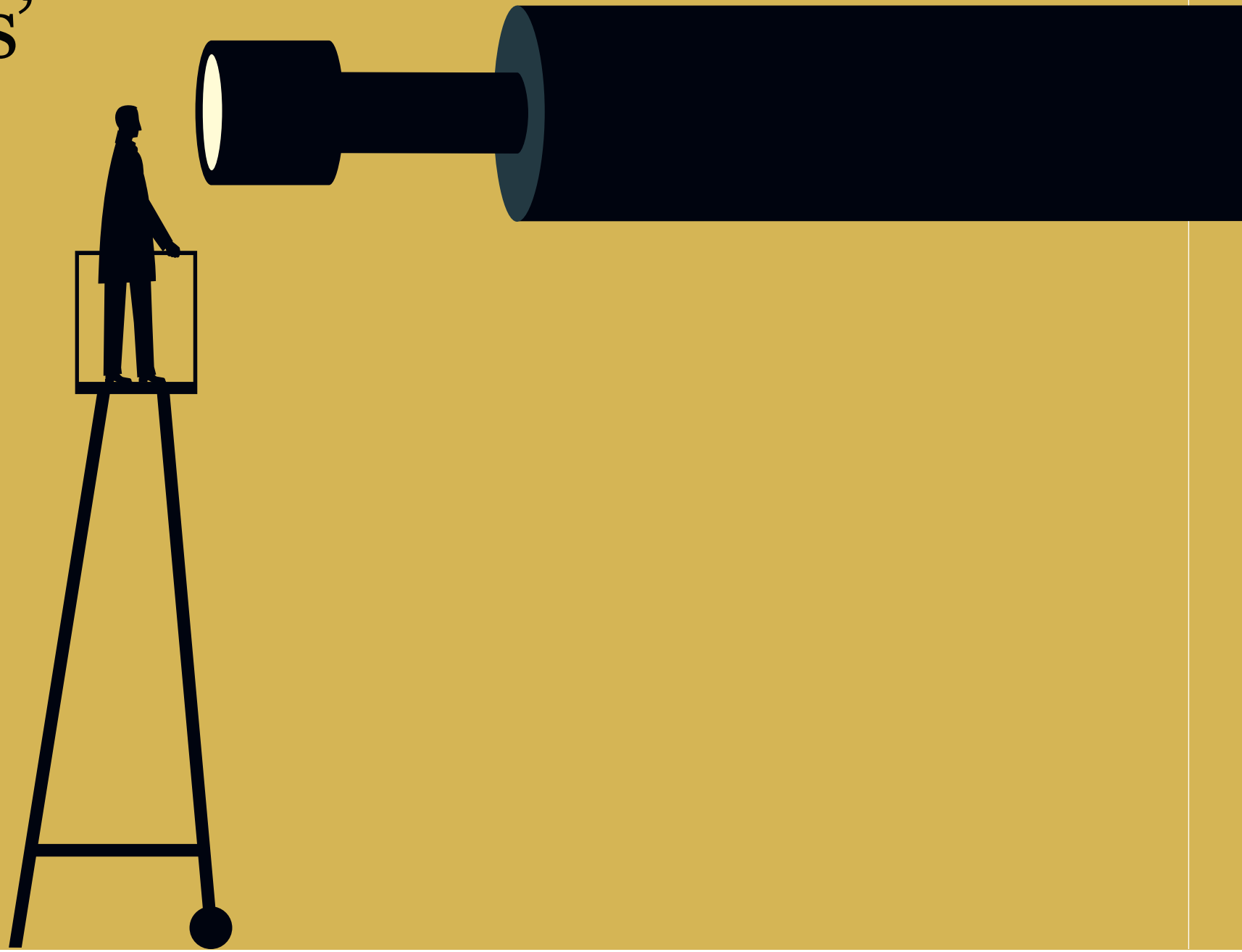


Professor James Tooley
Vice-Chancellor
20 May 2024



Trustees' Report

The Trustees' Report represents the strategic review for The University of Buckingham (the "University") and its subsidiaries (together "the Group").



CORPORATE STATUS, REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

The University of Buckingham was incorporated by Royal Charter on 11 February 1983. Prior to that, the University College at Buckingham was founded in 1973 and admitted its first students in 1976.

The University is not-for-profit and is a Recognised Body under Statutory Instrument No.573 (The Education (Recognised Bodies) (England) Order 2020). It is authorised by its Royal Charter to award taught and research degrees in perpetuity.

The University is registered at the Charity Commission for England and Wales (Charity number: 1141691). The principal place of the University's business, as well as the names and addresses of the University's auditor and bankers, have been presented separately in the Legal and Administrative Information section of these accounts.

The University is registered with the Office for Students ('OfS') in the Approved provider category. Approved higher education providers ('HEPs') differ from Approved ('Fee Cap') HEPs in being able to levy uncapped tuition fees for undergraduate degrees but with the caveat that students at Approved providers can only access student loan funding to the lower limit. Since 2018 this has been £6,165 per annum for three-year programmes and £7,400 per annum for two-year programmes.

Despite the University's exemption from being required to have an Access and Participation Plan it remains committed to broadening opportunities for students from all backgrounds to access University education. During 2023 the University continued to progress innovative funding arrangements targeted to help UK students bridge the gap between fees and student loan levels via Future Earnings Agreements (FEAs) underwritten by the University. Accessibility through financial support is further strengthened by bursary and scholarship programmes. In addition to the noted constraints on student funding, as an Approved provider, the University is unable to access any direct government funding for learning and teaching, research or capital activity. The University is committed to diversity and inclusion as embedded in its Royal Charter. Article 20 states:

'There shall be no discrimination on the grounds of any person's origin, belief, gender or disability such as to prevent him or her being admitted as a Member, Professor, teacher, other employee or student of the University or to hold office therein or to graduate thereat or to hold any advantage or privilege thereof.'

In accordance with the Charter, the University is committed to creating and maintaining an environment within which inclusive learning, fair treatment and diversity are valued, and discrimination is challenged. The recent refurbishment of the Franciscan Building including new access ramps and a lift is a practical illustration of the University's commitment.



STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The University's governing instruments are published in the Governance Handbook, which include:

- the University's Royal Charter and Statutes;
- Ordinances and Scheme of Delegation;
- our academic, management and committee structures, and the terms of reference and membership of all committees.

In January 2023 the University commissioned a detailed Governance Effectiveness Review as part of our commitment to good policy practice and quality improvement. The Halpin Partnership (Halpin), an independent, specialist Higher Education consultancy, undertook the review and completed a thorough assessment of the effectiveness of Council and the University's wider governance frameworks. This included conducting detailed interviews and discussions with representatives from the Students' Union, members of staff and all members of Council, as well as undertaking observations of the University's key governance bodies. Halpin produced a final report, and the recommendations therein have been fully endorsed by Council and the resultant and continuing action and implementation plan is being overseen by an appointed Steering Group of members. The University's Ordinances and Scheme of Delegation have also undergone a regular periodic review with updated versions being implemented in early 2024.

The University's consolidated financial statements include a subsidiary company and a charity, being Medical Property Management Ltd ("MPML") and The University of Buckingham Foundation, respectively. MPML is a wholly owned trading subsidiary whose purpose is to further the University's charitable purposes. The University of Buckingham Foundation is a charitable trust whose purpose is to advance education, in particular supporting and promoting the education of students at the University, and to promote research into academic and scientific fields of learning. Financial statements for these entities can be obtained from the University's principal place of business, which is noted on page 1 of these accounts.

The Trustees are required to ensure the University is carrying out its purposes for the public benefit, complies with the governing document and law, acts in the University's best interests, manages its resources responsibly and is accountable. They do so through the organisation and conduct of regular meetings for both the Council and its sub-committees. The agreed decisions and actions from the meetings are then appropriately delegated to and implemented by the University's senior management and functional departments.

With regards to the setting of remuneration, the University, through written commitment provided in the Ordinances, complies with the Higher Education Remuneration Code published by the Committee of University Chairs. In practice, the University's Nominations, Performance and Remuneration Committee: considers the comparative information on the emoluments of the employees within its remit; ensures all arrangements are unambiguous and diligently recorded; determines annually the principles on which merit awards shall be made for all members of staff in the salary review for that year.



OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

As codified in the University's Statutes, the University's objectives are the advancement of learning and knowledge by teaching and research, and to enable students to obtain the advantages of a university education.

The Trustees have had due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit during their stewardship of the University's activities. Details of activities to further public benefit are set out in these accounts.

In particular, the Trustees have taken care to:

- make strategic decisions that further the charitable objectives;
- maximise public benefit to significant numbers of beneficiaries who are local to Buckingham, as well as more widely;
- manage and mitigate risks to our beneficiaries and to the University itself;
- offer Scholarships and Bursaries to promote access and participation to the public benefit as further noted below;
- welcome the local community to attend academic and social events at its premises, as well as to our staff and students. These include lectures, fireside chats with renowned guest speakers, taster days, musical concerts and festivals, such as the History and Literature Festivals;
- extending outreach activities to local schools and community so as to broaden access to Higher Education;
- allow public use of certain University facilities.

BUCKINGHAM'S DISTINCTIVE POSITION

The distinctive position of The University of Buckingham is that it is an early innovator, having pioneered the accelerated two-year honours degree some 40 years ago. This is a cost-effective route for students to spend less on tuition and living costs than if they were taking a three-year degree, and enter employment a year earlier if they wish, or leave after three years with both an honours and a master's degree. Three-year honours degree options are also available. Our Medicine course is also unique, offering a GMC accredited four and a half year course with a January start date, the removal of long holidays allowing for shorter overall study time whilst still enabling graduated students to enter the NHS foundation programme commencing in August each year.

STAFF

As with any organisation, staff numbers fluctuate through the year, therefore average numbers are used in these financial statements. In 2023, there was an average of 487 full time equivalent members of staff (2022: 358), comprising 185 academic (2022: 128), 7 research (2022: 8), 255 support (2022: 188) and 40 manual staff (2022: 34).



ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE ON TEACHING & RESEARCH

The founders of the University were driven by a desire to cultivate an institution that was rigorously independent and innovative. This ethos has underpinned three striking features of the University's provision:

- the pioneering of a two-year accelerated undergraduate degree and four-and-a-half year MB ChB Medicine degree;
- an early focus on the student experience; and
- a resourcing model in which academic staff teach and have time given over to research; external engagement and programme review ensures the availability of senior and permanent teaching staff throughout the full calendar year.

At The University of Buckingham, students learn from the best in a supportive environment; where they are always a name, and never a number. This approach is highly commended by our students and saw us shortlisted for University of the Year in the Sunday Times Good University Guide, 2024.

We pride ourselves in delivering more than just an education; we provide a launchpad for careers. Our commitment to career-focused courses earned us the 2nd spot for Graduate Prospects (on track) in the Complete University Guide 2023. Students consistently praise our teaching quality and appreciate our small class sizes, ensuring they have all the tools for success.

Our support services were ranked 5th for Mental Health Wellbeing Services in the NSS, 2023, by the students themselves and in the Top 10 for Student Satisfaction (CUG, 2023). The health and wellbeing of students is a constant and top priority.

Our student body is diverse and is actively engaged in decision-making at all levels due to our ethos of staff-student partnership. Students sit on academic committees, formal and informal, providing valuable feedback that shapes courses, the learning environment, and strategic decisions by the University's Executive and Governance Groups.



STUDENT NUMBERS

Total student numbers increased to 3,286 in Winter 2023, up 2% from 2022 (3,214).

In winter 2023 compared to Winter 2022: Undergraduate (UG) student numbers increased by 8%; Postgraduate taught (PGT) student numbers increased by 25%; PGCE (Post Graduate Certificate of Education) student numbers decreased by 20%; Postgraduate research student numbers decreased by 3%; Pre and non-degree course student numbers increased by 28%.

3,286 students from around the world studying across **8** discipline areas



2,072 British (inc overseas territories)

442 Asia and Pacific

261 Sub Saharan Africa and Indian Ocean

97 European Union (other than UK)

176 Middle East and North Africa

203 Europe (other than EU) and Central Asia

35 Americas and Caribbean

Today there are more than **26,000** alumni of the University living in **185** countries. They are running companies, leading countries, and achieving extraordinary things all over the world.

The University has student of all ages, with **83%** being 21.

44% of students identified as white and **44%** as BAME, with **12%** preferring not to respond.

13% of students declared a disability.

52% of students identify as female.

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS

The University of Buckingham subscribes to the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA). The University has also developed several important partnerships which are geographically spread and culturally diverse and has collaborations with key academic institutions such as British University in Georgia, International Business School in Budapest, Sarajevo School of Science and Technology in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Anglo Mexican Foundation.

RESEARCH

Like other British universities, an important part of our intellectual mission is for our academics and graduate students to contribute to research and scholarship. We are committed to continuing to strive in this area with a strategy plan for 2023-2027 that sets out how we aim to educate and inspire our community of research students, scholars and support staff through an abiding commitment to our four core values, summarised in the acronym CARE: Community, Authenticity, Responsibility and Excellence. The University has 20 research areas across its research institutes and centres such as the Humanities Research Institute, Centre for Health and Relationships, Buckingham Centre for Astrobiology, Centre for Education and Employment Research, Centre for Research in Expertise Acquisition, Training and Excellence, Denning Law Journal, Dickens Journals Online, and the Max Beloff Institute.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES

The University's Scholarships and Bursaries programme is an important part of assisting students to benefit from a university education, regardless of their financial circumstances. We have bursaries and scholarships available for both home and international students at undergraduate and postgraduate study levels. These are awarded based on location, merit or financial need.

The University of Buckingham Foundation holds funds as endowed investments and property, generating income to support scholarships, bursaries, grants and other projects available for the benefit of the University.

In 2023, the University awarded total scholarships, bursaries, and prizes of £1.3m (2022: £0.8m). These scholarships and bursaries include funded, named scholarships from the Foundation of £0.3m (2022: £0.4m). These are recorded within Curriculum costs, itself within Other operating expenses. The University, and students who have benefited are ever grateful to all donors who have supported funded scholarships and bursaries.



FINANCIAL REVIEW

Income

Total income for the Group at £53.6m in 2023 increased by 12% (2022: £47.9m).

Tuition fees remain the principal income source for the Group, and financially support much of our day-to-day teaching and research activities. Tuition fees represent 84% of total income in 2023 (2022: 86%). The decrease in our Home & EU fees income has been outweighed by an increase in the International fees income for both our UG & PG courses.

Residences and catering income on the Buckingham campus totalled £3.9m, (2022: £3.3m).

At the consolidated level, donation and endowment income in 2023 was £0.9m (2022: £0.1m).

Expenditure

Group expenditure decreased in 2023 by £3.0m to £47.3m. Particular reasons for these movements include:

Staff costs (excluding write back of USS pension provision costs £3.3m) increased by £3.4m being 18% higher than 2022. The USS pension provision was written back in 2023 as a result of the 2023 triennial actuarial valuation of the USS scheme. The valuation shows the scheme is back to a surplus and deficit recovery contributions have ceased from January 2024.

Other operating expenses decreased by £1.7m, largely driven by a decrease in the Crewe lease and other provision movements of £2.6m, an impairment charge of £1.3m and higher medical placement fees of £1.7m.

The University continues to use scholarships and bursaries to improve student access, and to support those who would otherwise struggle financially to join the University. The Group spent £1.3m on this support, (2022: £0.8m).

During 2023 a review of the use of the Milton Keynes Academic Centre building was undertaken, concluding that the University's School of Medicine had outgrown its ability to make effective use of the building. The Group sought the sale of the building and completed a review of impairment resulting in an impairment charge in the year of £1.3m, and the reclassification of resulting book value to fixed assets held for sale in these Group accounts as explained in note 11 of the financial statements. In March 2024 a sale of the building was completed realising £4.75m proceeds, marginally higher than the impaired book value.

The reported surplus of £6.2m (2022 deficit of £2.8m) includes the impact of several one-off events, including significant provision changes. Excluding these one-off events the "operational performance" of the group was a surplus of £0.3m as noted below:

	Group 2023 £000	University 2023 £000	Group 2022 £000	University 2022 £000
Reported surplus (deficit)	6,231	7,171	(2,815)	(2,322)
One-off Changes in provisions	(6,502)	(5,957)	(183)	(183)
One-off Impairment charge	1,352	-	-	-
One-off & non-operational income & expenditure	(740)	(862)	-	-
Operational surplus (deficit)	**341**	**352**	**(2,998)**	**(2,505)**



FINANCIAL REVIEW

Key performance indicators

KPIs covering financial strength of The University of Buckingham group	2023	2022
Cash and cash equivalents	£13.5m	£12.9m
External borrowing as a percentage of total income	9%	10%
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	£6.2m	(£2.8m)

University Investments

No market investments on behalf of the University can be made without the approval of the Finance, Estates and Resource Committee and no new market investments were made during 2023. The priorities for investment are identified by the Vice-Chancellor and University's senior management, through business, social and environmental considerations.

Statement of Financial Position

Group net assets increased to £28.1m from £20.7m in 2023 as a result of the operational surplus.

Tangible fixed asset additions totalled £2.7m (2022 £1.2m), the increase principally resulting from the completion of the refurbishment of the Franciscan Building and associated teaching, student study and social areas.



Reserves

The Group aims to maintain an appropriate level of unrestricted reserves and cash resources for the following reasons:

- Market factors may impact the number of students attending University courses, and the mix of courses and students. The University gains most of its income from academic programmes and may rely on reserves if there is a reduction in student numbers, whether permanent or temporary.
- The University has substantial ongoing commitments relating to the welfare and education of the students and needs to maintain a level of reserves sufficient to continue to meet these commitments.
- The University has commitments to its lenders to repay capital and interest on its borrowings.

The trustees are committed to improving the long-term financial sustainability through effective use and deployment of resources. During 2023 a Reserves and Liquidity policy was established targeting improvements in these areas. Specifically, the number of days of unrestricted reserves (Unrestricted reserves divided by annual expenditure less depreciation, amortisation and changes to pension provisions, multiplied by 365) and liquidity days (Cash plus cash equivalents plus current asset investments less any overdrafts or loans repayable within 12 months, divided by annual expenditure less depreciation, amortisation and changes to pension provisions multiplied by 365).

At the balance sheet date, the unrestricted reserves measure equates to 88 days, and net liquidity 92 days which are both within the targeted range such that the Trustees are satisfied with progress.

The Group's unrestricted reserves increased to £12.9m as at 31 December 2023 (31 December 2022: £8m), driven by the financial performance in the year as discussed throughout these accounts.

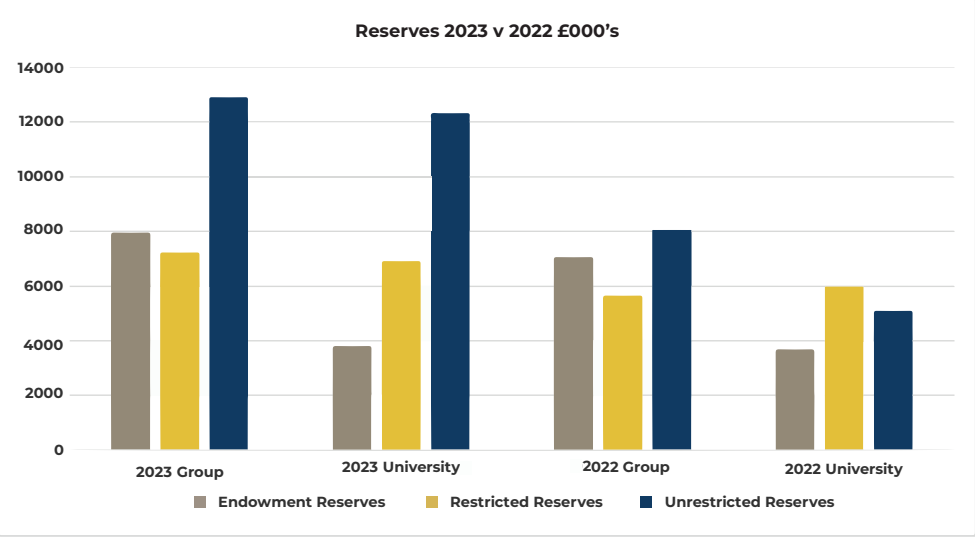
The consolidated restricted reserves increased to £7.2m as at 31 December 2023 (31 December 2022: £5.7m). The consolidated total endowment reserves increased to £8.0m (2022: £7.1m) due to an increase in market value of investments.

The timing of expenditure of restricted funds is based on when the costs required to complete the specific purposes of the funds arise, as well as the award of bursaries and scholarships to students in certain degree courses, which are sponsored by specific funds.

The Trustees consider the level of reserves at the balance sheet date to be adequate for the purposes outlined above and anticipate that over the course of the next five years unrestricted reserves will increase following pursuit of income growth and cost efficiency.

A more detailed view of the University's future is covered under the 'going concern' section of this report.

At the date of the signing of these accounts progress has been made on the review of Endowment, and Restricted funds, and the presentation of income and expenditure associated with endowment funds. This work is anticipated to conclude in 2024 after further verification work has been completed.



Cash Flow and Financing

The Group held liquid cash balances of £13.5m at the year-end (2022: £12.9m).

As at the balance sheet date, a loan drawn in 2021 with NatWest of £5m remained repayable within 5 years, with no capital repayment due within the next 12 months. The University also has a £5m revolving credit facility available to it from NatWest which was not used during 2023.

The University continues to consider ways of improving our cash position through investment of our own funds and philanthropic support to ensure we continue to provide the student experience to enable our students to flourish.

Principal risks

The University considers its principal risks (which include external factors outside of its control) to lie in the key areas below and has taken active steps to identify and mitigate these as well as other detailed operational risks.

1. **Financial**

   In the HE sector as a whole financial stability in the current climate is key to the University's success in delivering its objectives. In an environment where personal finances are stretched due to the cost-of-living crisis, the University's commitment to providing degrees in a shorter timescale and through new means of funding via our FEA scheme, as well as multiple bursaries and scholarships, we strive to continue to be attractive to new students. The government changes to visa rules to exclude dependents has had a damaging impact on the sector with many universities including The University of Buckingham seeing reduced international student recruitment in recent months.

   Overall, the Trustees are confident in the University's ability to manage the provision of academic delivery and student outcomes and experience whilst maintaining a focus on income generation and cost control through the uncertainties that may arise through the operationalisation of the recently approved strategy.

2. **Staffing**

   Like many organisations, there is a risk of not being able to recruit and retain proficient staff – with a resultant adverse impact on the student experience and the quality of administrative services. Management across the University ensure sufficient staff resources are available at crucial times. Among the mitigation measures, particular care is taken around staff engagement, well-being, and professional development. The Vice-Chancellor holds regular 'town hall' meetings to encourage engagement and debate with staff colleagues, and there are regular events to promote staff well - being. As a relatively small organisation there is recognition that the University is reliant on several key individuals, but our collegiate approach allows information and expertise to be shared so that absences can be covered where needed and, in some cases, interim staffing brought in.

3. **Built Estate**

   With our Estates buildings being a mix of new builds and historic, the older buildings need our ongoing attention and investment to ensure they still meet the needs of our students and staff alike.

   During 2023 and into January 2024, phase 2 of a significant refurbishment of the Franciscan building on our Verney Park site to further update facilities for the Computing, Law and Psychology faculty and associated student study and library facilities was completed. The building now boasts state-of-the-art seminar rooms, a renewed lecture theatre, a renovated library, a new moot court, collaborative study spaces, a soundproofed green screen room, a start-up space, café, and much more.

   A lease was secured at the start of 2024 for a local hotel to secure further student accommodation on a twin room basis, now renamed Mount Pleasant. This will allow us to grow our on-campus student numbers and free some current accommodation facilities for refurbishment.

   The move of electrical apparatus from a basement on the Hunter Street campus, which has been prone to flooding, was completed at the beginning of 2024, thus mitigating the risk of disruption to future operations. 2024 plans include refurbishment of the Chandos Road Building and other maintenance projects to ensure we continually improve the student environment on campus.



4. Information Systems and Data Security

The University of Buckingham is, like many universities, at risk of malicious cyber incursions and unforeseen infrastructure failures that can impact its staff and students; however, as was shown during the pandemic, the University is agile enough to respond to emerging threats quickly and pivot to new forms of delivery should this be necessary. As a small institution, Buckingham must remain cognisant of risks to its market share and seek to address these proactively through technology investment, consistent messaging, awareness and a personalised approach.

During 2023 a review of current IT infrastructure and systems was completed, and a resultant IT strategy created, which is now being systematically implemented.

To further strengthen our IT security and resilience, and improve the technology delivery to students and staff, the University launched a Digital Transformation programme at the end of 2023. This commences with replacing the Finance, HR and Payroll systems and evaluation of future student management solutions in 2024. 2025 and beyond are planned to bring improvements to the student management and end to end student journey.

5. Regulatory Compliance

We are committed to ensure we maintain compliance in all areas of regulation and have revamped our approach to internal audits with a new outsourced provider to further support improvements in our control environment. The Group's principal regulatory bodies are:

- The University of Buckingham; Office for Students & The Charity Commission. For more specific activities; Ofsted, Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) & The General Medical Council
- The University of Buckingham Foundation; Charity Commission.
- Medical Property Management Limited; Companies House

The University is also mindful of regulatory compliance relating to immigration, employment law and our academic activities generally (and particularly within healthcare and education).

6. Joint Venture

Progress continued during 2023 on systematically resolving the historic challenges around the Crewe joint venture. In December 2023 Heads of Terms were agreed and signed for new arrangements for the use of the campus until the end of 2026, and the satisfactory resolution of all other matters including the transfer of the University's shares in the Joint venture. Associated agreements were completed after the balance sheet date as noted in the post balance sheet event section later in this report and note 26 of the financial statements.

7. Reputational Risk

The University is acutely aware of the need to maintain a positive reputation to attract future students, staff and other stakeholders. Maintaining a positive reputation around all governance and sector specific topics, such as free speech is proactively discussed and managed by the trustees and governance committees.



Financial Risk Management Objectives and Policies

The Group's main financial instruments are cash and quoted investments held by the University and the Foundation. In addition, items such as trade debtors and trade creditors arise directly from its operations. The main purpose of these financial instruments is to fund the Group's operations. The existence of these financial instruments exposes the Group to several financial risks, namely market risk, liquidity risk and credit risk. The Trustees review and agree policies for managing each of these risks and they are summarised below.

a. Market Risk

- Currency risk: The Group is exposed to some translation and transaction foreign exchange risk in respect of cash, cash equivalents, and investments. This risk is not significant to the Group and accordingly there are no hedging provisions in place.
- Interest rate risk: At the balance sheet date the University had a £5m bank loan outstanding. Details of the loan are in Note 15. Since the loan interest rate is fixed, there is no current interest rate risk.
- Share price risk: The Group's exposure to share price risk consists mainly of movements in the value of the Group's investments in quoted shares.

b. Liquidity risk

The University has sufficient liquid cash resources partially arising from funds drawn down from the loan. The University manages its liquidity risk through regular cash flow forecasts and other financial management information tools. Also, the University monitors cash resources as a proportion of operating costs through the year, considering peaks and troughs in cash flows and the projected impacts on banking covenants. Furthermore, the University has a £5m revolving credit facility with NatWest available which has been unused since it was established in 2021.

The University's investments are guided by the University's Financial Regulations, and the University's Finance, Estates and Resource Committee and during 2023 approved a new Reserves and Liquidity policy setting out the strategy and policies for cash management, long term investments and borrowings.

c. Credit Risk

The Group's principal financial assets are quoted investments held by the University (and via the Foundation), cash and trade debtors. Quoted investments are managed by independent professional advisers, working with a cautious risk appetite set by The University of Buckingham and The University of Buckingham Foundation. The credit risk associated with the investments and cash is limited, as the counterparties are well-established financial institutions. The principal credit risk arises therefore from the Group's receivables. The nature of the Group's client base, being mainly undergraduate and postgraduate students, is such that it is not significantly exposed to any single individual customer, although there are several commercial and institutional clients. For example, the University validates other providers' programmes in the UK and internationally. The Trustees therefore concentrate their efforts on ensuring that the processes around credit approval and debt collection are sufficiently robust and the new finance system being implemented in 2024 will further improve control of this inherent risk.

Fraud and error

As with any business, there are potential risks to the integrity of financial assets and financial information. The primary safeguards are the staffing & ongoing training of the finance office and its financial procedures, some of which have been reviewed during 2023 to ensure we are continuing to adhere to robust control mechanisms. Staff are regularly updated on fraud risks and there is a schedule of training for staff. Some processes and controls will be further automated through the new finance system implementation. The Risk, Audit and Compliance Committee undertakes rolling reviews of risk management. The Finance, Estates & Resources Committee and the Council receive financial reports and information which enable them to engage in significant financial decisions.



Forward outlook and plans for the future

Positive 2023 performance and further actions to strengthen the financial position of the Group and University underpin the confidence that the University will maintain a satisfactory liquidity position, as defined by available cash resources for the foreseeable future.

Throughout 2023 the Group continued to comply with the debt service covenants and based on the forward forecasts and projections, the Group forecasts to be compliant with its debt service covenants for the foreseeable future and able to withstand plausible variations in those forecasts.

Climate change

The Trustees recognise climate change as an important matter for the University and the wider community. The University has already taken steps to reduce consumption of energy (such as by installing modern heating and lighting systems, and insulation). Furthermore, re-use and recycling materials is done where possible, and University vehicles are predominantly electric. The Trustees recognise there is more to do over the coming years to assess and respond to climate risks.

As already noted, the University has mitigated the risk of flooding of the River Great Ouse impacting electrical supplies by moving the connections from a basement on Hunter Street prone to flooding.

The University, like other organisations, needs to transition to more environmentally friendly means of delivering its objectives. There is desire for this from within the University and our students and we will see increasing demands to make changes to our working practices and our built estate because of societal changes and legislation. In 2024 the Executive Group are creating a wider engagement across staff, students, and other stakeholders to drive awareness and activity around sustainability. Environmental considerations are required for all projects and significant decisions.

Risk of exposure to Ukraine, Russia, Israel & Palestine

Occasionally, a handful of students from these countries enrol, and the tragic conflicts that exists currently in Ukraine and Middle East are noted, though the University does not have business operations connected to these countries, so there is minimal and immaterial risk exposure.

Perspectives on future direction

As noted in the Vice Chancellor's report, The University of Buckingham launched its Strategic Plan 2023-2028 during 2023. Setting out the University's ambitions for the coming five years, the Strategic Plan emphasises the importance of sustainable growth in numbers, income and surplus alongside growth of the University's academic provision and growth of the University's employees personally and professionally. Underpinning these aims are four guiding principles that build on the University's foundations while speaking to the future: independence and academic freedom, academic excellence, student partnership and innovation and entrepreneurship. The University has spent the intervening period crystallising this exciting vision into an ambitious programme of strategic and transformational work, the former targeting the Buckingham of the future and the latter providing a solid infrastructure upon which to build.

The following section sets out a summary of those Strategic plans.



One Strategic Aim
Four Guiding Principles

We will grow our student numbers, income and operational surplus in a planned, measured and sustainable manner.

We will grow our academic provision in breadth, depth and rigour.

We will grow our people by supporting them with professional development and state-of-the-art systems and processes.

We will underpin our growth and sustainability with four guiding principles: independence and academic freedom; academic excellence; student partnership; innovation and entrepreneurship.



Our Vision

A beacon of independence and academic freedom, we will be a university internationally recognised for fostering the leaders, thinkers and achievers of the future.

Our Mission

Inspiring and empowering individuals to achieve the extraordinary through excellence in learning, teaching, research and entrepreneurship.

Our Pitch

Discover the Buckingham difference: learn with the best in a university where you're always a name, never a number.

Our Guiding Principles

- **INDEPENDENCE AND ACADEMIC FREEDOM**
- **ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE**
- **STUDENT PARTNERSHIP**
- **INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

Our Values

COMMUNITY

We are a global community of students, scholars, professionals and alumni, sharing our passion for understanding.

AUTHENTICITY

We are true to who we are: an independent university, wholly committed to the pursuit of free enquiry.

RESPONSIBILITY

We take responsibility for our actions and our words, and how we maintain and utilise our physical, financial and natural resources and environment.

EXCELLENCE

We are professional, collegiate and hard-working, and we strive for success in all that we do.



Our Motto

Alis Volans Propriis

Flying on our own wings

Post Balance Sheet Events

In January 2024 a lease was entered into for a local hotel for use as further student accommodation on a twin room basis, now renamed Mount Pleasant. This will allow us to grow our on-campus student numbers, refurbish some current accommodation, and extend meeting and conferencing facilities. The agreement extends for up to 20 years with an initial rental of £900k per annum and the University having break options at 5 yearly intervals.

In February 2024, the University completed mutually acceptable agreements with Apollo Education UK concerning our Crewe Campus. A connected series of agreements with Apollo Education UK Ltd, Apollo Buckingham Health Sciences Campus Ltd (ABHSC), and Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU) result in the University now having certainty on all matters in relation to Crewe. As a result:

- The University has a lease to utilise the Crewe campus until the end of 2026.
- The lease for Booth Hall between MMU & ABHSC has been extended until the end of 2026, resulting in the University's rent deposit deed and terms around the joint mandate account being appropriately amended.
- The University's shares in the joint venture company (ABHSC) have been transferred to Apollo Education UK, and the University has agreed to contribute to the cost of dilapidations works on Booth Hall to a maximum of £1.0m.
- All historic arrangements between the University and Apollo Education and ABHSC have been superseded.

It was announced in March 2024 to all stakeholders that the University has taken the strategic decision to relocate teaching activities and educational provision from the Crewe campus to the main campus in Buckingham. The relocation will be phased over the next 3 years with full completion anticipated by the end of 2026.

The University will continue to deliver a high-quality educational experience for all our students through this transition period with all current Crewe based students anticipated to complete their studies on the Crewe campus.

As noted above, during 2023 a review of the use of the Milton Keynes Academic Centre building was completed, concluding that the University's School of Medicine had outgrown its ability to make effective use of the building. The Group sought a sale of the building and took an impairment charge in the 2023 of £1.3m and reclassified the asset to fixed assets held for sale in these Group accounts. In March 2024 a sale of the building was completed realising £4.75m proceeds, marginally above that the impaired book value.

Going concern

The Group and University's financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis, based on Trustees' assessment of the financial position, operating model, and forecast cash flows. This assumes the Group and University will continue in operation for the foreseeable future including meeting its future obligations as they fall due.

The University continues to take actions to further improve governance and financial sustainability and the new Strategic plan provides the focus and direction for the further growth and success of the University.

At the balance sheet date, the Group is reporting net current liabilities of £0.8m (University: £1.6m), which is an improvement of £2.0m (University improvement of £1.7m) due to an increase in fees received in advance and a decrease in trade creditors.

The University forecasts to meet all its banking covenant and debt servicing requirements for the foreseeable future.

After considering significant potential risks to plans and forecasts and the potential actions, which could include the sale of additional capital assets and a programme of cost restructuring, the Trustees are satisfied that it remains appropriate to prepare the Group and University financial statements on a going concern basis.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf on 20 May 2024 by:



Mount Pleasant Campus

Mark St John Qualter
Chair of Council

Professor James Tooley
Vice-Chancellor

David Cole
Chief Financial Officer

20 May 2024

Chancellor and Members of Council

THE COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL

Pursuant to Statute 15, the Council shall comprise ex-officio members, independent members and elected members.

Membership of the sub-committees of Council for 2023 are listed below, with the Chair denoted in bold. Unless otherwise noted, Members were appointed in a prior year, or resigned from sub-committees upon ending their term on Council.

Finance, Estates & Resources Committee

Sir Francis Habgood
Dr Keith Bothongo
Mr Chris Hollis
Mr Alan Smithers
Professor James Tooley
Ms Josephine Mbuya (From October 2023)

Risk, Audit & Compliance Committee

Mr Mark Rushton
Mr Nicholas Hillman
Mr Chris Hollis
Lord Peter Lilley
Professor Goran Roos
Professor Jaqueline O'Dowd (to September 2023)

Nomination, Performance & Remuneration Committe

Mr Mark St John Qualter
Professor James Tooley
Mrs Karen Mitchell
Sir Francis Habgood
Mrs Camilla Soames

Chancellor Dame Mary Archer		
Independent Members of Council		
Mr Mark Qualter	(Chair of Council)	
Mrs Camilla Soames	(Council Member) (Vice-Chair)	Re-appointed January 2023 Appointed February 2023
Professor Alan Smithers		Term ended July 2023
Andy Dunkley		Appointed May 2024
Mr Christopher Hollis		
Sir Francis Habgood		
Professor Goran Roos		Appointed October 2023
Mrs Karen Mitchell		Resigned April 2023
Katie Nykanen		Appointed May 2024
Dr Keith Bothongo		Resigned December 2023
Kristina Church		Appointed May 2024
Mr Mark Rushton		Resigned December 2023
Nadia Strone		Appointed May 2024
Mr Nicholas Hillman		
Lord Peter Lilley		
Phil Wolfenden		Term Ended July 2023
Professor Timothy Evans		
Elected Members		
Professor Adolfo Paolini		Term ended October 2023
Mrs Anthea Bailey		Appointed November 2023
Mr Callum Roberts		Term ended November 2023
Mr Graham Jones		Appointed October 2023
Professor Hongbo Du		Term ended October 2023
Professor Jacqueline O'Dowd		Re- Appointed October 2023
Ms Josephine Mbuya	(Alumni Representative)	
Mrs Sarah Myhill		Appointed October 2023
Mr Toluwani Osamolu		
Ex-Officio Members		
Professor James Tooley	(Vice-Chancellor)	
Professor Harriet Dunbar-Morris	(Pro-Vice Chancellor Academic)	Appointed December 2023
Mr Toby Corbett	(President of the Students' Union)	Appointed January 2023 Re-appointed January 2024

Statement of responsibilities of the University Council in relation to the financial statements

RESPONSIBILITIES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE COUNCIL IN RELATION TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Council is responsible for preparing the Annual Report and financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards, comprising FRS 102 "Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland", and applicable law). In accordance with its regulatory responsibilities under section 18 of Schedule 7 of the Education Reform Act 1988, the University's Council presents audited financial statements for each financial year.

The financial statements have also been prepared in accordance with:

- The Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)"; and
- The Charities Act 2011.
- The provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting for Further and Higher Education 2019 and meet the requirements of the Office for Students accounts direction dated 25 October 2019.

The Council is required to keep proper accounting records which: disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Group and University; which enable it to ensure that the annual financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Group and University and of the income and expenditure for that year; and comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the provisions of its Royal Charter. In causing the financial statements to be prepared, Council has ensured that:

- Judgements and estimates are made that are reasonable and prudent;
- Financial statements are prepared on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Group and University will continue in operation for the foreseeable future.

Council is responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Group and University and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Council is further responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the information, charity and financial, included on the University's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Operations of Council

Council's powers are exercised through a number of sub-committees:

- Finance, Estates and Resources Committee (FERC)
- Risk, Audit and Compliance Committee (RACC)
- Nomination, Performance and Remuneration Committee (NPRC)
- Inclusion Committee*
- Honorary Appointments and Awards Committee*

(* Joint Committee of Council and Senate)

Operations of Senate

Senate's powers are exercised through a number of sub-committees, whose terms of reference were approved by Senate:

- University Research Committee
- University Learning & Teaching Committee
- Inclusion Committee*
- Honorary Appointments and Awards Committee*

(* Joint Committee of Council and Senate)



Mark St John Qualter
Chair of Council

Professor James Tooley
Vice-Chancellor

David Cole
Chief Financial Officer

20 May 2024

Statement of Corporate Governance and Internal Control

This statement of corporate governance and internal control covers the period from 1 January 2023 to the date of approval of these financial statements.

Corporate governance structure

The University is incorporated by Royal Charter (number RC000730) and the conduct of the University's affairs is governed by the Royal Charter and accompanying Schedule (Statutes), approved by the Privy Council.

The University is registered as an Approved Provider with the Office for Students (UKPRN: 10007787) and is a registered charity (number 1141691). It is authorised by its Royal Charter to award taught and research degrees in perpetuity. The University is a member of Universities UK.

The University has a bicameral constitution comprising the Council and the Senate. Whereas the Council is the governing body, and its members are Trustees of the University, the Senate is the governing academic authority, responsible for the setting and maintenance of threshold academic standards and for assuring and enhancing the quality of students' learning opportunities.

The Council of the University has responsibility for the stewardship of the University's assets; its members focus on strategic decision making and ensuring adherence to its charitable objectives whilst delegating day-to-day operational responsibilities to the Vice-Chancellor, the Executive and senior management team. It receives assurances that the University meets all legal and regulatory requirements imposed on it as a corporate body.

The Senate of the University is its governing academic authority. Senate's responsibilities include: the regulation and control of all academic awards as well as the programming and teaching that facilitates students' admission to said academic awards, the management of the formalities associated with making academic awards and the regulation of University discipline. The Senate is responsible for overseeing the development of the University's academic portfolio (including all associated research, learning and teaching and assessment activities), for the admission of students and for all areas pertaining to academic delivery and support.

The principal academic and administrative officer of the University is the Vice-Chancellor, who has a general responsibility to the Council for maintaining and promoting the efficiency and good order of the University and who is the Chair of the Senate. The Vice-Chancellor also chairs the Executive Group, comprising the members of the University's senior management.

The University performed and concluded a detailed review of its governance structures, including the amendment of the charter and statutes, in 2021.

The University completed a detailed independent review of the effectiveness of its governance in 2023 which made a number of recommendations and suggestions, the implementation of which are currently being overseen by a Steering Group of Council members.

Oversight of Corporate Governance, Risk Management, Statutory and Regulatory Responsibilities

The Risk, Audit and Compliance Committee of the Council (RACC) provides much of the oversight of the University's corporate governance and risk management. This is through reports to RACC from senior management, the University's Internal and External auditors, and from the University's risk management lead from whom a report is received at every meeting of RACC. The Council, in turn, considers the minutes of RACC as a standing item. The Council receives updates on matters relating to Corporate Governance from the Vice-Chancellor.

The Council and its Committees ensure that the University complies with its statutory and regulatory responsibilities. The RACC, together with Senate, provide much of the oversight of compliance with OfS' ongoing conditions of registration. Additionally, the Finance, Estates and Resources Committee (FERC) oversees compliance with the University's statutory obligations in relation to health and safety.

The University's management accounts are considered by the Council, FERC and RACC on at least a quarterly basis.

Scope of responsibility

The Council has ultimate responsibility for the University's system of internal control and or reviewing its effectiveness. The Council has delegated to the Vice-Chancellor the day-to-day responsibility for maintaining sound systems of internal control that support the policies, aims and objectives of the University whilst safeguarding all funds and assets in accordance with responsibilities set out in the Office for Students' conditions of registration. The effectiveness of these controls is reviewed by the RACC. The Vice-Chancellor is also responsible for reporting to the Council any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

The purpose of the system of internal control

The system of internal control is an on-going process designed to identify the principal risks to the achievement of the University's plans, policies and objectives; to evaluate the extent of those risks; and to manage them efficiently, effectively, and economically. Such a system is designed to manage and mitigate rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve business objectives and can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss.

Statement of Corporate Governance and Internal Control

The risk and control framework

The Council has taken reasonable steps to ensure:

- There are appropriate financial and management controls in place to safeguard the assets of the Group and University and prevent and detect fraud, with any concerns investigated thoroughly before the financial statements are signed off.
- The economical, efficient, and effective management of the Group and University's resources and expenditure.
- Funds from whatever sources and administered by the University for designated purposes have been applied properly for those purposes and managed in accordance with applicable legislation.
- It is in receipt of regular reports and additional meetings are scheduled, to discuss the issues arising from significant matters if and as required.

A process is in place for identifying, evaluating, and managing the significant risks facing the University, and ensuring the associated procedures have been in place and operational throughout the year, notably through the regular review and updating of the University's Risk Register. The Risk Register details strategic and recurrent risks and covers governance, management, quality of service, reputational, operational, compliance as well as financial risks together with the range of mitigating controls in place and the early warning indicators for each risk.

The Risk Register is under continuous review by senior management and by the RACC at each of its meetings. This enables the University to ensure that it can monitor and manage risks in an ever-changing environment.

The key elements of the University's system of risk assessment and internal control, which is designed to discharge the responsibilities set out above, include the following:

- Risk Management, which is led by the Registrar, supported by senior managers, and reports into RACC.
- A medium and short-term financial planning process, supplemented by detailed annual income, expenditure, capital, and cash flow budgets.
- Regular reviews of academic performance and monthly reviews of financial results involving variance reporting and updated of forecast outturns.
- Clearly defined requirements for approval and control of expenditure - with investment decisions involving capital or revenue expenditure being subject to review according to approval levels set by FERC; and
- An outsourced internal audit function. A new provider was appointed in 2023 which has created and implemented a new framework and program of internal audit across the University's operations, reporting directly to RACC.

Review of effectiveness

The Council receives periodic reports from RACC (including copies of minutes of its meetings), and arrangements are in place to ensure regular reports are received from the University management on their actions to manage risks in their areas of responsibility. Reviews by Council of the effectiveness of the system of internal control are informed by the reports of Council, committees, and Officers of the University.

Nominations, Performance and Remuneration Committee

The Nominations, Performance and Remuneration Committee ('NPRC') normally meets bi-annually to monitor the performance of Officers of the University (including the Vice- Chancellor) and members of the University's Executive Committee to determine their remuneration and conditions of service. The Vice-Chancellor attends all meetings other than those involving consideration of his own salary.

NPRC sets the salary of the Vice-Chancellor taking account of the nature of the role, the institution, performance, and in accordance with the Committee of University Chairs' Higher Education Senior Staff Remuneration Code (2018). The Chair of Council undertakes an annual appraisal of the Vice-Chancellor's performance in the previous year, agreeing objectives for the next 12-month period. This takes place at the end of each calendar year.



Mark St John Qualter
Chair of Council

Professor James Tooley
Vice-Chancellor

David Cole
Chief Financial Officer

20 May 2024

Independent Auditors' report to the Council of The University of Buckingham

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The University of Buckingham (the 'University') and its subsidiaries ('the Group') for the year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the Group and University Statements of Comprehensive Income, Group and University Statements of Changes in Reserves, Group and University Statements of Financial Position, Group Statement of Cashflows and the related notes, including a Statement of Principal 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).

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting for Further and Higher Education 2019 in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations, The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, but has been withdrawn.

This has been done in order for the accounts to provide a true and fair view in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015. In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the University's affairs as at 31 December 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources 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 Charities Act 2011.

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 United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council'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 Council's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, including consideration of financial forecasts and cashflows and compliance with bank covenants, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Group's and University'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 Council with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our Auditors' Report thereon. The Council are responsible for the other information contained within the Annual 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. 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 course of 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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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.

Responsibilities of the Governing Body

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities of the University's Council in Relation to the Financial Statements, the Council are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements which give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Council 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 Council are responsible for assessing the Group and University'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 Council either intend to liquidate the Group or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Independent Auditors' report to the Council of The University of Buckingham

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

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 Auditors' 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 specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance concerning actual and potential litigation, regulatory actions and claims;
- Enquiry of staff to identify any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness;
- Evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business;
- Reviewing accounting estimates for bias;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

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.

Report on other legal and regulatory

We are required to report on the following matters by the Accounts Direction dated 25 October 2019 issued by the Office for Students ('the Accounts Direction').

In our opinion, in all material respects:

- funds from whatever source administered by the Academy for specific purposes have been properly applied to those purposes and managed in accordance with relevant legislation; and
- the financial statements meet the requirements of the Accounts Direction dated 25 October 2019 issued by the Office for Students.

We are also required by the Accounts Direction to report where the results of our audit work indicate that the University's grant and fee income, as disclosed in the notes to the financial statements, has been materially misstated. We have nothing to report in these respects.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Council, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Governing Body 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 Group and University and its Council, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

MHA

MHA, Statutory Auditor London, United Kingdom

Date: 27 May 2024

MHA is the trading name of MacIntyre Hudson LLP, a limited liability partnership in England and Wales (registered number OC312313)

MHA is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

Group and University statements of comprehensive income for year ended 31 December 2023

Note		Group 2023 £000	University 2023 £000	Group 2022 £000	University 2022 £000
	Income				
1	Tuition fees and education contracts	45,066	45,066	41,128	41,128
2	Research grants and contracts	374	374	1,049	1,049
3	Other income	7,044	6,819	5,498	4,971
4	Investment income	246	162	145	18
	Total income before donations and endowments	52,730	52,421	47,820	47,166
5	Donations and endowments	859	642	123	513
	Total income	53,589	53,063	47,943	47,679
	Expenditure				
6	Staff costs	19,154	19,154	20,455	20,455
7	Other operating expenses	25,593	24,528	27,315	26,940
11	Depreciation	2,340	2,061	2,385	2,095
8	Interest and other finance costs	240	240	171	171
9	Total expenditure	47,327	45,983	50,326	49,661
	Surplus/(deficit) before other gains/(losses)	6,262	7,080	(2,383)	(1,982)
	(Losses)/gains on disposal of fixed assets	(534)	(534)	189	189
12	Gains/(losses) on investments	503	625	(621)	(529)
	Surplus/(deficit) for the year	6,231	7,171	(2,815)	(2,322)
	Total comprehensive income/(expenditure) for the year	6,231	7,171	(2,815)	(2,322)
	Represented by:				
17	Endowment income/(expenditure) for the year	346	139	(712)	(443)
18	Restricted income/(expenditure) for the year	(465)	(505)	(107)	173
	Unrestricted income/(expenditure) for the year	6,350	7,537	(1,996)	(2,052)
	Surplus/(deficit) for the year	6,231	7,171	(2,815)	(2,322)

The consolidated income is attributable to the University and its subsidiaries. There is no non-controlling interest. All income and expenditure of the University and its subsidiaries relates wholly to continuing operations. The notes on pages 41 to 59 form part of these financial statements.

Group and University statements of changes in reserves for year ended 31 December 2023

Group	Endowment £000	Restricted £000	Unrestricted £000	Total £000
Balance at 1 January 2022	**7,763**	**5,760**	**10,041**	**23,564**
(Deficit) for the year	(269)	(280)	(2,266)	(2,815)
Release of restricted funds spent in the year	-	(258)	(117)	(375)
Transfer of expenditure between reserves	(443)	80	363	-
New donations and reclassifications	-	351	24	375
(Deficit) for the year ended 31 December 2022	(712)	(107)	(1,996)	(2,815)
Balance at 1 January 2023	**7,051**	**5,653**	**8,045**	**20,749**
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	346	(465)	6,350	6,231
Release of funds spent in the year	-	-	(370)	(370)
Transfers between reserves	170	(9)	(161)	-
New donations and reclassifications	-	305	65	370
Surplus/(deficit) for the year ended 31 December 2023	516	(169)	5,884	6,231
Balance at 31 December 2023	**7,567**	**5,484**	**13,929**	**26,980**

University	Endowment £000	Restricted £000	Unrestricted £000	Total £000
Balance at 1 January 2022	**4,129**	**5,806**	**7,154**	**17,089**
(Deficit) for the year	-	-	(2,322)	(2,322)
Release of restricted funds spent in the year	-	(258)	(117)	(375)
Transfer of expenditure between reserves	(443)	80	363	-
New donations and reclassifications	-	351	24	375
(Deficit) for the year ended 31 December 2022	(443)	173	(2,052)	(2,322)
Balance at 1 January 2023	**3,686**	**5,979**	**5,102**	**14,767**
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	139	(505)	7,537	7,171
Release of funds spent in the year	-	-	(144)	(144)
Transfers between reserves	(22)	185	(163)	-
New donations and reclassifications	-	144	-	144
Surplus/(deficit) for the year ended 31 December 2023	117	(176)	7,230	7,171
Balance at 31 December 2023	**5,803**	**5,803**	**12,332**	**21,938**

Group and University statements of financial position at 31 December 2023

Note		Group 2023 £000	University 2023 £000	Group 2022 £000	University 2022 £000
	Fixed assets				
10	Intangible assets	-	-	-	-
11	Tangible assets	32,252	26,749	33,757	26,624
12	Investments	6,984	8,012	6,633	7,531
	Total fixed assets	**39,236**	**34,761**	**40,390**	**34,155**
	Current assets				
12	Investments	87	-	85	-
13	Trade and other receivables	12,295	13,728	13,305	14,330
	Cash and cash equivalents	13,468	11,213	12,923	11,163
	Total current assets	25,850	24,941	26,313	25,493
14	**Less creditors amounts falling due within one year**	(27,756)	(27,677)	(29,102)	(28,837)
	Net current liabilities	(1,906)	(2,736)	(2,789)	(3,344)
15	**Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year**	(5,000)	(5,000)	(5,000)	(5,000)
16	Pensions provisions	(134)	(134)	(3,450)	(3,450)
16	Other provisions	(5,216)	(4,953)	(8,402)	(7,594)
	Total net assets	26,980	21,938	20,749	14,767
	Restricted reserves				
17	Income and expenditure reserve – Endowment	7,567	3,803	7,051	3,686
18	Income and expenditure reserve - Restricted	5,484	5,803	5,653	5,979
	Unrestricted reserves				
	Income and expenditure reserve - Unrestricted	13,929	12,332	8,045	5,102
19	**Total reserves**	26,980	21,938	20,749	14,767

The financial statements on pages 30 to 59 were approved by Council on 20 May 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:

Mark St John Qualter
Chair of Council

Professor James Tooley
Vice-Chancellor

David Cole
Chief Financial Officer

Group Cash Flow Statement

Cashflow from operating activities	Group 2023 £000	Group 2022 £000
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	6,231	(2,815)
Adjustments for non-cash items		
Depreciation	2,340	2,385
Release of funds spent in the year	(370)	(375)
(Increase) in current investments	(2)	(1)
Increase in impairment of tangible assets	1,352	-
Decrease/(increase) in student receivables	1,630	(2,071)
(Increase)/decrease in other debtors, prepayments, and accrued income	(620)	543
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(1,346)	5,819
(Decrease) in other provisions	(3,186)	(1,577)
(Decrease) / increase in pension provision	(3,316)	1,389
Adjustments for investing or financial activities		
Interest payable	240	171
Investment income	(246)	(145)
Loss/(gain) on disposal of fixed assets	536	(189)
(Gain)/loss in investments	(503)	621
Net cash (outflow)/inflow from operating activities	2,740	3,755
Cashflows from investing activities		
Investment income	246	145
Gain/(loss) of investments	503	(621)
(Purchase) of investments	(351)	(52)
(Payments) to acquire tangible assets	(2,723)	(1,171)
Proceeds of fixed asset disposals	-	369
Net inflow/(outflow) from investing activities	(2,325)	(1,330)
Cash flows from financing activities		
Interest paid	(240)	(166)
New donations – restricted and endowment	370	375
Net cash inflow from financing activities	130	209
Increase in cash and cash equivalents in the year	545	2,634
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	12,923	10,289
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	13,468	12,923

Details of the analysis of changes in net debt can be found in Note 20.

Statement of Principal Accounting Policies

The consolidated and University financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP 2019): Accounting for Further and Higher Education, and in accordance with United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102, "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland' (FRS 102)", and the Charities Act 2011.

The University is a public benefit entity and therefore has applied the relevant public benefit requirement of FRS 102. The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis, under the historical cost convention as modified by the recognition of certain financial assets and liabilities measured at fair value. The accounting policies have been applied consistently over the period.

The financial statements reflect the requirements of the Accounts Direction dated 25 October 2019 issued by the Office for Students.

The functional currency of the group is UK sterling and all financial statements have been prepared to the nearest thousand pounds.

The financial statements have been prepared and give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair' view. This departure is required following Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting for further and higher education issued on 1 October 2018, since this statement of recommended practice is most relevant to the University, rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 January 2019.

The University has taken advantage of exemptions in FRS 102 from:

- Preparing a statement of cash flows for the University, on the basis that it is a qualifying entity and the consolidated statement of cash flows included in these financial statements includes the University's cash flows.
- The financial instrument disclosures, required under FRS 102 paragraphs 11.39 to 11.48A and paragraphs 12.26 to 12.29, as the information is provided in the consolidated financial statement disclosures.

1. BASIS OF PREPARATION - GOING CONCERN

The Consolidated and University financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis, based on Trustees' assessment of the financial position, operating model, and forecast cash flows. This assumes the Group and University will continue in operation for the foreseeable future including meeting its future obligations as they fall due.

The University continues to take actions to further improve governance and financial sustainability and the new Strategic plan provides the focus and direction for the further growth and success of the University.

At the balance sheet date, the Group is reporting net current liabilities of £0.8m (University: £1.6m), which is an improvement of £2.0m (University improvement of £1.7m) due to an increase in fees received in advance and a decrease in trade creditors.

The University forecasts that it will meet all its banking covenant and debt servicing requirements for the foreseeable future.

After considering significant potential risks to future plans and forecasts and the potential actions, which could include the sale of additional capital assets and a programme of cost restructuring, the Trustees are satisfied that it remains appropriate to prepare the Group and University financial statements on a going concern basis.

2. BASIS OF CONSOLIDATION

The financial statements for the Group are the consolidation of the financial statements of The University of Buckingham (The "University"), the University of Buckingham Foundation ("the Foundation") and Medical Property Management Ltd ("MPML"). The University has not consolidated its other subsidiaries, being:

- Buckingham Business Enterprises Ltd, whose net assets and financial performance are immaterial for the purpose of giving a true and fair view.
- University of Buckingham Medical Sciences North Ltd, a dormant company whose net assets and financial performance are immaterial for the purpose of giving a true and fair view.

The close relationship between the University and the Foundation is a determining factor in the University exercising effective control. The Trustee board, including the Chair of Trustees, agree that the primary intent of the Foundation is to support the University and are guided by the University in decisions relating to the distribution of funds.

The makeup of the Foundation board is an important, but not the only, factor. Trustees are appointed by the trustee board and the University has a specified minimum number set out in the Foundation trust deed. At the financial year end the Foundation Board comprises four Trustees appointed by the University and three independent of the University. Membership of the Board fluctuates over time, but the Trustees are clear that their intent is to manage and invest endowments and

thereby provide funds for the University in support of its students and staff. They are strongly guided by the University in where funds should be directed, such guidance contributed to the decision to consolidate the results of the Foundation.

Associated companies are accounted for using the equity method. Investment in an associate is held at cost less accumulated impairment losses.

An investment in a subsidiary company is held at cost less accumulated impairment losses in the University's financial statements.

3. INCOME RECOGNITION

This accounting policy covers: Tuition fees and education contracts, Research grants and contracts, other income, Investment income, and Donations and endowments.

Income arising from the sale of goods or provision of services (including student accommodation and catering) is recognised and credited to the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income on exchange of such goods and services, or when the terms of the contracts have been satisfied fully. These accounts are shown net of VAT, returns, discounts, and rebates as appropriate. Where services are rendered but are not complete at the end of the period, income is recognised by stage of completion/degree of provision.

Tuition fee income is stated gross of any expenditure which is not a discount. Tuition fee income is credited to the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income on a pro-rata basis across the length of the course, in line with the provision of courses to students. For any portion of the income paid for via a Future Earnings Agreement (FEA) this is not recognised in the income statement until the FEA is repaid when the student leaves the University and starts paying it back via their earnings.

Bursaries and scholarships are accounted for as expenditure and not deducted from income. These are reflected as a cost to the University, as part of its delivery of student support.

Validation involves the University reviewing the educational offerings of third-party providers of being a suitable standard for those providers' students to receive University of Buckingham degrees. Validation fee income is recognised when the University is satisfied that its contractual services including academic due diligence have been delivered/ satisfied and the collection of the fees will occur with reasonable certainty. Validation income is shown separately within Note 3.

Investment income is credited to the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income on a receivable basis.

Grant Funding

All grant funding, including research grants and capital grants from government and other sources, is recognised in income when the University is entitled to the funding and any performance-related conditions have been met. Performance conditions are defined as 'a condition that requires the performance of a particular level of service or units of output to be delivered, with payment of, or entitlement to, the resources conditional on that performance.'

Income received in advance of performance related conditions being met is recognised as deferred income within Creditors on the Statement of Financial Position and released to income as or when any conditions are met.

Donations and Endowments

Non-exchangeable transactions without performance related conditions are donations and endowments. Donations and endowments with donor-imposed restrictions are recognised as income when the University is entitled to the funds. Income is retained within the restricted reserve until such time that it is utilised in line with such restrictions at which point the income is released to general reserves through a reserve transfer. Donations with no restrictions are recognised as income once the University is entitled to the funds.

Investment income and appreciation of endowments is recorded in income in the year in which it arises and as either restricted or unrestricted income according to the terms applied to the individual endowment fund.

Investment income and appreciation of endowments is recorded in income in the year in which it arises and as either restricted or unrestricted income according to the terms applied to the individual endowment fund.

There are five main types of donations and endowments identified within reserves:

i. Restricted donations – the donor has specified that the donation must be used for a particular objective.

ii. Unrestricted donations – the donor has not specified the use of the donation and so it is to be used for the general benefit of the University.

iii. Unrestricted permanent endowments – the donor has specified that the fund is to be permanently invested to generate an income stream for the general benefit of the University.

iv. Restricted expendable endowments – the donor has specified a particular objective other than the purchase or construction of tangible fixed assets, and the University has the power to use the capital.

v. Restricted permanent endowments – the donor has specified that the fund is to be permanently invested to generate an income stream to be applied to a particular objective.

Statement of Principal Accounting Policies

4. PENSION SCHEMES

The Aviva Group Personal Pension Plan (GPP) is a defined contribution scheme, established by contract. The employer's contributions payable for each accounting period are accounted for as expenditure in the period in which they are incurred.

The NEST Auto Enrolment Scheme (NEST-AES) is a defined contribution scheme, established by contract. The employer's contributions payable for each accounting period are accounted for as expenditure in the period in which they are incurred.

The Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) is a defined benefit scheme, established by trust deed with assets held in a separate fund. The employer's contributions payable for each accounting period are accounted for as expenditure in the period in which they are incurred. The debt recovery plan put in place by USS has resulted in the suitable recovery of the funds, so there is no longer a provision in place for this. This fund is closed to new members.

The University of Buckingham Employee Benefits Plan (EBP), established as a defined contribution scheme by trust deed was closed to further contributions on 31 December 2007. However, the scheme provides a Guaranteed Minimum Pension in respect of periods of membership prior to 6 April 1997. The University accounts for any funding deficit, based on the actuary's reports to the scheme's Trustees on the funding of the scheme at the schemes most recent valuation date, April 2020.

5. TAXATION AND CHARITABLE STATUS

The University is a Registered Charity within the meaning of Part 3 of the Charities Act 2011. It is also a charity within the meaning of Paragraph 1 of Schedule 6 to the Finance Act 2010. The University is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by section 472 – 488 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied to exclusively charitable purposes.

Charitable status provides no similar exemption from VAT, but the University is defined as an Eligible Body by Schedule 9 Group 6 of the VAT Act 1994. This means that the education provided is exempt from VAT but that VAT cannot be recovered on education related purchases. Irrecoverable VAT is therefore included in both revenue and capital expenditure.

6. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS AND DEPRECIATION

Tangible fixed assets are stated at historic purchase cost less accumulated depreciation. Cost includes the original purchase price of the asset and the costs attributable to bringing the asset to its working condition for its intended use.

Equipment and property costing more than £3,000 per item or project is capitalised. Other equipment is written off in the year of purchase. Land is not depreciated. Depreciation is provided on a straight-line basis on other assets at the following annual rates so as to write off the cost/valuation:

Buildings		2%
Equipment	Furniture, furnishings, equipment	10%-20%
	Office equipment	10%-20%
	Science laboratory equipment	20%-25%
	Motor vehicles	20%
	Computing equipment and software	25%-33%
	Specialist laboratory equipment	33%

On the grounds of materiality, the above six categories have been aggregated as equipment.

The carrying amount of fixed assets is tested for impairment in accordance with the policy described in Note 9.



Statement of Principal Accounting Policies

7. INTANGIBLE ASSETS

Intangible assets are stated at cost less accumulated amortisation and any impairment losses. Cost includes the original purchase price of the asset and costs attributable to bringing the asset to its working condition for intended use.

Amortisation is provided on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful life of the asset. The carrying amount of intangible assets is tested for impairment in accordance with the policy described in Note 9.

8. INVESTMENTS AND JOINT VENTURES

Investments

Investments in listed shares are re-measured to fair value at each year-end date. Gains and losses on re-measurement are recognised in surplus or loss for the period. Gains or losses on disposal are recognised within Gains/(losses) on investments within the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

Investments in subsidiaries are carried as cost less impairment.

Joint ventures

Interests in joint ventures are accounted for using the equity method, after being recognised initially at cost in the consolidated Statement of Financial Position.

Under the equity method of accounting, the investments are initially recognised at cost and adjusted thereafter to recognise the Group's share of the post-acquisition profits or losses of the investee in the Group Statement of Comprehensive Income.

Dividends received or receivable from associates and joint ventures are recognised as a reduction in the carrying amount of the investment.

Where the Group's share of losses in an equity-accounted investment equals or exceeds its interest in the entity, including any other unsecured long-term receivables, the Group does not recognise further losses, unless it has incurred obligations or made payments on behalf of the other entity.

Unrealised gains on transactions between the Group and its associates and joint ventures are eliminated to the extent of the Group's interest in these entities. Unrealised losses are also eliminated unless the transaction provides evidence of an impairment of the asset transferred. Accounting policies of equity-accounted investees have been changed where necessary to ensure consistency with the policies adopted by the group.

The carrying amount of equity-accounted investments is tested for impairment in accordance with the policy described below.

9. IMPAIRMENT OF ASSETS

Assets are tested for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount might not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount. The recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less costs of disposal and value in use. For the purposes of assessing impairment, assets are grouped at the lowest levels for which there are separately identifiable cash inflows which are largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets (cash generating units). Non-financial assets other than goodwill that suffered an impairment are reviewed for possible reversal of the impairment at the end of each reporting period.

10. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash includes cash in hand, deposits repayable on demand and overdrafts. Deposits are repayable on demand if they are in practice available within 24 hours without penalty.

An investment qualifies as a cash equivalent only when it has a short-term maturity of three months or less from the acquisition date.

11. PROVISIONS

Provisions are recognised in the financial statements when:

i. The University has a present obligation (legal or constructive) as a result of a past event;

ii. It is probable that an outflow of economic benefit will be required to settle the obligation; and

iii. A reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

12. RESERVES

Reserves are classified as restricted or unrestricted. There are two types of restricted reserves:

i. The first type of restricted reserve, "Endowment reserves", include balances which, through endowment to the University, are held as a permanently restricted fund which the University must hold in perpetuity.

ii. The second type of restricted reserve, called "Restricted reserves", includes balances where the donor has designated a specific purpose and therefore the University is restricted in the use of these funds, and unspent balances of restricted donations are treated in line with the British Universities Finance Directors Group (BUFDG) Implementation Guidance to the SORP. Reserve transfers are made between Restricted and Unrestricted reserves for the depreciation on assets that were funded by grants or donations with restrictions on those underlying assets.

13. LEASES

The Group and the University are lessees of property and whether an arrangement is or contains a lease depends on the substance of that arrangement. Leases in which substantially all the risk and rewards incidental to the ownership of an asset are transferred to the lessee by the lessor are classed as finance leases. Leases which are not finance leases are classified as operating leases. Gross rental expenditure in respect of operating leases is recognised on a straight-line basis over the term of the leases, unless another systemic basis is representative of the time pattern of the lessee's benefit from the use of the leased asset. Rent free periods are accounted for within the Statement of Financial Position as Accruals and deferred income.

14. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Group has chosen to adopt Sections 11 and 12 of FRS 102 in respect of financial instruments.

i) Financial assets

Basic financial assets, including trade and other receivables, cash and bank balances and investments in commercial paper, are initially recognised at transaction price, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest.

Such assets are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

At the end of each reporting period financial assets measured at amortised cost are assessed for objective evidence of impairment. If an asset is impaired, the impairment loss is the difference between the carrying amount and the present value of the estimated cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. The impairment loss is recognised in the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income.

If there is a decrease in the impairment loss arising from an event occurring after the impairment was recognised, the impairment is reversed. The reversal is such that the current carrying amount does not exceed what the carrying amount would have been had the impairment not previously been recognised. The impairment reversal is recognised in profit or loss.

Other financial assets, including investments in equity instruments which are not subsidiaries, associates or joint ventures, are initially measured at fair value, which is normally the transaction price. Such assets are subsequently carried at fair value and the changes in fair value are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income, except that investments in equity instruments that are not publicly traded and whose fair values cannot be measured reliably are measured at cost less impairment.

Financial assets are derecognised when:

- the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire or are settled; or
- substantially all the risks and rewards of the ownership of the asset are transferred to another party; or
- despite having retained some significant risks and rewards of ownership, control of the asset has been transferred to another party who has the practical ability to unilaterally sell the asset to an unrelated third party without imposing additional restrictions.

ii) Financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including trade and other payables, bank loans, and loans from fellow Group entities are initially recognised at transaction price, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Fees paid on the establishment of loan facilities are recognised as transaction costs of the loan to the extent that it is probable that some or all the facility will be drawn down. In this case, the fee is deferred until the draw-down occurs. To the extent there is no evidence that it is probable that some or all the facility will be drawn down, the fee is capitalised as a pre-payment for liquidity services and amortised over the period of the facility to which it relates.

Trade payables are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Trade payables are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade payables are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the liability is extinguished, that is when the contractual obligation is discharged, cancelled, or expires.

iii) Offsetting

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, and the net amounts presented in the financial statements when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

iv) Financial guarantee contracts

A financial guarantee contract is a contract that requires the issuer to make specified payments to reimburse the holder for a loss it incurs because a specified debtor fails to make payments when due in accordance with the original or modified terms of a debt instrument. These are accounted for under Section 21 of FRS 102. Where appropriate, a provision has been made and/or a contingent liability disclosed.

15. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING JUDGEMENTS AND ESTIMATES

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make judgements and adopt estimates that affect the financial statements during the reporting period. These estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

a) Critical judgements in applying the Group and University's accounting policies

(i) Evaluation of the Universities Superannuation Scheme as a multi-employer scheme

The University has judged that the USS meets the definition of a multi-employer scheme for the reasons set out in Note 22.

The scheme is a hybrid pension scheme, providing defined benefits for all members as well as defined contribution benefits. The assets of the scheme are held in a separate trustee administered fund. Because of the mutual nature of the scheme, the assets are not attributed to individual institutions and a scheme-wide contribution rate is set. The University is therefore exposed to actuarial risks associated with other institutions' employees and is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the scheme on a consistent and reasonable basis. Therefore, as required by Section 28 of FRS 102 "Employee benefits", the University accounts for the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. However, before year end USS confirmed the scheme was no longer in deficit resulting in a reversal of the provision and future contribution rates have been reduced accordingly.

(ii) Effective control of The University of Buckingham Foundation

The University has judged that it is in a position of effective control arising from several factors, notwithstanding that the Foundation is a distinct charitable trust, therefore the results of the Foundation have been consolidated in the consolidated financial statements.

The trust deed for the Foundation declares that its primary purpose is to advance the education of the public by, in particular, supporting and promoting the education of students attending the University and by benefiting the wider academic community and purposes of the University as a whole.

The close relationship between the University and the Foundation is a determining factor in the University exercising effective control. The Trustee board, a number of whom are officers of the University, agree that the primary intent of the Foundation is to support the University and are guided by the University in decisions relating the distribution of funds.

(iii) The extent of control over a joint venture, Apollo Buckingham Health Sciences Campus Ltd (ABHSC)

The University had a 48% shareholding in ABHSC at 31 December 2023 (2022: 48%). It has judged that this should be accounted for as a joint venture and as a jointly controlled entity. ABHSC does not currently have a venture nor shareholder agreement in place but has during 2023 been jointly managed by the University and Apollo Education who held the remaining shareholding, with no single party having majority control. Heads of Terms to transfer the University's shareholding to Apollo Education were agreed in December 2023 and transfers completed post the balance sheet date. Therefore, the University has judged it appropriate to account for its shareholding and the results of ABHSC in accordance with the equity method, consistent with prior years.

(iv) Estimate of financial guarantee contract

The University has provided a commitment to make good up to 50% of any lease payment shortfall for the Booth Hall student residences in Crewe. The lease of Booth Hall was taken out by ABHSC Limited from Manchester Metropolitan University. The full value of the guarantee is maintained in a separate Escrow bank account in favour of Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU). The Trustees of The University of Buckingham consider that due to the level of uncertainty around the full recovery of the guarantee value and the possibility the guarantee may need to be invoked to pay for dilapidations, the provision remains at an appropriate level.

b) Critical estimates in applying the Group and University's accounting policies

In the preparation of the consolidated financial statements, management has made estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported for assets and liabilities as at the Statement of Financial Position date and the amounts reported for income and expenses during the year. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

(i) Depreciation and impairment of fixed assets

Assets are depreciated as set out in Note 6, Principal Accounting Policies, which are judged to be an appropriate assessment of the useful life of assets, and assuming that the University is operating as a going concern on the Buckingham campus for the foreseeable future.

The University's material fixed assets are reviewed annually to determine whether their book value should be reduced due to their value being impaired. Estimates are made of the extent of any impairment on individual assets or related groups of assets.

(ii) Onerous lease provisions

Leases are reviewed for potential impairment on an annual basis. Where there is an indicator of potential restriction of the continued value to the group, a discounted cashflow methodology is used to compare the costs of the lease to the value being

Statement of Principal Accounting Policies

15. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING JUDGEMENTS AND ESTIMATES (CONTINUED)

derived. Provisions for impaired leases are created based on this methodology and appropriately disclosed in provisions notes to these financial statements.

(iii) Impairment of receivables

Student and commercial/trade receivables are reviewed at least annually to determine the extent to which a provision is required against debts that have a reasonable risk of non- payment. The risk reflects the length of time for which the debt has been unpaid and the reason for non-payment.

The University assesses such debts on an individual student or customer basis and does not include general provisions. The University continues to seek payment of such debts until all reasonable efforts have been exhausted.

(iv) USS provision

Management, aided by external third-party advisers, has made estimates, as set out in Note 22 , on economic and mortality assumptions, including pay awards, as well as estimates of changes to the future membership of the scheme as the scheme is closed to new entrants to the University.

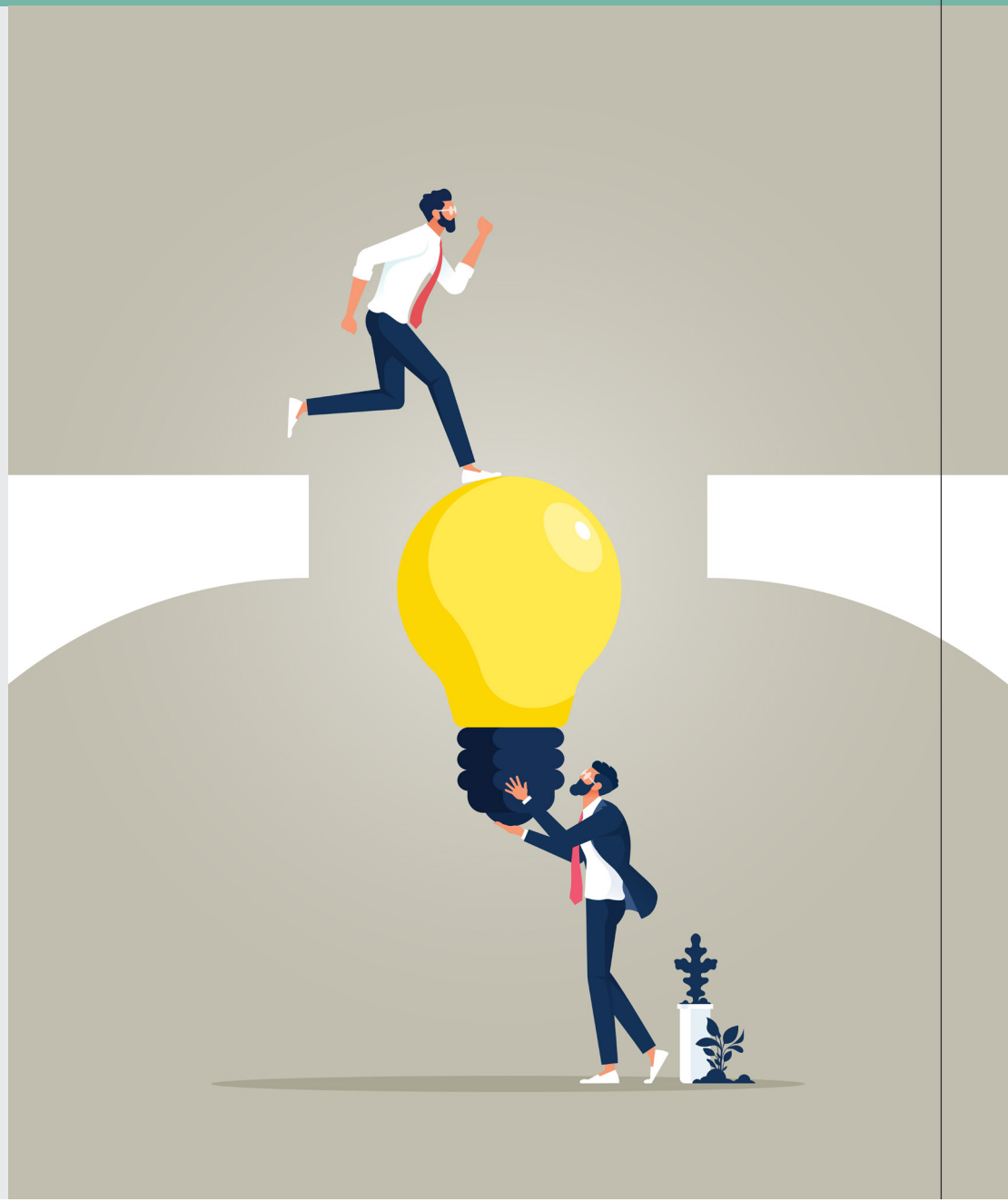
Due to the announcement that the recovery plan has been successful, and following the 2023 tri-annual actuarial valuation, the provision has been reversed.

16. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Group and University discloses transactions with related parties which are not wholly owned within the same Group. Where appropriate, transactions of a similar nature, such as regular payments, are aggregated unless, in the opinion of the Council, separate disclosure is necessary to understand the effect of the transactions on the consolidated financial statements.

17. TERMINATION BENEFITS

Termination benefits of any kind relating to staff are based upon the relevant employment contracts, length of service, discretionary awards, and any statutory requirements.



1. Tuition fees and education contract

	Group 2023 £000	University 2023 £000	Group 2022 £000	University 2022 £000
Full-time undergraduates – Home & EU	13,888	13,888	15,296	15,296
Full-time undergraduates - International	20,144	20,144	17,323	17,323
Part-time undergraduates	158	158	170	170
Postgraduates – Home & EU	5,958	5,958	5,776	5,776
Postgraduates – International	3,384	3,384	2,328	2,328
Pre and non-degree courses	1,534	1,534	235	235
	45,066	**45,066**	**41,128**	**41,128**

The table above includes Apprenticeship Income in 2023 of £1,282 (2022: £390k).

2. Research grants and contracts

	Group 2023 £000	University 2023 £000	Group 2022 £000	University 2022 £000
Research charities	223	223	257	257
Industry and commerce	151	151	792	792
	374	**374**	**1,049**	**1,049**

3. Other income

	Group 2023 £000	University 2023 £000	Group 2022 £000	University 2022 £000
Residences	3,650	3,650	2,932	2,932
Catering and Bar	290	290	365	365
Validation and franchise fees	1,899	1,899	1,181	1,181
Other income *	1,205	980	973	446
Government (Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme)	-	-	47	47
	7,044	**6,819**	**5,498**	**4,971**

*Other income comprises, in particular: registration fees, VAT partial exemption recovery, credit card commissions earned, and rental income from parties outside The University of Buckingham.

4. Investment income

	Group 2023 £000	University 2023 £000	Group 2022 £000	University 2022 £000
Investment income	67	-	127	-
Interest income	179	162	18	18
	246	**162**	**145**	**18**

5. Donations and endowments

	Group 2023 £000	University 2023 £000	Group 2022 £000	University 2022 £000
Donations with restrictions	459	459	80	80
University of Buckingham Foundation donations	400	183	-	390
Unrestricted donations	-	-	43	43
	859	**642**	**123**	**513**

6. Staff costs

	Group 2023 £000	University 2023 £000	Group 2022 £000	University 2022 £000
Salaries*	18,318	18,318	15,762	15,762
Social security costs	2,334	2,334	1,626	1,626
Pensions costs, excluding USS	1,877	1,877	1,615	1,615
USS exceptional provisions	(3,449)	(3,449)	1,390	1,390
Apprenticeship levy	74	74	62	62
	19,154	**19,154**	**20,455**	**20,455**

*Within salaries, compensation for loss of office (including voluntary severance) of £121,430 was paid in 2023 (2022: £66,385) which relates to 12 employees (2022: 3 employees). Within these figures, no payments were made in 2023 in respect of compensation for loss of office to members of the key management personnel (2022: £nil).

6. Staff costs (continued)

Average number of full-time equivalent members of staff	Group 2023 Number	University 2023 Number	Group 2022 Number	University 2022 Number
Academic	185	185	128	128
Research	7	7	8	8
Support	255	255	188	188
Manual	40	40	34	34
	487	**487**	**358**	**358**

Average headcount of staff	Group 2023 Number	University 2023 Number	Group 2022 Number	University 2022 Number
Academic	208	208	152	152
Research	8	8	10	10
Support	287	287	223	223
Manual	45	45	40	40
	548	**548**	**425**	**425**

6. Staff costs (continued)

Remuneration of the Vice-Chancellor	2023 £	Restated 2022 £
Basic salary	175,138	174,708
Taxable benefits – living accommodation *	16,425	16,023
Pension contribution to USS	37,830	37,650
	229,393	**228,381**

As a requirement of the contract of employment, the Vice-Chancellor is required to reside at the University in order to discharge their duties fully. There is considerable value to the University in the Vice-Chancellor residing on the University campus. The living accommodation taxable benefit has been calculated based on HMRC benefit in kind rules.

* The 2022 restatement is due to the fact that it was previously treated as being a non-taxable benefit.

The Vice-Chancellor's salary is 6.96 times the median salary of staff (2022: 7.16), where the median pay is calculated on a full-time equivalent basis for the salaries paid by the University to its staff. The Vice-Chancellor's remuneration is 8.68 times (2022: 8.87) the median total remuneration of staff where the median total remuneration is calculated on a full-time equivalent basis for the total remuneration by the University of its staff.

The Vice-Chancellor has the overall responsibility for ensuring the effective and efficient management of the University. The Vice-Chancellor is the Accountable Officer as per OfS Regulatory Advice 10 and as such, bears the responsibility of effective governance and financial stewardship of the University.

The University undertakes collaborations with other institutions around the world and its undergraduate and postgraduate students come from various parts of the world. The Vice-Chancellor is responsible for promoting the University's interests at home and overseas, developing good business relationships between the University and its Collaboration Partners and other stakeholders, including Government representatives, the Office for Students, and the Charity Commission.

The Vice-Chancellor works closely with both Council and Senate bodies and leads the Executive Board of the University in all matters relating to governing and running the operations of the University. This ensures appropriate strategic development to deliver the University's academic and financial sustainability.

Assessment of the Vice-Chancellor's performance is conducted on an annual basis. This is conducted by the Chair of Council, in consultation with the Nomination Performance and Remuneration Committee, and is based on achievements against the set objectives and the overall performance of the University. These include student recruitment and completion, student satisfaction, staff satisfaction and the overall financial performance.

The Nomination Performance and Remuneration Committee is responsible for ensuring the right remuneration is set for the Vice-Chancellor to reflect the strategic workload, achievement of performance targets and the general remuneration for Higher Education Heads in the United Kingdom.

Below are the numbers of staff members throughout the University whose basic pay exceeded £100k. Following the guidance issued by the OfS, amounts reimbursed by another body (such as the National Health Service, or the research councils), bonus payments, employer pension contributions, compensation for loss of office and payments under early retirement schemes are not included in these figures.

£	2023 Number	2022 Number
100,000-104,999	-	1
110,000-114,999	1	-
120,000-124,999	1	1
125,000-129,999	-	1
130,000-134,999	1	-
135,000-139,999	-	2
140,000-144,999	2	-
150,000-154,999	1	-
170,000-174,999	-	1
175,000-179,999	1	-
	7	**6**

6. Staff costs (continued)

Key management personnel

Key management personnel are those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the University.

During 2023 the Key Management Personnel at the University were considered to be the Executive Committee, which comprised of the vice Chancellor, Pro Vice Chancellor, Registrar, Dean of Academic Affairs, Chief Financial Officer, Director of Human Resources, and the Deans of each of the four faculties.

	Group University 2023	Group/University 2023
Key management personnel – total remuneration	£1.27m	£1.27m
Number of key management personnel	10	10
Key management personnel – average remuneration	£127k	£127k

Council members

Council members are the Trustees for charitable law purposes.

A list of Council members who served at any time during the financial year and until the date these financial statements were formally approved is contained in the "Chancellor and Members of Council" section on page 25.

Due to the nature of the University's operations and the composition of the Council, drawn from local public and private sector organisations, it is inevitable that transactions may take place with organisations in which a member of Council may have an interest. All transactions involving organisations in which a member of Council have an interest, including those identified below, are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the University's Financial Regulations and usual procurement procedures. Note 23 contains details of related party transactions in the year.

No members of Council received honoraria from the University during the year (2022: Nil). The total expenses paid to or on behalf of the Council members in the year was £2.5k (2022: £nil), representing travel and subsistence incurred in attending meetings and events in their official capacity.



7. Other operating expenses

Other operating expenses include:	Group 2023 £000	University 2023 £000	Group 2022 £000	University 2022 £000
External auditors' remuneration in respect of audit services	113	107	126	120
Other costs (see page 61 for further analysis)	25,480	24,421	27,189	26,820
	25,593	**24,528**	**27,315**	**26,940**

Further analysis of other costs	Group 2023 £000	University 2023 £000	Group 2022 £000	University 2022 £000
Curriculum costs	4,971	4,842	4,306	4,306
Medical student placement fees	9,170	9,170	7,435	7,435
Staff and student travel	1,297	1,297	1,455	1,455
Premises costs*	4,423	2,905	3,476	3,247
Residence costs	638	700	595	595
General administrative expenses**	4,389	4,915	9,599	9,459
Catering and merchandising costs	592	592	323	323
	25,480	**24,421**	**27,189**	**26,820**

*Includes the Impairment on the Medical Property Management Ltd fixed assets of £1.4m

**General administrative expenses include the movements in provisions disclosed in Note 16, plus an increase in the bad debt provision by £0.8m (2022: £1m) and other general accruals increases.

8. Interest and other finance costs

Other operating expenses include:	Group 2023 £000	University 2023 £000	Group 2022 £000	University 2022 £000
Bank loans	107	107	166	166
Pension finance interest	133	133	5	5
	240	**240**	**171**	**171**

The Pension finance interest relates to interest charges, incurred by The University of Buckingham, relating to the USS pension scheme.

9. Total expenditure

Other operating expenses include:	Group 2023 £000	University 2023 £000	Group 2022 £000	University 2022 £000
Academic and related expenditure	24,117	24,288	25,597	25,597
Administration and central services	14,956	15,175	18,930	18,265
Premises	5,861	4,065	3,424	3,424
Residences	1,345	1,407	1,246	1,246
Catering and bar	579	579	301	301
Research grants and contracts	469	469	828	828
	47,327	**45,983**	**50,326**	**49,661**

2023 Academic & related expenditure includes the £3.4m adjustment for the USS provision.

The University has two classes of business being the provision of education and the delivery of research. The provision of residences, catering, bar plus administration and central services are ancillary activities.

Group Academic and central services expenditure does not include (primarily) £300k (2022: £300k) of rent charged by Medical Property Management Ltd to the University, as this is eliminated upon consolidation.

10. Intangible assets

In 2023, the Group has written off the fully amortised intangible assets held at a cost of £246k (2022: £246k cost, £nil Net Book Value).

11. Tangible assets

Group	Freehold land	Freehold Buildings	Equipment	Assets held for sale	Assets in course of construction	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Cost:						
At 1 January 2023	4,222	35,950	20,651	-	260	61,083
Additions	-	-	685	-	2,038	2,723
Disposals	(701)	(1,388)	(4,217)	-	(8)	(6,314)
Transfer to assets held for sale *	-	(5,925)	(1,746)	7,671	-	-
At 31 December 2023	**3,521**	**28,637**	**15,373**	**7,671**	**2,290**	**57,492**
Depreciation:						
At 1 January 2023	403	12,336	14,587	-	-	27,326
Charge for the year	-	706	1,634	-	-	2 ,340
Disposals	(403)	(1,175)	(4,200)	-	-	(5,778)
Impairment **	-	-	-	1,352	-	1,352
Transfer to assets held for sale *	-	(670)	(1,000)	1,670	-	-
At 31 December 2023	**-**	**11,197**	**11,021**	**3,022**	**-**	**25,240**
Net book amount:						
At 31 December 2023	**3,521**	**17,440**	**4,352**	**4,649**	**2,290**	**32,252**
At 31 December 2022	3,819	23,614	6,064	-	260	33,757

* During 2023 a review of the use of the Milton Keynes Academic Centre building was performed, concluding that the University's School of Medicine had outgrown its ability to make effective use of the building. The Group has therefore sought a sale of the building and completed an impairment review. As the recoverable amount is estimated to be below the carrying value, an impairment charge of £1.3m has been made in these Group accounts reducing the book value to the anticipated realisable value at the balance sheet date. Additionally, the building has been reclassified to fixed assets held for sale.

** The impairment charge has only been required at a group level in 2023 as the property, owned by the subsidiary Medical Properties Management Limited, had been impaired in 2019 in the subsidiary accounts. At the point the impairment was made in the subsidiary accounts, the carrying value at a group level was deemed higher and not requiring impairment due to the operational use of the building by the University and resultant positive contribution to group performance. As the realisable value in 2019 was less than the realisable value at the 2023 balance sheet date, there is now a difference on the impaired book value between the subsidiary and Group accounts which will be realised as a gain in the subsidiary when a sale is realised.

In March 2024 a sale of the building was completed realising £4.75m proceeds, marginally higher that the impaired Group book value.

11. Tangible assets (continued)

University	Freehold land	Freehold Buildings	Equipment	Assets in course of construction	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Cost:					
At 1 January 2023	4,222	29,036	18,915	255	52,428
Additions	-	-	685	2,038	2,723
Disposals	(701)	(1,364)	(4,228)	(3)	(6,296)
At 31 December 2023	**3,521**	**27,672**	**15,372**	**2,290**	**48,855**
Depreciation:					
At 1 January 2023	403	11,628	13,773	-	25,804
Charge for the year	-	614	1,447	-	2,061
Disposals	(403)	(1,157)	(4,199)	-	(5,759)
At 31 December 2023	**-**	**11,085**	**11,021**	**-**	**22,106**
Net book amount:					
At 31 December 2023	3,521	16,587	4,351	2,290	26,749
At 31 December 2022	**3,819**	**17,408**	**5,142**	**255**	**26,624**

12. Investments

	Group 2023 £000	University 2023 £000	Group 2022 £000	University 2022 £000
Investments in subsidiary undertaking	-	4,186	-	3,844
Shares in ABHSC (a joint venture)*	-	-	-	-
Shares in CVCP Properties Plc	23	23	23	23
Other listed investments	6,844	3,686	6,462	3,516
Cash investment deposits: Non-current	117	117	148	148
Cash investment deposits: Current	87	-	85	-
	7,071	**8,012**	**6,718**	**7,531**

*Further details of the joint venture can be found in Notes 24 and 26.

The University owns 0.54% of the issued ordinary share capital in CVCP Properties plc, the company that owns the offices of Universities UK.

The University has an immaterial dormant subsidiary, University of Buckingham Medical Sciences North Ltd., as detailed in Note 24.

Other listed investments represent equity shares, principally UK equities, managed by external independent professional fund managers. These are recognised as non-current asset investments, as they are held with a long-term intention to earn recurring income that pays for expenditure connected with Restricted and Endowment Funds. The Endowment funds held in the Group and University have earned good returns in the year as shown in Note 17.

13. Trade and other receivables

	Group 2023 £000	University 2023 £000	Group 2022 £000	University 2022 £000
Escrow funds	2,547	2,547	2,512	2,512
Student receivables	7,597	7,597	9,295	9,295
Other trade receivables	117	50	76	9
Prepayments and accrued income	2,010	2,006	962	958
Amounts due from subsidiary undertakings	-	1,504	-	1,096
Other debtors	24	24	460	460
	12,295	**13,728**	**13,305**	**14,330**

The amounts due from subsidiary undertakings are trading account balances and payable on demand.

The Group holds £2,547k of funds in an escrow account relating to the financial guarantee supporting the lease of the Booth Hall student accommodation by Apollo Buckingham Health Sciences Campus Limited from Manchester Metropolitan University. The University has judged that this should be treated in the financial statements as a receivable rather than cash and cash equivalents. The restricted cash is contained in a bank account held jointly in escrow with Manchester Metropolitan University and, whilst this does represent cash funds, it is freely available only to the extent released by both parties following payment of rents and lease liabilities.

At 31 December 2023 the full recoverability of the escrow account is not certain due to future rent and dilapidations liabilities. A provision of £2,000k (2022: £1,623k) (see Note 16) has therefore been made in these financial statements being the current judgement of the uncertain amount.

14. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Group 2023 £000	University 2023 £000	Group 2022 £000	University 2022 £000
Student fees received in advance	8,439	8,439	14,618	14,618
Trade payables	2,398	2,277	5,077	5,033
Social security and other taxation payable	519	519	378	378
Other payables	857	857	1,568	1,568
Accruals and deferred income	15,543	15,510	7,461	7,240
Amounts due to subsidiary undertakings	-	75	-	-
	27,756	**27,677**	**29,102**	**28,837**

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

	Group 2023 £000	University 2023 £000	Group 2022 £000	University 2022 £000
Bank loans due between two and five years	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
At 31 December 2023	**5,000**	**5,000**	**5,000**	**5,000**

The £5m term loan agreement that was set up in 2021 is repayable in 5 years and bears a fixed interest rate of 2.15%. As part of the agreement, a revolving credit facility is available to the University for the duration of the loan, initially at £7m for 2 years, reduced to £5m in 2023. The revolving credit facility has not been used since the start of the facility agreement. The terms of these facilities include financial covenants which have been complied with and reported since quarterly measurement commenced at 31st December 2022.

16. Provisions

Group	Financial guarantee contract provision	Crewe lease	VAT provision	Pension: USS	Other Provisions	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
At 1 January 2023	1,623	5,971	808	3,316	134	11,852
Changes in provisions	377	(3,804)	-	(3,316)	786	(5,957)
Utilised in the year	-	-	(545)	-	-	(545)
At 31 December 2023	**2,000**	**2,167**	**263**	**-**	**920**	**5,350**

Financial guarantee contract provision - See note 13 Trade & Other Receivables.

Crewe campus lease

This provision relates to the Crewe campus lease between ABHSC and the University. Amended arrangements were concluded in legal agreements per note 26. Based on the University's operational plans for Crewe it is considered prudent to maintain the above provision. The movement in provision in the year is the result of the review and update of the discounted cashflow model assumptions assuming the new agreements and operational plans.

Adjustment for VAT repayable by the MPML subsidiary

The VAT provision was initially recognised in the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019 and relates to the Medical Property Management Ltd (MPML) subsidiary's overclaims of VAT in previous years. This matter has now been resolved and appropriate amounts paid during 2023, the remaining provision representing the future liability under the Capital Goods Scheme.

Universities Superannuation Scheme ('USS')

Figures recorded in the table above for the USS pension represent the University's share of the scheme's future deficit recovery contribution requirements. Following the 2023 triennial actuarial valuation of the scheme and the return to a surplus position, deficit recovery contributions ceased at the end of 2023, so a provision is no longer required. See Note 22 for details of this scheme.

Other provisions

- The Employee Benefit Plan is an in-house pension scheme that is in the process of being wound up. Provisions relate to guaranteed minimum payment equalisation and legal and professional costs relating to the wind-up.
- Following internal reviews around various compliance areas the University has identified various one-off, individually immaterial matters which are in the process of being addressed.

University	Financial guarantee contract provision	Crewe lease	Pension: USS	Other Provisions	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
At 1 January 2023	1,623	5,971	3,316	134	11,044
Changes in provisions	377	(3,804)	(3,316)	786	(5,957)
Utilised in the year	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2023	**2,000**	**2,167**	**-**	**920**	**5,087**

17. Endowment reserves

2023 Capital	Group Restricted Permanent £000	Group Restricted Expendable £000	Group Total £000	University Restricted Permanent £000	University Restricted Expendable £000	University Total £000
As at 1 January 2023	4,940	848	5,788	3,004	22	3,026
Increase in market value of investments	442	53	495	273	-	273
Transfers between reserves	245	(53)	192	-	-	-
Capital Expenditure	(15)	-	(15)	-	-	-
As at 31 December 2023	**5,612**	**848**	**6,460**	**3,277**	**22**	**3,299**
Accumulated income						
As at 1 January 2023	1,128	135	1,263	660	-	660
Transfers between reserves	-	(22)	(22)	-	(22)	(22)
Expenditure	(134)	-	(134)	(134)	-	(134)
As at 31 December 2023	**994**	**113**	**1,107**	**526**	**(22)**	**504**
Total funds						
As at 1 January 2023	6,068	983	7,051	3,664	22	3,686
As at 31 December 2023	**6,606**	**961**	**7,567**	**3,803**	**-**	**3,803**
Analysis by Fund Type						
Scholarships and bursaries	2,689	961	3,650	-	-	-
Grants and prizes	114	-	114	-	-	-
Development funds	3,803	-	3,803	3,803	-	3,803
As at 31 December 2023	**6,606**	**961**	**7,567**	**3,803**	**-**	**3,803**

Analysis by asset type 2023	Group total £000	University total £000
Fixed assets	869	-
Investments	6,698	3,803
As at 31 December 2023	**7,567**	**3,803**

17. Endowment reserves (continued)

2022 Capital	Group Restricted Permanent £000	Group Restricted Expendable £000	Group Total £000	University Restricted Permanent £000	University Restricted Expendable £000	University Total £000
As at 1 January 2022	5,590	910	6,500	3,447	22	3,469
New donations	-	-	-	-	-	-
Decrease in market value of investments	(631)	(62)	(693)	(443)	-	(443)
Capital Expenditure	(19)	-	(19)	-	-	-
As at 31 December 2022	**4,940**	**848**	**5,788**	**3,004**	**22**	**3,026**
Accumulated income						
As at 1 January 2022	1,128	135	1,263	660	-	660
Investment income	-	-	-	-	-	-
Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-
As at 31 December 2022	**1,128**	**135**	**1,263**	**660**	**-**	**660**
Total funds						
As at 1 January 2022	6,718	1,045	7,763	4,107	22	4,129
As at 31 December 2022	**6,068**	**983**	**7,051**	**3,664**	**22**	**3,686**
Analysis by Fund Type						
Scholarships and bursaries	2,104	961	3,065	-	-	-
Development funds	3,964	22	3,986	3,664	22	3,686
As at 31 December 2022	**6,068**	**983**	**7,051**	**3,664**	**22**	**3,686**

Analysis by asset type 2022	Group total £000	University total £000
Fixed assets	888	-
Investments	6,611	4,095
Other current (liabilities)	(448)	(409)
As at 31 December 2022	**7,051**	**3,686**

17. Endowment reserves (continued)

Fund Name	Type	Purpose	Restated As at 1 January 2023	Income & New Donations	Expenditure	Revaluation Gains/ (losses)	As at 31 December 2023
			£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Vinson	Permanent	Economics & Entrepreneurship	3,664	-	(134)	273	3,803
Gregory	Permanent	Scholarships & Bursaries	1,661	-	(15)	101	1,747
Desborough	Expendable	Scholarships & Bursaries	612	-	-	35	647

In the table above, the balances as at 1 January 2023 for Gregory and Desborough funds have been restated to only reflect the Endowment elements of those funds. In the prior year Financial Statements both Endowment and Restricted elements of those funds were disclosed as Endowments.

Each of the individually material endowment funds detailed above are represented by listed investments and cash investment deposits only, and each are of sufficient value and liquidity to enable them to be applied in accordance with their associated restrictions.

18. Restricted reserves

Reserves with restrictions are as follows:

2023	Group £000	University £000
As at 1 January 2023	5,653	5,979
Transfers between reserves	(9)	185
New donations and reclassifications	305	144
Income release to cover expenditure	(465)	(505)
Total restricted reserves comprehensive income for the year	**(169)**	**(176)**
As at 31 December 2023	**5,484**	**5,803**

2022	Group £000	University £000
As at 1 January 2022	5,760	5,806
Other restricted income	127	-
New donations and re-classifications	375	351
Income release to cover expenditure	(689)	(258)
Transfer to unrestricted reserves	80	80
Total restricted reserves comprehensive (expenditure)/ income for the year	**(107)**	**173**
As at 31 December 2022	**5,653**	**5,979**

19. Total reserves

	Group 2023 £000	University 2023 £000	Group 2022 £000	University 2022 £000
As at 1 January	20,749	14,767	23,564	17,089
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	6,231	7,171	(2,815)	(2,322)
Release of restricted funds spent in the year	(370)	(144)	(375)	(375)
New donations and re-classifications	370	144	375	375
As at 31 December	**26,980**	**21,938**	**20,749**	**14,767**

	Group 2023 £000	University 2023 £000	Group 2022 £000	University 2022 £000
Restricted donations	859	642	80	470
Unrestricted donations	-	-	43	43
	859	**642**	**123**	**513**

At the date of the signing of these accounts progress has been made on the review Endowment, Restricted and Unrestricted funds, and the presentation of income and expenditure associated with endowment funds. This work is anticipated to conclude in 2024 after further verification work has been completed.

20. Consolidated net debt

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Cash and cash equivalents	13,468	12,923
Borrowings: amounts falling due after more than one year		
Unsecured loans	(5,000)	(5,000)
Net debt	**(8,468)**	**(7,923)**
Change in net debt	**(545)**	**(2,634)**

21. Capital commitments

At the year end the University had £0.1m in capital commitments (2022: £1.6m).

22. Pension commitments

The University participates in the following pension schemes:

- The Aviva Group Personal Pension Plan (GPP) and the NEST Auto Enrolment Scheme (NEST-AES) are defined contribution schemes, so no commitment exists beyond the employer's contractual contributions for each accounting period. The NEST-AES is a money purchase scheme contracted into the State Second Pension (S2P), which covers a small number of staff under auto enrolment.
- The Universities Superannuation Scheme ('USS') provides defined benefits, and the fund in 2023 has gone from a deficit to a surplus, thus our provision at the end of 2022 is no longer required, and the full provision has been released as at December 2023 (2022: £3.3 million). Membership of the fund is closed to new staff.
- The University of Buckingham Employee Benefits Plan ('EBP') has defined benefits for those members with Guaranteed Minimum Pension rights and the University accounts for the deficit of EBP's liabilities over assets.

The Universities Superannuation Scheme ('USS')

Basis of the scheme

This scheme is a hybrid pension scheme, providing defined benefits for all members as well as defined contribution benefits. The assets of the scheme are held in a separate trustee-administered fund. Because of the mutual nature of the scheme, the assets are not attributed to individual institutions and a scheme-wide contribution rate is set. The University is therefore exposed to actuarial risks associated with other institutions' employees and is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the scheme on a consistent and reasonable basis.

As required by Section 28 of FRS 102, "Employee benefits", the University accounts for the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. As a result, the amount charged to the Statement of Income represents the contributions payable to the scheme.

FRS 102 makes the distinction between a group plan and a multi-employer scheme. A group plan consists of a collection of entities

under common control typically with a sponsoring employer. A multi-employer scheme is a scheme for entities not under common control and typically represents an industry-wide scheme such as USS.

Financial impact of the scheme valuation

A schedule of contributions based on the 31 March 2023 valuation has been agreed as:

	Employer	Employee
1 January 2019 to 31 March 2019	18.0%	8.0%
1 April 2019 to 30 September 2019	19.5%	8.8%
1 October 2019 to 30 September 2021	21.1%	9.6%
1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022	21.4%	9.8%
1 April 2022 to 31 December 2023	21.6%	9.8%
1 January 2024 onwards	14.5%	6.1%

Actuarial information and assumptions

Since the University cannot identify its share of USS Retirement Income Builder assets and liabilities, the following disclosures reflect those relevant for the scheme's assets and liabilities as a whole.

The University has 70 active members as at 31 December 2023 (2022: 113 active members).

Discount rate: 5.52% at 31 December 2023.

Pay increases: Future salaries increase rate 2%, no change in staff membership.

Mortality base table

The main demographic assumption relates to the mortality assumptions. These assumptions are based on analysis of the scheme's experience carried out as part of the 31 March 2023 actuarial valuation.

The current life expectancies on retirement at age 65 are:

	2023	2022
Males currently aged 65 years	24.0 years	24.4 years
Females currently aged 65 years	25.6 years	25.9 years
Males currently aged 45 years	26.0 years	26.3 years
Females currently aged 45 years	27.4 years	27.7 years

22. Pension commitments (continued)

Cost to the University	Group/ University 2023	Group/ University 2022
	£000	£000
Contributions to USS	921	950
Contributions to GPP	1,153	656
Contributions to AES	10	9
(Decrease)/increase in provision for USS liabilities	(3,448)	1,390
Total pension cost for the year (Note 6)	**(1,364)**	**3,005**

Contributions outstanding as at 31 December	Group/ University 2023	Group/ University 2022
	£000	£000
To USS	111	107
To GPP	110	85
To AES	2	4
Total pension outstanding as at 31 December	**223**	**196**

Most recent actuarial valuations

A triennial actuarial valuation of the USS Retirement Income Builder was carried out at 31 March 2023 (the valuation date), using the projected unit method. This was performed for USS 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 of 31 March 2023 (the latest received to date), the value of the assets of the scheme was £73.1 billion and the value of the scheme's technical provisions was £65.7 billion indicating a surplus of £7.4 billion and a funding ratio of 111%.

As of 1 January 2024 the scheme no longer has a deficit contribution rate (Apr22-Dec23 this was set at 6.2%), contributions rates for employers and members having been updated on a going forward basis.

The University of Buckingham Employee Benefits Plan (EBP)

The EBP is a defined contribution (money purchase) scheme which includes guaranteed minimum pension (GMP) benefits. The scheme started to wind up on 31 January 2008 when it operated on a contracted in basis. The scheme was contracted out on a GMP basis prior to 6 April 1997.

Those members with GMP benefits in respect of contracted out service prior to April 1997 have pensions payable from the scheme which must not be less than the GMPs specified in legislation. The GMP rights mean the scheme provides a defined benefit. On retirement the full proceeds of each member's individual account with Royal London are used to secure benefits in terms of the rules of the scheme, via the purchase of an annuity policy.

The net assets of the fund as at 5 April 2022 (the plan's financial year-end) were £51,000 with the value of investments designated to members valued on this date as £51,000. The assets of the plan are invested in units of various funds with Royal London.

The latest actuarial valuation of the scheme in place at the year-end was prepared as at 6 April 2020. The valuation results indicated the scheme was 75% funded with a calculated shortfall of £152,000. It was agreed that no further contributions will be made but UOB will continue to pay the cost of Pensions Protection Fund levies and the cost of any expenses other than those paid by Royal London. The next valuation for the period to April 2023 is due after the signing of these accounts and therefore will be reflected in the next Financial Statements.

22. Pension commitments (continued)

Most recent actuarial valuations

There are 19 members of the scheme (2022 restated – 19 members)

Funding Position	6 April 2020 Valuation £'000	6 April 2017 Valuation £'000	6 April 2014 Valuation £'000
Total GMP member liabilities	**153**	**201**	**164**
Assets			
GMP accounts	0	113	113
Contingency account	7	43	39
Net current assets	(6)	(6)	(1)
Total assets	**1**	**150**	**151**
(Deficit)	**(152)**	**(51)**	**(13)**
Funding ratio	1%	75%	92%
Discount rate:			
Before retirement -0.6% p.a. (10 year gilts -0.95%)			
After retirement -0.2% p.a. (10 year gilts -0.55%)			
	2023	2022	
RPI inflation:	3.1% p.a.	3.1% p.a.	
CPI inflation:	2.3% p.a.	2.3% p.a.	
GMP increases in deferment:	Fixed rates	Fixed rates	
Increases in payment			
GMP earned before 6/4/88 level	0.0% p.a.	0.0% p.a.	
GMP earned on or after 6/4/88 (CPI max 3% p.a.)	2.3% p.a.	2.3% p.a.	

Mortality base table

The main demographic assumption relates to the mortality assumptions. These assumptions are based on analysis of the scheme's experience carried out as part of the 6 April 2017 actuarial valuation. The mortality assumptions used in these figures are as follows:

	Male	Female
Current pensioner aged 65 – cohort	87.5	89.1
Current pensioner aged 65 – period	86.1	87.8
Future pensioner aged 65 – 20 year in future	89.2	90.7
Future improvement rate	1.50%	1.25%

The EBP pension provision of £134k in the University relates to potential payments to encourage a reduction in Scheme membership by way of transfer values or the purchase of annuities, where possible. The provisions are required for GMP equalisation costs and legal advice, together with wind up costs. If a member, after taking financial advice, decides that he/she wishes to transfer his/her benefits to a new provider, then the employer will need to provide this enhancement. The aim has been for the benefits of the GMP members to be bought and replaced with a deferred annuity. The intention is to wind up the scheme and distribute assets to remaining members.

23. Related party transactions

The table below shows any financial transactions not related to their employment between key staff and the University itself or anyone that the University has a relationship with :-

Individual Trustee or senior management	Related party and relationship	Transaction	2023			
			Receipts £	Payments £	Debtors £	Creditors £
Mr Nicholas Hillman	Director of HEPI	The University pays an annual membership to HEPI	-	2,640	-	-
Christopher Payne (Registrar)	Student & Registrar	Course fees	1,411	-	-	243

Adolfo Paolini and Debapita Bardhan-Correia, a member of Council and of senior management respectively, had family members employed by the University during 2023 and 2022. Their employment was on an arm's length basis.

Individual Trustee or senior management	Related party and relationship	Transaction	2022			
			Receipts £	Payments £	Debtors £	Creditors £
Professor Joe Harrison	Chief Executive Officer of Milton Keynes University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	Operating costs of the University – payments made to the NHS Trust not to Prof. Harrison personally	-	1,256,199	-	2,160,411
Caitlin Botha	Member of the University Council	Accommodation provided	1,435	-	1,515	-
Mr Nicholas Hillman	Director of HEPI	The University pays an annual membership to HEPI and sponsored a specific report	-	2,400	-	4,200
Rachael Shimmin	Chief Executive Officer of Buckinghamshire Council	Operating costs of the University – payments made to the Council and not to Ms Shimmin personally	-	66,773	-	-
Mr Keith Bothongo	Daughter was a student	Course fees	19,000	-	-	-

23. Related party transactions (continued)

Related party transactions for the year ended 31 December 2023 between Medical Property Management Ltd (MPML) and The University of Buckingham.

Transaction	2023				2022			
	Receipts £	Payments £	Debtors £	Creditors £	Receipts £	Payments £	Debtors £	Creditors £
Rental payments made by the University to MPML for the former's use of the Milton Keynes Academic Centre	-	225,000	75,000	-	-	450,000	-	-
Settlement of inter-company balance	-	-	-	-	-	630,695	-	-
Amounts owed by MPML for payments made by the University on behalf of MPML	-	-	356,111	-	-	-	93,979	-
Amounts owed to University for Management Charges	-	-	64,332	-	-	-	-	-

Related party transactions for the year ended 31 December 2023 between University of Buckingham Foundation and The University of Buckingham.

Transaction	2023				2022			
	Receipts £	Payments £	Debtors £	Creditors £	Receipts £	Payments £	Debtors £	Creditors £
Grants awarded by the Foundation to the University during 2023	-	-	312,453	-	-	-	414,840	-
Grants awarded by the Foundation to the University for prior years	-	-	1,016,286	-	-	-	801,572	-
Rent payment by the University regarding student accommodation properties owned by the Foundation	-	61,200	-	-	-	61,200	-	-
Balances owed by the University to the Foundation at year end for Swain's donation	-	-	-	244,975	-	-	200,823	-

Other related party transactions and disclosures are as follows:

- Apollo Buckingham Health Sciences Campus Ltd (ABHSC) was a related party of The University of Buckingham. At 31st December 2023, two of the four Board of Directors of ABHSC were University employees though the University was not considered to be the controlling entity. Since the balance sheet date, the University has transferred its share of the company (see note 26) and the two representatives of the University have resigned as Directors.
- The University provides a financial guarantee contract for 50% of the lease payments between ABHSC and Manchester Metropolitan University.

24. Subsidiary, joint venture, and associated undertakings

Company	Principal Activity	Status	Holding of ordinary shares	Registered office
Medical Property Management Ltd	Property holding and management, acquisition of academic curriculum	Subsidiary	100%	Yeomanry House Hunter Street Buckingham MK18 1EG
Buckingham Business Enterprise Ltd	Used as academic support for business, enterprise, and innovation students	Subsidiary	100%	Yeomanry House Hunter Street Buckingham MK18 1EG
The University of Buckingham Foundation	Receives, holds, and distributes donations, primarily in support of the University	A separately constituted unincorporated charity, under the effective control of the University	Not Applicable	Yeomanry House Hunter Street Buckingham MK18 1EG
Apollo Buckingham Health Sciences Campus Ltd	Provides facilities management and student support services for medical and other Allied Health students on the Crewe campus	Joint Venture	48%	College House The Campus Crewe Green Road Crewe Cheshire CW1 5DU
University of Buckingham Press Ltd	Publishers	Associate	25%	9 The Fairway Northwood HA6 3DZ
University of Buckingham Medical Sciences North Ltd	Dormant Company	Subsidiary	N/A Company limited by guarantee	Yeomanry House Hunter Street Buckingham MK18 1EG

Medical Property Management Ltd

This wholly owned subsidiary has been consolidated in the University financial statements.

Buckingham Business Enterprise Ltd

The results of this wholly owned subsidiary are deemed to be immaterial to the results of the University so have not been consolidated.

The University of Buckingham Foundation (the Foundation)

The University is in a position of effective control arising from several factors, notwithstanding that the Foundation is a distinct charitable trust and therefore the results of the Foundation have been consolidated in the consolidated financial statements.

The trust deed for the Foundation declares that its purpose is to advance education, in particular supporting and promoting the education of students at the University, and to promote research into academic and scientific fields of learning.

The close relationship between the University and the Foundation is a determining factor in the University exercising effective control. The Foundation's Board of Trustees agrees that the primary intent of the Foundation is to support the University and the Trustees are guided by the University in decisions relating to the distribution of funds.

Apollo Buckingham Health Sciences Campus Ltd (ABHSC)

The University held a 48% shareholding in the company, ABHSC at the balance sheet date.

As per note 26, through the course of 2023 discussions with Apollo Education UK progressed and agreements reached on the future participation and commercial arrangements between the entities for which Heads of Terms agreements were completed in December 2023; full contracts and agreements then being completed and executed in February 2024 when the University ceased to be a shareholder in this company.

The University has no contractual commitment to cover any losses of ABHSC but continued to make its occupational damages payments reflecting an economic rental for the utilised campus during 2023.

The unaudited ABHSC financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 report retained losses of £3,325k from incorporation. Accordingly, the University's shares in ABHSC at 31 December 2023 were held at a value of £nil (2022: £nil).

24. Subsidiary, joint venture, and associated undertakings (continued)

University of Buckingham Press Ltd

The results of the University's minority investment in this company are immaterial to the results of the University and have not been consolidated.

University of Buckingham Medical Sciences North Ltd

This subsidiary was registered on 29 January 2020. This company has remained dormant since its incorporation.

25. Lease Commitments

The original lease between ABHSC Limited and the University and for the Crewe campus has been subject to various agreements and discussions over recent years surrounding its recission or termination. Considering those agreements, the new heads of terms signed in December 2023, and the operational practices of both ABHSC and the University throughout 2023, the lease commitment reflected here at 31 December 2023 represent the current practice and the new lease arrangements. Final legal Agreements were completed in February 2024 and formalise the arrangement.

	Land and other buildings 2023	Other Leases 2023	Total 2023	Land and other buildings 2022	Other Leases 2022	Total 2022
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Not later than one year	1,474	42	1,516	4,424	43	4,467
Later than one year and not later than five years	3,082	14	3,096	19,548	52	19,600
Later than five years	-	-	-	10,347	-	10,347
	4,556	**56**	**4,612**	**34,319**	**95**	**34,414**

Onerous lease provisions have been disclosed in Note 16.

Lease payments in the year amounted to £1,459k (2022:£1,400k) for land and buildings leases and £45k (2022:£64k) for other leases.

26. Post balance sheet events

1. In January 2024 a lease was entered into for a local hotel to secure further student accommodation on a twin room basis, now renamed Mount Pleasant. This will allow us to grow our on-campus student numbers and refurbish some current accommodation. The agreement extends for up to 20 years with an initial rental of £900k per annum and the University having break options at 5 yearly intervals.
2. In February 2024, the University completed mutually acceptable agreements with Apollo Education UK concerning our Crewe Campus. A connected series of agreements with Apollo Education UK Ltd, Apollo Buckingham Health Sciences Campus Ltd (ABHSC), and Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU) result in the University now having certainty on all matters in relation to Crewe. As a result:
    - The University has a lease to utilise the Crewe campus until the end of 2026.
    - The lease for Booth Hall between MMU & ABHSC has been extended until the end of 2026, resulting in the University's rent deposit deed and terms around the joint mandate account being appropriately amended.
    - The University's shares in the joint venture company (ABHSC) have been transferred to Apollo Education UK, and the University has agreed to contribute to the cost of dilapidations works on Booth Hall to a maximum of £1.0m.
    - All historic arrangements between the University and Apollo Education and ABHSC have been superseded.

    It was announced in March 2024 to all stakeholders that the University has taken the strategic decision to relocate teaching activities and educational provision from the Crewe campus back to the main campus in Buckingham. The relocation will be phased over the next 3 years with full completion anticipated by the end of 2026.

    The University will continue to deliver a high-quality educational experience for all our students through this transition period with all current Crewe based students.
3. As noted previously above, during 2023 a review of the use of the Milton Keynes Academic Centre building was completed, concluding that the University's School of Medicine had outgrown its ability to make effective use of the building. The Group sought a sale of the building and took an impairment charge in the 2023 of £1.3m and reclassified the asset to fixed assets held for sale in these Group accounts. In March 2024 a sale of the building was completed realising £4.75m proceeds, marginally higher that the impaired book value. This will also crystallize the provided VAT liability.

THE UNIVERSITY OF BUCKINGHAM

For Independent Minds

THE UNIVERSITY OF BUCKINGHAM

England & Wales - Charity number 1141691

Accounts

THE UNIVERSITY OF BUCKINGHAM

Annual Report and Financial Statements

2022

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LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Corporate Status

The University of Buckingham (the "University") is incorporated by Royal Charter, number RC000730. The University is a Registered Charity, number 1141691.

Principal place of business

The University of Buckingham
Yeomanry House
Hunter Street
Buckingham
MK18 1EG

Independent auditors

MHA
6th Floor
2 London Wall Place
London
EC2Y 5AU

Bankers

National Westminster Bank plc
Stony Stratford Branch
80 High Street
Stony Stratford
Milton Keynes
MK11 1AJ

CHAIR'S STATEMENT

This is the third Chair's statement I have written for three sets of Annual Reports and Accounts since taking up the position in January 2023. I am proud to address our esteemed faculty, staff, students, and alumni as we stand fully compliant on the threshold of a new chapter in our University's history.

The last three years have been challenging. We have faced several unprecedented obstacles, both internally and externally, that have tested our resilience, adaptability, and commitment to our core values. Our University community has faced these challenges head-on, and I am honoured to report that we have not only endured but emerged stronger and more unified.

Throughout this period, we have made significant strides in addressing the issues that have impacted our institution in the past. Through the unwavering dedication of our faculty and staff, we have maintained our high academic standards while ensuring that the student experience remains at the forefront of our mission.

We have worked tirelessly to implement measures that enhance transparency, accountability, and governance within the University, setting a strong foundation for future growth and success. In addition, we are focusing on strengthening our financial position, enabling us to continue investing in critical infrastructure, cutting-edge research, and high-quality student support services.

As we move forward, we must learn from the challenges of the past three years and use those lessons to shape our future. We must continue to foster a culture of open dialogue and collaboration where every member of our community feels valued, respected, and heard.

Our priorities for the coming year include:

- Enhancing the student experience: We will continue to invest in innovative teaching methods, state-of-the-art facilities, and comprehensive student support services to ensure that every student has the tools and resources they need to succeed.

- Strengthening research excellence: We will focus on fostering interdisciplinary research collaborations, building on where we can make a difference, attracting top research talent, and securing funding to support our researchers in addressing the most pressing challenges facing society today.

- Community engagement and outreach: We will work to build stronger connections with our local and global communities, increasing our positive impact and reinforcing our commitment to social responsibility.

- Inclusion and diversity: We will actively promote an inclusive, diverse, and equitable environment, celebrating the unique strengths and perspectives that each individual brings to our community.

As The University of Buckingham embarks on this new chapter, I am confident that we are better positioned than ever before to achieve our mission of providing exceptional education, advancing knowledge, and transforming lives. I am deeply grateful for the steadfast commitment of our faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends who have been instrumental in guiding us through these difficult times.

Together, we will continue to build upon the legacy of this unique institution, nurturing the leaders, innovators, and independent thinkers of tomorrow.



Mark St John Qualter
Chair of Council

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S STATEMENT

It is a pleasure to introduce these Accounts. The financial statements show an income growth of 10% for the Group from 2021. This is largely the result of an 8% increase in student numbers from 2021 (up to 3,214 students). It's also pleasing to see how the University's improved performance is reflected in recent league tables. For instance, concerning Graduate Prospects – a key indicator of how our graduates fare in the world outside of university - we were ranked 6th in the UK in the Good University Guide 2022, and 9th in England in the Complete University Guide 2023 (a climb from 61st).

2022 was a memorable year on many levels for me as Vice-Chancellor. Summer saw some of the highest temperatures ever recorded in the UK, and the University also had a record-breaking number of graduation ceremonies. In July, we held 15 ceremonies, 14 of them over five consecutive days. These were very joyful occasions. I could not have been more proud of the way the University presented itself. Dame Mary Archer came to all of these ceremonies – and the five associated dinners and lunches – and I want to express my deep gratitude for all she does for the University. Overall, it was a tremendous team achievement and a very heart-warming experience for all.

The death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in September brought memorable scenes in London and a great many found solace in standing in line to pay their last respects at Westminster Hall. I know we all felt her loss greatly; the talk given at our University by William Shawcross CVO, the royal biographer, only a month after Queen Elizabeth's funeral, allowed us to spend time focusing on her life and legacy.

The Vice-Chancellor Invited Speaker Series proceeded apace. We started the year with talks by Sir Tim Rice and Lord Archer at Ondaatje Hall and continued with Her Honour Judge Khatun Sapnara, Dr Arun Verma, Kate Clancy, Professor Chandra Wickramasinghe, Sir Michael Barber, and Lord (Charles) Moore.

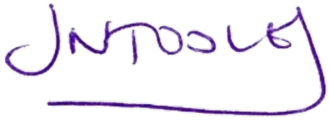
In March 2022 I travelled to Nigeria with colleagues to host well-attended alumni events in Lagos and Abuja, and also to take part in recruitment fairs. At these fairs I realised first-hand how attractive our Royal Charter is to potential students, how it was clearly a feature that distinguished us from many of other universities represented. The alumni events were tremendous, including meeting an alumnus who had been amongst the first intake to the University College at Buckingham in 1976 – and who recalled Margaret Thatcher giving the first matriculation speech.

In October, I returned again with colleagues to West Africa, this time to Ghana. Here we were hugely honoured to have an audience with the Vice-President, Dr Mahamudu Bawumia, an alumnus of the University. We were then doubly honoured when he accepted to become our guest of honour at the event to launch a new Ghana Alumni association.

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

We have continued to collaborate with a wide range of partners internationally. I was pleased to attend graduation ceremonies for the International Business School in Budapest and the Sarajevo School of Science and Technology in September.

I have been heartened to feel the new wave of optimism across our campuses. We continue to be innovative and creative in what we offer and we can be rightly proud of everything that makes us different. Having our financial reporting back on track, with the publication of the audited statements for 2021 and now these statements, allows us to refocus on the future with renewed energy and enthusiasm.



Professor James Tooley
Vice-Chancellor

TRUSTEES' REPORT

The Trustees' Report represents the strategic review for The University of Buckingham (the "University") and its subsidiaries (together "the Group").

Corporate Status, Reference and Administrative Details

The University of Buckingham was incorporated by Royal Charter on 11 February 1983. Prior to that, the University College at Buckingham was founded in 1973 and admitted its first students in 1976.

The University is not-for-profit and is a Recognised Body under Statutory Instrument No.573 (The Education (Recognised Bodies) (England) Order 2020). It is authorised by its Royal Charter to award taught and research degrees in perpetuity.

The University is registered at the Charity Commission for England and Wales (Charity number: 1141691). The principal place of the University's business, as well as the names and addresses of the University's auditor and bankers, have been presented separately in the Legal and Administrative Information section of these accounts.

The University is registered with the Office for Students ('OfS') in the Approved provider category. Approved higher education providers ('HEPs') differ from Approved ('Fee Cap') HEPs in being able to levy uncapped tuition fees for undergraduate degrees but with the caveat that students at Approved providers can only access student loan funding to the lower limit. Since 2018, and through 2022, this has been £6,165 per annum for three-year programmes and £7,400 per annum for two-year programmes. As an Approved provider, the University is unable to access any direct government funding for learning and teaching, research or capital activity. However, the University remains subject to the full suite of OfS Conditions of Registration, with the only exception being it is not required to have an Access and Participation Plan.

The names of all Trustees/council members who served in the period and at the report date, and the name of Vice-Chancellor, have been presented in the Chancellor and Members of Council section of these accounts.

Structure, Governance and Management

The University's governing document is the Governance Handbook, which includes:

- the University's Royal Charter and Statutes, as well as its Ordinances and Scheme of Delegation, on which our governance structures are based;
- our academic, management and committee structures; and
- the terms of reference and membership of all committees.

The Ordinances codify the procedures by which the powers articulated in the University's Charter and Statutes are exercised, including the procedures on the recruitment, appointment, induction and training of Trustees.

The University's consolidated financial statements include a subsidiary company and a charity, being Medical Property Management Ltd ("MPML") and The University of Buckingham Foundation, respectively. MPML is a wholly owned trading subsidiary whose purpose is to further the University's charitable purposes, in particular in the construction and subsequent rental of the Milton Keynes Academic Centre. The University of Buckingham Foundation is a charitable trust whose purpose is to advance education, in particular supporting and promoting the education of students at the University, and to promote research into academic and scientific fields of learning. Financial statements of these entities can be obtained from the University's principal place of business, which is noted on page 1 of these accounts.

The Trustees are required to ensure the University is carrying out its purposes for the public benefit, complies with the governing document and law, acts in the University's best interests, manages its resources responsibly and is accountable, through the organisation and conduct of regular meetings for both the Council and its sub-committees. The agreed decisions and actions from the meetings are then appropriately delegated to, and implemented by the University's senior management and functional departments.

With regards to the setting of remuneration, the University, through written commitment provided in the Ordinances, comply with the Higher Education Remuneration Code published by the Committee of University Chairs. In practice, the University's Nominations, Performance and Remuneration Committee: considers the comparative information on the emoluments of the employees within its remit; ensures all arrangements are unambiguous and diligently recorded; and determines annually the principles on which merit awards shall be made for all members of staff in the salary review for that year.

University of Buckingham is a member of the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA). The University has also developed a number of important partnerships which are geographically spread and culturally diverse, and has collaborations with key academic institutions such as British University in Georgia, International Business School in Budapest and the Anglo Mexican Foundation.

Objectives and Activities

As codified in the University's Statutes, these are the advancement of learning and knowledge by teaching and research, and to enable students to obtain the advantages of university education.

The Trustees have had due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit during their stewardship of the University's activities. Details of activities to further public benefit are set out in these accounts.

In particular, the Trustees have taken care to:

(a) make strategic decisions that further the charitable objectives;
(b) maximise public benefit to significant numbers of beneficiaries who are local to Buckingham, as well as more widely;
(c) manage and mitigate risks to our beneficiaries and to the University itself.

Buckingham's distinctive position

The distinctive position of The University of Buckingham is that it is an early innovator, including pioneering the accelerated two-year honours degree some 40 years ago. This is a cost-effective route for students to spend less on tuition and living costs than if they were taking a three-year degree, and enter employment a year earlier if they wish, or leave after three years with a master's degree. The three-year honours degree option is also available. Our Medicine course is also unique, offering a GMC accredited four-and-a-half-year course with a January start date, the removal of long holidays allowing for shorter overall study time and graduated students are able to enter the NHS foundation programme commencing in August each year.

A suitable motto is "Small is Beautiful": The University of Buckingham prides itself on the close personal attention afforded to its students, with small group tutorials the most important part of its teaching. The small size of the campuses also promotes the sense of personal attention.

The University holds academic and social events at its premises which are open to the public, as well as to our staff and students. These include lectures, fireside chats with renowned guest speakers, taster days and musical concerts. It has been a pleasure to welcome members of the local community to these.

Staff

As with any organisation, staff numbers fluctuate through the year, therefore average numbers are used in these financial statements. In 2022, there was an average of 358 full time equivalent members of staff (2021: 382), comprising 128 academic (2021: 132), 8 research (2021: 9), 188 support (2021: 207) and 34 manual staff (2021: 34).

Achievements and Performance on Teaching & Research

The founders of the University were driven by a desire to cultivate an institution that was rigorously independent. This ethos has underpinned three striking features of the University's provision:

(a) the pioneering of an eight-term (two-year) accelerated undergraduate degree;
(b) an early focus on the student experience; and
(c) a resourcing model in which academic staff teach for three out of the four terms, with the remaining term given over to research, external engagement and programme review that ensures the availability of senior and permanent teaching staff throughout the full calendar year.

Whilst keeping a keen eye on affordability, the University sets fee levels that fund a high-quality academic experience, incorporating personalised learning and pastoral support, enabling students to thrive. The University's robust academic and personal tutorial systems have been integral to the University's results in recent league tables. In the Good University Guide (2022), we were ranked 15th in the UK for teaching quality and 6th in the UK for Graduate Prospects, just below Oxford and Cambridge and above Bath and Warwick. In the Complete University Guide (2023), we maintained our top 10 ranking for Student Satisfaction climbing from 8th to 7th in England, also rising significantly on "Graduate Prospects – outcomes" from 61st to 9th.

The University aims to ensure that all students feel as though they are stakeholders in their University and that it revolves around them rather than the other way around. As such, the University places a very high value on the staff-student partnership. Students are represented on academic committees at every level and their feedback, both formal (via satisfaction surveys) and informal, is sought on both the University's courses as well as the wider learning environment. Feedback is discussed with the University's Executive team and appropriate actions are taken as warranted.

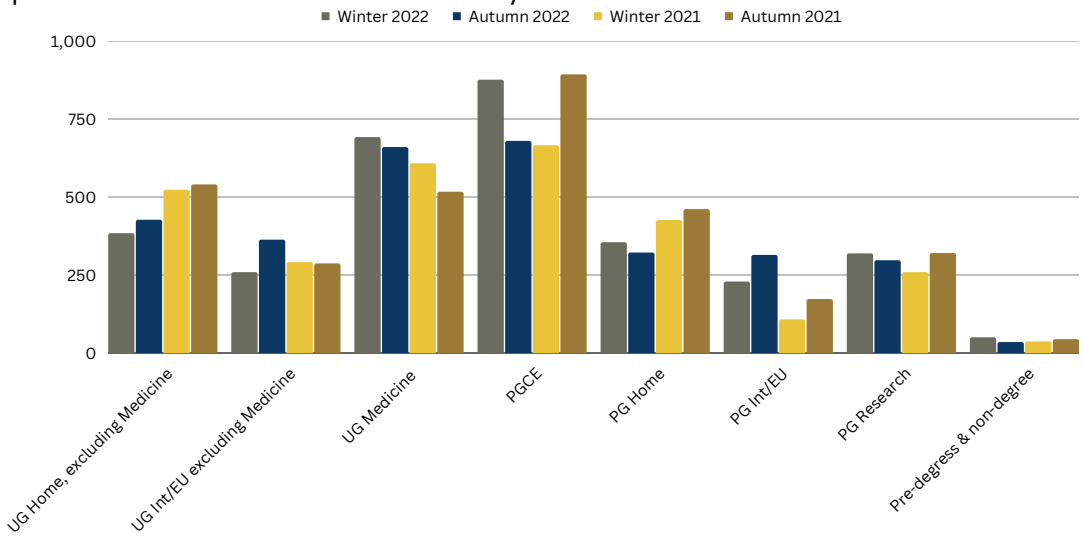
Student numbers

Student numbers vary across any year as a result of the multiple entry and completion points for different studies as illustrated in the table below.

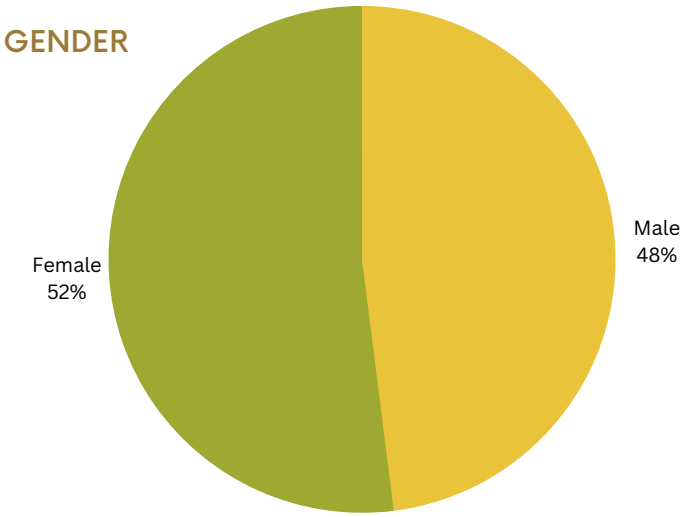
Total student numbers increased to 3,214 in Winter 2022, up 8% from 2021 (2,963).

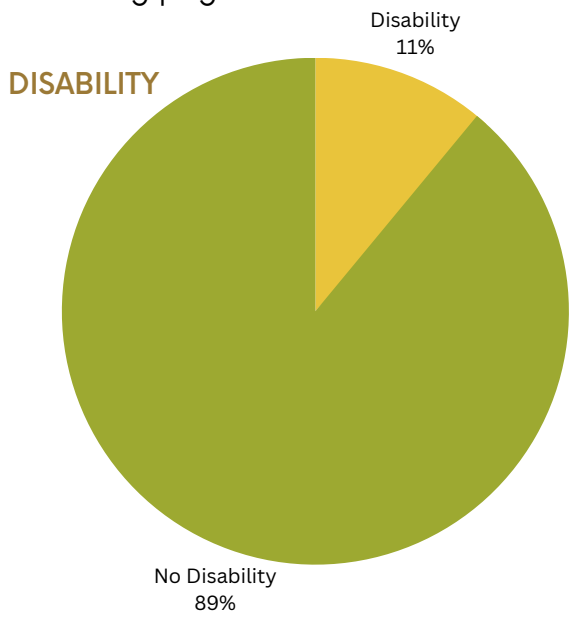
Undergraduate (UG) students decreased by 7% in Winter 2022 from 2021, however UG Medicine continued to show an improvement, as cohorts increase year-on-year. Postgraduate taught (PGT) student numbers increased by 9% in Winter 2022 from 2021, while PGCE (Post Graduate Certificate of Education) student numbers improved by 31%. Postgraduate research student numbers show an increase of 23% in Winter 2022 from 2021.

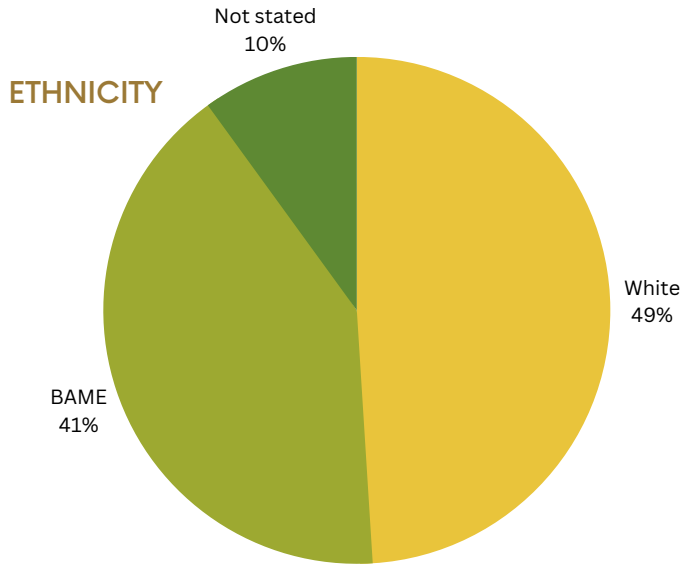
There are two main intakes of new students every year. The terminology "Home" within the graphs below refers to UK students only.

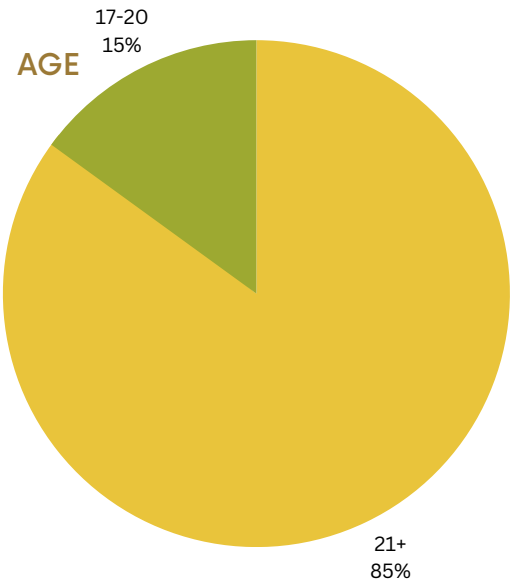


The University's student body is diverse, with substantial differentiation across all five demographic criteria as shown below and on the following page:



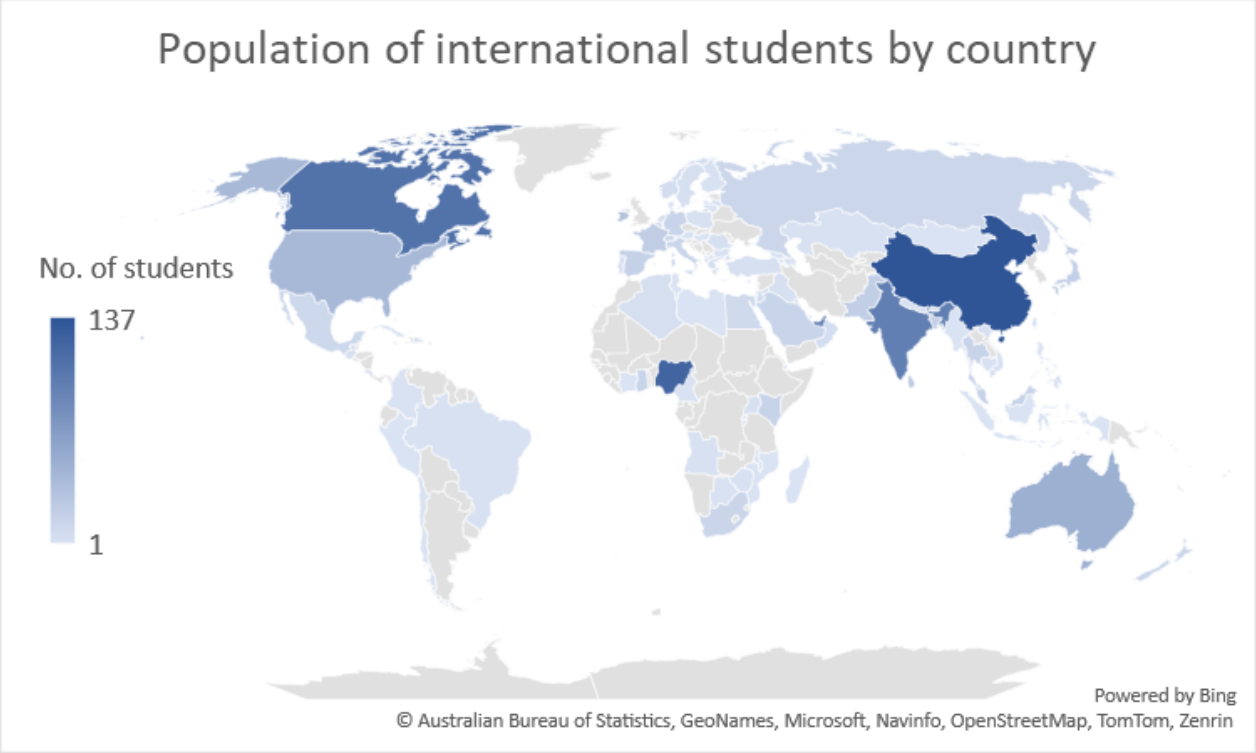






The student body comprises 114 nationalities with the largest number coming from the UK (72%).

During 2022 our on-site teaching and student activities were thankfully unaffected by the global COVID pandemic and returned to "normal". Similar to many organisations, the University continues to embrace the learnings from the pandemic experience.



Collaborative Partners

The University validates academic programmes and/or the learning and teaching of selected institutions within the UK and overseas. Whilst such activities are increasing, such collaborations create payment and reputational risks for the University. Therefore, we apply suitable due diligence and contractual arrangements with prospective new academic partners.

Research

Like other British universities, an important part of our intellectual mission is for our academics and graduate students to contribute to research and scholarship. Areas of growth and investment in Buckingham include Artificial Intelligence, Educational Research, Entrepreneurship, Diabetes Research, Medical Education, Modern History, Public Understanding of Economics and Entrepreneurship and Quantum Biosciences. As an independent university, Buckingham is not required to participate in the Government's Research Excellence Framework. The University's plans include regaining Independent Research Organisation (IRO) status, to allow the University to bid for UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) grants. In principle, we expect research income to cover its related direct costs because we do not receive "core" research funding from UKRI or other national research funding bodies.

Scholarships and Bursaries

The University's Scholarships and Bursaries programme is an important part of assisting students to benefit from a university education. Our bursary awards are available to all undergraduates and postgraduates who meet the general entry requirements. Awards are made based on need or to relieve hardship.

In making means-tested awards, we consider several factors including family income, investments and savings, assets and family circumstances. Students or their sponsors must meet any maintenance costs. However, living near Buckingham and the degree programme being completed in two years rather than three elsewhere, makes studying much more financially viable.

The University of Buckingham Foundation has total assets less liabilities of £4.1m at 31 December 2022 (2021: £4.7m), available for the benefit of the University and are subject to the terms of the Foundation's trust deed. At 31 December 2022, £3.8m (2021: £3.4m) of these funds were held as endowed investments and property, generating income to support scholarships, bursaries, grants and other projects.

In the year, the University awarded total scholarships, bursaries, and prizes of £0.8m (2021: £0.6m). These scholarships and bursaries include funded, named scholarships from the Foundation of £0.4m (2021: £0.3m). These are recorded within Curriculum costs, itself within Other operating expenses.

The University is keen to increase participation within higher education in Buckingham and the local area, especially for those potential students who may find that going away to study is too expensive. Two specific methods of student support are offered to potential students: the Buckingham Bursary, aimed at students in receipt of a maintenance loan, and the High Achievers Scholarship, aimed at UK students achieving AAB or above at A-level and who make Buckingham their first choice. A Buckingham Bursary can be combined with a High Achiever Scholarship.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Income

Total income for the Group at £47.9m in 2022 increased by 10% (2021: £43.5m).

Tuition fees remain the principal income source for the Group, and financially support the majority of our day-to-day teaching and research activities. Tuition fees represent 84% of total income in 2022 (2021: 86%).

Residences and catering income on the Buckingham campus totalled £3.3m, £1.5m more than 2021 due to the post pandemic return to campus.

At the consolidated level, donation income in 2022 was £0.1m (2021: £0.6m).

The University of Buckingham Bursary Fund has remained the University's fundraising priority during 2022, and the University continued to actively invite our generous alumni and friends to make a gift to support students in need and to help build momentum behind this important initiative.

The Group's income was supplemented by a £0.2m gain on the disposal of properties (2021 £1.9m), but detracted from by a loss of £0.6m on investments (2021 £0.8m gain) due to the movements on investment markets.

Expenditure

Group expenditure increased in 2022 by £9.9m to £50.3m. Particular reasons for these movements are:

- Staff costs (excluding additional USS pension provision costs) increased by £0.9m being 5% higher than 2021. The USS pension provision increased by £1.4m in 2022 compared to a reduction in 2021 of £1.1m, resulting in a £2.5m increase year-on-year.

- Other operating expenses increased by £6.4m, largely driven by higher Curriculum and medical placement fees (£2.0m), Premises & Residences costs (£1.4m), General administrative expenses (£2.2m) and travel costs (£0.7m), as the University returned to full operations post the pandemic.

- The University continues to use scholarships and bursaries to improve its student recruitment, and to support students who would otherwise struggle financially to join the University. The University spent £0.8m on this support, (2021: £0.6m).

Management did not identify any indicators of impairment of assets in 2022.

Key performance indicators

The University uses key performance indicators (KPIs) to monitor its performance.

KPIs covering academic performance of The University of Buckingham	**2022**	**2021**
Student satisfaction: National Student Survey Data	80%	82%
Quality of teaching: National Student Survey Data	84%	84%

These KPIs have remained relatively static between the two years above.

KPIs covering financial strength of The University of Buckingham group	**2022**	**2021**
Cash and cash equivalents	£12.9m	£10.3m
External borrowing as a percentage of total income	10%	11%
(Deficit)/surplus for the year	(£2.8m)	£5.8m

The University of Buckingham Foundation

Scholarships and other disbursements made in 2022 by the Foundation, in support of the University's activities, were £0.4m (2021: £0.3m). The grants awarded included funds awarded from the Klatten fund, a restricted fund used to support the development of entrepreneurship, enterprise and innovation in courses and other development projects.

The stock market performance in 2022 resulted in losses in the Foundation's investment valuations of £0.3m, (2021: gains of £0.3m). These losses, in addition to disbursements of £0.4m, contributed to the net reduction in funds for the year of £0.5m (2021 net income of £0.02m).

University Investments

The University's investments are guided by the University's Financial Regulations, and the University's Finance, Estates and Resource Committee is responsible for approving the Treasury Management Policy statement which sets out the strategy and policies for cash management, long term investments and borrowings. This requires compliance with the regulatory rules for approval for any secured or unsecured loans that go beyond the consent levels set out in regulations.

No investments may be made without the approval of the Finance, Estates and Resource Committee. The priorities for investment are identified by the Vice-Chancellor and University senior management, through business, social and environmental considerations.

Statement of Financial Position

Net assets, when considered at the University level, decreased from £17.1m to £14.8m during the year largely the result of the operational deficit.

During the year, the Group made additions to tangible assets of £1.2m, which meant that after depreciation in the year of £2.4m and the sale of properties with a book value of £0.2m, the net book value of tangible fixed assets decreased by £1.4m to £33.8m.

Reserves

The Group aims to maintain an appropriate level of unrestricted reserves and cash resources for the following reasons:

- Market fluctuations may impact the number of students attending University courses, and the mix of courses and students. The University gains most of its income from academic programmes and may rely on reserves if there is a reduction in student numbers, whether permanent or temporary.

- The University has substantial ongoing commitments relating to the welfare and education of the students and needs to maintain a level of reserves sufficient to continue to meet these commitments.

- The University has commitments to its lenders to repay capital and interest on its borrowings.

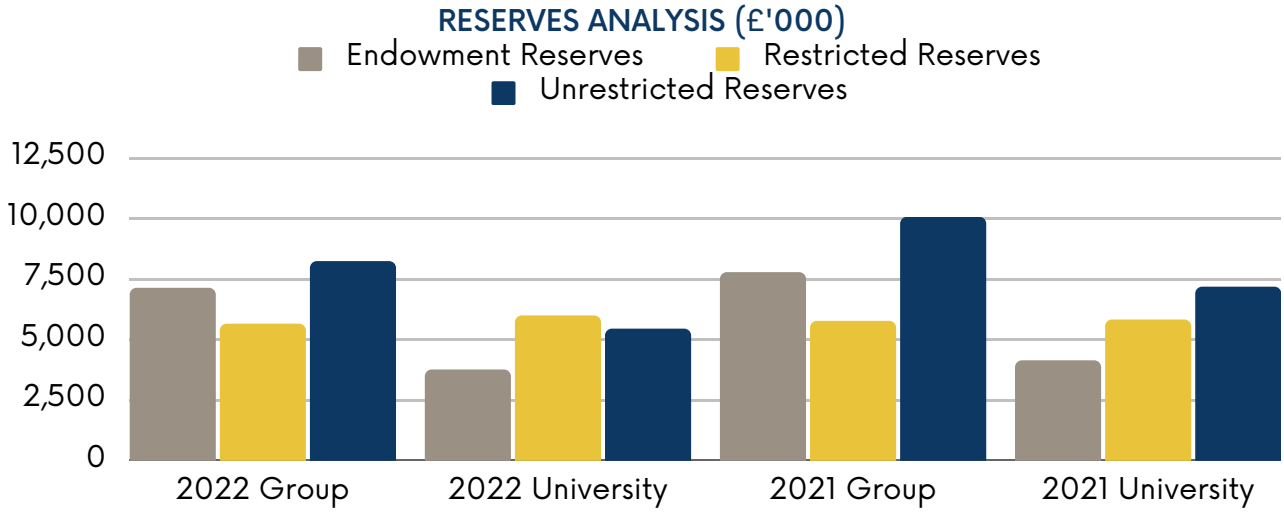
The Group's unrestricted reserves decreased to £8m in 2022 (2021: £10m), driven by the financial performance in the year as discussed throughout these accounts.

The consolidated restricted reserves reduced to £5.7m in 2022 (2021: £5.8m). The consolidated total endowment reserves decreased to £7.0m (2021: £7.8m) due to a decrease in market value of investments.

The timing of expenditure of restricted funds is based on when the costs required to complete the specific purposes of the funds arise, as well as the award of bursaries and scholarships to students in certain degree courses, which are sponsored by specific trust funds.

The Trustees consider the level of reserves at the balance sheet date to be adequate for the purposes outlined above and anticipate that over the course of the next five years unrestricted reserves will increase following pursuit of income growth and cost efficiency. A more detailed view of the University's future is covered under the 'going concern' portion of this report.

At the date of the signing of these accounts the Trustees were performing but had not yet completed, a review of the University's Endowment, Restricted and Unrestricted funds, and the presentation of income and expenditure associated with the University endowment funds.



Cash Flow and Financing

Consolidated cash balances as at 31 December 2022 were £12.9m (2021: £10.3m).

The University held liquid cash balances of £11.2m at the year-end (2021: £7.8m) an increase of £3.4m.

As at the balance sheet date, a loan drawn in 2021 with Natwest of £5m remained repayable within 5 years, with no capital repayment due within the next 12 months. The University also has a £7m revolving credit facility available to it from NatWest which was not used during 2022.

The University continues to take steps to ensure further improvement in the cash position, which will ensure further funds for future investment to provide high-quality teaching and student experience.

Principal risks

The University considers its principal risks (which include external factors outside of its control) to lie in the seven key areas below and has taken active steps to identify and mitigate these as well as other detailed operational risks.

1. **Financial**

   Whilst current student recruitment remains encouraging, there are many higher education providers competing for students and if there were a significant shortfall in our student recruitment, this would create serious financial pressure. The unique proposition the University offers – especially as a private university with its pioneering two-year degrees, four and a half year medical degrees, and one year post graduate courses in Education – will continue to help attract students. The Vice-Chancellor is actively driving advancement and fundraising activities to generate philanthropic donation income, and contain costs where appropriate to mitigate risks.

   Overall, the Trustees are confident in the University's ability to manage through the uncertainties that may arise through the focus on income generation and cost control, as appropriate, whilst managing the provision of academic delivery and student outcomes and experience.

2. **Staffing**

   Like many organisations, there is a risk of not being able to recruit and retain proficient staff – with a resultant adverse impact on the student experience and the quality of administrative services. Management across the University ensure sufficient staff resources are available at crucial times, such as for exam marking and new student registration. Among the mitigation measures, particular care is taken around staff engagement, well-being, and professional development. The Vice-Chancellor holds regular 'town hall' meetings to discuss current and future issues with staff colleagues, and there are regular events to promote staff well-being. As a relatively small organisation there is recognition that the University is reliant on several key individuals but our collegiate approach allows information and expertise to be shared so that absences can be cross-covered where needed and, in some cases, interim staffing brought in.

3. **Built Estate**

   Whilst the academic space and student accommodation is sufficient for current needs, it is important to recognise the need to be aware of, and respond to changes in these requirements. Whilst capital expenditure in 2022 was relatively small, plans were developed and work commenced at the end of the year on phase 2 of the major refurbishment of the Franciscan building to further update facilities for the Computing, Law and Psychology faculty and associated student study and library facilities. The Hunter Street campus is near the River Great Ouse and whilst there have been problems in the past with flooding, these did not impact the University's ability to continue operations with little disruption to services. Plans are in place to prepare a new business continuity plan during 2023, addressing estate issues as well as other operational areas.

4. Information Systems and Data Security

An information security breach could severely impact our operations, reputation, and possibly lead to regulatory fines. Therefore, IT systems and cybersecurity are under constant review and IT security measures and enhancements are deployed proactively. The University holds Cyber Essentials accreditation, the Government backed accreditation scheme, as part of its continued drive to ensure the security of systems and data. IT staff keep abreast of new technologies in case these disrupt connectivity, functionality, or lifestyles – with consequent impacts on how best to approach the delivery of teaching, learning, and research.

5. Regulatory Compliance

There is regular correspondence with our regulators, so they are aware of measures that are being taking to deliver regulatory compliance, and the senior management team keep abreast of the changing regulatory landscape. The principal regulatory bodies are:

The University of Buckingham	Office for Students
The University of Buckingham Foundation	Charity Commission
Medical Property Management Limited	Companies House

As fully disclosed in the previous years' accounts, there were significant delays to the publication of accounts for 2019 which also impacted 2020 and 2021 accounts publication timescales. We kept regulators informed of the reasons for the delays. As a result of late submission of the 2019 financial statements, the University received a financial penalty in 2022 from the Office for Students. The University is pleased to now have all financial reporting up to date. The Trustees are very cognizant of the continued reputational risk created by being non-compliant with regulatory requirements and actions focussed on preventing the possibility of recurrence in the future continue.

In addition the subsidiary Medical Property Management Ltd is in discussion with HM Revenue and Customs in relation to over claims of VAT in previous years. Details of this issue and the provision that has been maintained are in Note 16 to the financial statements. At the year end the best estimate of the liability remains at £808,000 which has previously been provided for, however this provision is subjest to material estimation uncertainty and there are plausible and realistic scenarios under which the total liability could be significantly lower than this current estimate. Subject to further enquiries being made by HMRC it is anticipated that this matter will be resolved and settled during calendar year 2023

The University is also mindful of regulatory compliance relating to immigration, employment law and our academic activities generally (and particularly within healthcare and education).

6. **Joint Venture**

The Crewe campus joint venture challenges disclosed and provided for in previous years' accounts continue to be systematically resolved and the associated risks managed and reduced by working with the joint venture partner and growing the student numbers on the campus. The Trustees are confident in the University's ability to manage remaining issues within the financial provisions contained within these financial statements.

7. **Pension Scheme Costs**

Like other institutions, the University faces significant costs relating to staff who are members of defined benefit pension schemes. At the end of 2022 there were 113 members of the USS pension scheme (2021: 113). The USS pension scheme is not available to new staff. Occupational pension provision for new staff is delivered via an Aviva defined contribution scheme. The continued risk regarding future pension cost increases is discussed further at Note 22.

Financial Risk Management Objectives and Policies

The Group's main financial instruments are cash and quoted investments held by the University and the Foundation. In addition, items such as trade debtors and trade creditors arise directly from its operations. The main purpose of these financial instruments is to fund the Group's operations. The existence of these financial instruments exposes the Group to several financial risks, namely market risk, liquidity risk and credit risk. The Trustees review and agree policies for managing each of these risks and they are summarised below.

a. **Market Risk**

1. Currency risk: The Group is exposed to some translation and transaction foreign exchange risk in respect of cash, cash equivalents, and investments. This risk is not significant to the Group and accordingly there are no hedging provisions in place.
2. Interest rate risk: At the balance sheet date the University had a £5m bank loan outstanding. Details of the loan are in Note 15. Since the loan interest rate is fixed, there is no interest rate risk.
3. Share price risk: The Group's exposure to share price risk consists mainly of movements in the value of the Group's investments in quoted shares.

b. **Liquidity risk**

The University has sufficient liquid cash resources partially arising from funds drawn down from the loan. The University manages its liquidity risk through regular cash flow forecasts and other financial management information tools. Also, the University monitors cash resources as a proportion of operating costs through the year, considering peaks and troughs in cash flows and the projected impacts on banking covenants. In addition the University has a £7m revolving credit facility with NatWest available which has been unused since it was established in January 2021.

c. Credit Risk

The Group's principal financial assets are quoted investments held by the University (and via the Foundation), cash and trade debtors. Quoted investments are managed by independent professional advisers, working with a cautious risk appetite set by The University of Buckingham and The University of Buckingham Foundation. The credit risk associated with the investments and cash is limited, as the counterparties are well-established financial institutions. The principal credit risk arises therefore from the Group's receivables. The nature of the Group's client base, being mainly undergraduate and postgraduate students, is such that it is not significantly exposed to any single individual customer, although there are a number of commercial and institutional clients. For example, the University validates other providers' programmes in the UK and internationally. The Trustees therefore concentrate their efforts on ensuring that the processes around credit approval and debt collection are sufficiently robust.

Fraud and error

As with any business, there are potential risks to the integrity of financial assets and financial information. The primary safeguards are the staffing of the finance office and its financial procedures. In addition, the Risk, Audit and Compliance Committee undertakes rolling reviews of risk management. The Finance, Estates & Resources Committee and the Council receive financial reports and information which are enables them to engage in significant financial decisions.

Forward outlook and plans for future periods

Like other higher education providers, the University has faced a great deal of challenge and uncertainty in recent years - and may continue to do so in the years to come.

In response to financial challenges, the University set in place a Financial Recovery Plan in mid-2020, the benefits of which have flowed into 2021 and 2022:

- The sale of some local residential properties that are not core to the University's activities. The sale of these properties has had no impact on the delivery of teaching and services provided but will improve our financial resilience.
- Renegotiated bank financing arrangements.
- Addressing the challenges associated with the Crewe joint venture.

These actions are intended to result in the University maintaining a satisfactory liquidity position, as defined by available cash resources, through to the end of 2024.

Based on the forward forecasts and projections, the University forecasts to be compliant with its debt service covenants for the foreseeable future and able to withstand plausible variations in those forecasts.

Climate change

We recognise climate change as an important matter for the University and the wider community. The University has already taken steps to reduce consumption of energy (such as by installing modern heating and lighting systems, and insulation). Furthermore, we re-use and recycle materials where possible and our vehicles are predominantly electric. The Trustees recognise there is more to do over the coming years to assess and respond to climate risks.

Some buildings on the Hunter Street campus are only about 200 feet away from the River Great Ouse, and we have had instances of the basements of some older Hunter Street buildings being flooded due to abnormally high river levels. We were able to continue business operations without significant disruption. Whilst these were acute one-off instances, climate change may result in flooding at Hunter Street becoming a more frequent physical risk. The University is able to mitigate the risk to operations through the insurances it holds.

The University, like other organisations, needs to transition to more environmentally friendly means of delivering its objectives. There is desire for this from within the University and our students and we will see increasing demands to make changes to our working practices and our built estate because of societal changes and legislation.

Risk of exposure to Ukraine and Russia

Occasionally, a handful of students from these countries enroll, and the tragic conflict that exists currently in Ukraine is noted. Otherwise, the University does not have business operations connected to these countries, so there is minimal and immaterial risk exposure.

Perspectives on future direction

The various challenges which have arisen over recent years have been taken as learning experiences and are driving determination to further enhance the University's controls and systems, and improve efficiency over the coming years.

Key plans and actions include the development a robust future strategy for the University plus actions to improve cost efficiency and control, such as the review of end-to-end finance processes and the IT review, both of which commenced in late 2022 with a view to improvement in automation, control and resilience. Further operational plans will be developed during 2023 as the new strategy evolves.

Going concern

The Group and University's financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis, based on Trustees' assessment of the financial position, operating model, and forecast cash flows. This assumes the Group and University will continue in operation for the foreseeable future including meeting its future obligations as they fall due.

The University experienced financial challenges and a decline in financial operating performance in recent years. As noted above, responses included measures to reduce costs, such as a necessary programme of staff redundancies, to help ensure long-term financial sustainability, in addition to addressing the costs of the Crewe campus lease. The University will continue to drive improved cost efficiency and control in the future to further improve resilience and enable investment in growth and infrastructure to enhance the student experience.

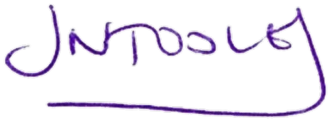
The University continues to engage proactively with its regulators and take actions to further improve governance to prevent recurrence of past issues.

At the balance sheet date the Group is reporting net current liabilities of £2.8m (University: £3.3m), which is a decline of £1.7m (University decline of £0.9m) due to an increase in fees received in advance, trade creditors and accruals.

The University forecasts to meet all its banking covenant and debt servicing requirements for the foreseeable future.

After considering significant potential risks to future plans and forecasts and the potential actions, which could include the sale of additional capital assets and a programme of cost restructuring, the Trustees are satisfied that it remains appropriate to prepare the Group and University financial statements on a going concern basis.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf on 26 May 2023 by:







Professor James Tooley
Vice-Chancellor

Mark St John Qualter
Chair of Council

David Cole
Chief Financial Officer

26 May 2023

CHANCELLOR AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Chancellor

Dame Mary Archer		

Independent Members of Council

Mr Mark Qualter	(Chair of Council)	Appointed December 2022
Mrs Camilla Soames	(Acting Vice-Chair of Council) (Acting Chair of Council) (Member) (Vice-Chair)	Appointed July 2022 Appointed October 2022 - December 2022 Re-appointed January 2023 Appointed February 2023
Dr Keith Bothongo		
Professor Timothy Evans		Appointed November 2022
Sir Francis Habgood		Appointed November 2022
Professor Joe Harrison	(Vice-Chair of Council) (Acting Chair of Council)	Appointed February 2021 Appointed March 2022 Resigned October 2022
Mr Nicholas Hillman		
Mr Christopher Hollis		
Mrs Penny Jones		Resigned October 2022
Lord Peter Lilley		Appointed November 2022
Ms Karen Mitchell		Appointed November 2022 Resigned April 2023
Mr Mark Rawlinson	(Chair of Council)	Resigned July 2022
Mr Stephen Rubin KC		Term Ended September 2022
Mr Mark Rushton		
Ms Rachael Shimmin	(Acting Vice-Chair of Council)	Appointed October 2022 Resigned November 2022
Professor Alan Smithers		
Mr Mohammad Syed	(Treasurer)	Resigned December 2022

CHANCELLOR AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL (CONTINUED)

Elected Members

Professor Hongbo Du	(Senate Representative)	Re-appointed November 2022
Ms Josephine Mbuya	(Alumni Representative)	Appointed March 2022
Professor Jaqueline O'Dowd	(Senate Representative)	
Professor Adolfo Paolini	(Senate Representative)	
Mr Callum Roberts	(Professional Services Staff Representative)	

Ex-Officio Members

Professor James Tooley	(Vice-Chancellor)	
Dr Jane Tapsell	(Pro Vice-Chancellor)	Resigned September 2022
Ms Caitlin Botha	(President of the Students' Union)	Resigned December 2022
Mr Toby Corbett	(President of the Students' Union)	Appointed January 2023

The composition of the Council

Pursuant to Statute 15, the Council shall comprise ex-officio members, independent members and elected members.

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE UNIVERSITY'S COUNCIL IN RELATION TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Responsibilities and activities of the Council in relation to the financial statements

The Council is responsible for preparing the Annual Report and financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards, comprising FRS 102 "Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland", and applicable law). In accordance with its regulatory responsibilities under section 18 of Schedule 7 of the Education Reform Act 1988, the University's Council presents audited financial statements for each financial year.

The financial statements have also been prepared in accordance with:

- The Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)"; and
- The Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have also been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting for Further and Higher Education 2019 and meet the requirements of the Office for Students accounts direction dated 25 October 2019.

The Council is required to keep proper accounting records which: disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Group and University; which enable it to ensure that the annual financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Group and University and of the income and expenditure for that year; and comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the provisions of its Royal Charter. In causing the financial statements to be prepared, Council has ensured that:

- Judgements and estimates are made that are reasonable and prudent;
- Financial statements are prepared on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Group and University will continue in operation for the foreseeable future.

Council is responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Group and University and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Council is also responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the information, charity and financial, included on the University's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE UNIVERSITY'S COUNCIL IN RELATION TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

Operations of Council

Council's powers are exercised through a number of sub-committees, whose terms of reference were approved by Council:

- Finance, Estates and Resources Committee
- Risk, Audit and Compliance Committee
- Nomination, Performance and Remuneration Committee
- Inclusion Committee*
- Honorary Appointments and Awards Committee*

(* Joint Committee of Council and Senate)

Operations of Senate

Senate's powers are exercised through a number of sub-committees, whose terms of reference were approved by Senate:

- University Research Committee
- University Learning & Teaching Committee
- Inclusion Committee*
- Honorary Appointments and Awards Committee*

(* Joint Committee of Council and Senate)



Mark St John Qualter
Chair of Council

Professor James Tooley
Vice-Chancellor

26 May 2023

STATEMENT OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND INTERNAL CONTROL

Introduction

This statement of corporate governance and internal control covers the period from 1 January 2022 to the date of approval of these financial statements.

Corporate governance structure

The University of Buckingham was established in 1976 and was incorporated by Royal Charter (number RC000730) on 11 February 1983. The conduct of the University's affairs is governed by the Royal Charter and accompanying Schedule (Statutes), approved by the Privy Council.

The University is registered as an Approved Provider with the Office for Students (UKPRN: 10007787) and is a registered charity (number 1141691). It is authorised by its Royal Charter to award taught and research degrees in perpetuity. The University is a member of Universities UK.

The University has a bicameral constitution comprising the Council and the Senate. Whereas the Council is the governing body and its members are Trustees of the University, the Senate is the governing academic authority, responsible for the setting and maintenance of threshold academic standards and for assuring and enhancing the quality of students' learning opportunities.

The Council of the University has responsibility for the stewardship of the University's assets; its members focus on strategic decision making and ensuring adherence to its charitable objectives whilst delegating day-to-day operational responsibilities to the Vice-Chancellor, the Executive and senior management team. It receives assurances that the University meets all legal and regulatory requirements imposed on it as a corporate body.

The Senate of the University is its governing academic authority. Senate's responsibilities include: the regulation and control of all academic awards as well as the programming and teaching that facilitates students' admission to said academic awards, the management of the formalities associated with making academic awards and the regulation of University discipline. The Senate is responsible for overseeing the development of the University's academic portfolio (including all associated research, learning and teaching and assessment activities), for the admission of students and for all areas pertaining to academic delivery and support.

The principal academic and administrative officer of the University is the Vice-Chancellor, who has a general responsibility to the Council for maintaining and promoting the efficiency and good order of the University and who is the Chair of the Senate. The Vice-Chancellor also chairs the Executive Group, comprising the members of the University's senior management.

The University performed and concluded a detailed review of its governance structures, including the amendment of the charter and statutes, in 2021.

STATEMENT OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND INTERNAL CONTROL (CONTINUED)

Oversight of Corporate Governance, Risk Management, Statutory and Regulatory Responsibilities

The Risk, Audit and Compliance Committee of the Council (RACC) provides much of the oversight of the University's corporate governance and risk management. This is through reports to RACC from senior management, the University's auditors, and from the University's risk management lead from whom a report is received at every meeting of RACC. The Council, in turn, considers the minutes of RACC as a standing item. The Council receives updates on matters relating to Corporate Governance from the Vice-Chancellor and approves the Terms of Reference of its Committees on an annual basis.

The Council and its Committees ensure that the University complies with its statutory and regulatory responsibilities. The RACC, together with Senate, provide much of the oversight of compliance with OfS' ongoing conditions of registration. The Finance, Estates and Resources Committee (FERC) oversees compliance with the University's statutory obligations in relation to health and safety.

The University's management accounts are considered by the Council, FERC and RACC on at least a quarterly basis.

Scope of responsibility

The Council has ultimate responsibility for the University's system of internal control and for reviewing its effectiveness. The Council has delegated to RACC and the Vice-Chancellor the day-to-day responsibility for maintaining sound systems of internal control that support the policies, aims and objectives of the University whilst safeguarding the public funds and assets in accordance with responsibilities set out in the Office for Students' conditions of registration. The Vice-Chancellor is also responsible for reporting to the Council any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

The purpose of the system of internal control

The system of internal control is an on-going process designed to identify the principal risks to the achievement of the University's plans, policies and objectives; to evaluate the extent of those risks; and to manage them efficiently, effectively, and economically. Such a system is designed to manage and mitigate rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve business objectives and can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss.

The risk and control framework

The Council has taken reasonable steps to ensure:

- There are appropriate financial and management controls in place to safeguard the assets of the Group and University and prevent and detect fraud, with any concerns investigated thoroughly before the financial statements are signed off.
- The economical, efficient and effective management of the Group and University's resources and expenditure.
- Funds from whatever sources and administered by the University for designated purposes have been applied properly for those purposes and managed in accordance with applicable legislation.
- It is in receipt of regular reports and additional meetings are scheduled, where required, to discuss the issues arising from significant matters such as Crewe, financial statements, OfS and regulatory compliance and the Change Management Plan.

A process is in place for identifying, evaluating, and managing the significant risks facing the University, and ensuring the associated procedures have been in place and operational throughout the year, notably through the regular review and updating of the University's Risk Register. The Risk Register details strategic and recurrent risks and covers governance, management, quality of service, reputational, operational, compliance as well as financial risks together with the range of mitigating controls in place and the early warning indicators for each risk. The Risk Register is under continuous review by senior management and RACC. This enables the University to ensure that it is able to monitor and manage risks in an ever-changing environment.

The key elements of the University's system of risk assessment and internal control, which is designed to discharge the responsibilities set out above, include the following:

- Risk Management, which is led by the Registrar, supported by senior managers, and reports into RACC;
- A medium and short-term financial planning process, supplemented by detailed annual income, expenditure, capital and cash flow budgets;
- Regular reviews of academic performance and monthly reviews of financial results involving variance reporting and updated of forecast outturns;
- Clearly defined requirements for approval and control of expenditure - with investment decisions involving capital or revenue expenditure being subject to review according to approval levels set by FERC; and
- Refresh of an outsourced internal audit function. A new provider was appointed in April 2023 which will create and implement a new framework and program of internal audit across the University's operations.

STATEMENT OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND INTERNAL CONTROL (CONTINUED)

Review of effectiveness

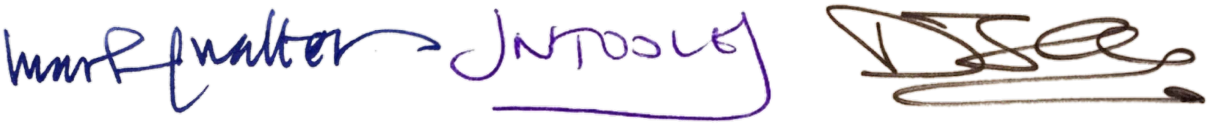
The Council receives periodic reports from RACC (including copies of minutes of its meetings), and arrangements are in place to ensure regular reports are received from University management on their actions to manage risks in their areas of responsibility. Reviews by Council of the effectiveness of the system of internal control are informed by the reports of Council, committees and Officers of the University.

Nominations, Performance and Remuneration Committee

The Nominations, Performance and Remuneration Committee ('NPRC') normally meets bi-annually to monitor the performance of Officers of the University (including the Vice-Chancellor) and members of the University's Executive Committee to determine their remuneration and conditions of service. The Vice-Chancellor attends all meetings other than those involving consideration of his own salary.

The purpose of the system of internal control

NPRC sets the salary of the Vice-Chancellor taking account of the nature of the role, the institution, performance, and in accordance with the Committee of University Chairs' Higher Education Senior Staff Remuneration Code (2018). The Chair of Council undertakes an annual appraisal of the Vice-Chancellor's performance in the previous year, agreeing objectives for the next 12-month period. This takes place at the end of each calendar year.



Mark St John Qualter	Professor James Tooley	David Cole
Chair of Council	Vice-Chancellor	Chief Financial Officer

26 May 2023

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE COUNCIL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BUCKINGHAM

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The University of Buckingham (the 'University') and its subsidiaries ('the Group') for the year ended 31 December 2022 which comprise the Group and University Statements of Comprehensive Income, Group and University Statements of Changes in Reserves, Group and University Statements of Financial Position, Group Statement of Cashflows and the related notes, including a Statement of Principal 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).

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting for Further and Higher Education 2019 in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations, The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, but has been withdrawn.

This has been done in order for the accounts to provide a true and fair view in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015. In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the University's affairs as at 31 December 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources 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 Charities Act 2011.

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 United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council'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 Council's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, including consideration of financial forecasts and cashflows and compliance with bank covenants, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Group's and University'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 Council with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our Auditors' Report thereon. The Council are responsible for the other information contained within the Annual 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. 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 course of 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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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.

Responsibilities of the Governing Body

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities of the University's Council in Relation to the Financial Statements, the Council are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements which give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Council 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 Council are responsible for assessing the Group and University'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 Council either intend to liquidate the Group or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

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 Auditors' 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:

- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance concerning actual and potential litigation, regulatory actions and claims;
- Enquiry of staff to identify any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness;
- Evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for bias;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

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 Auditors Report.

Report on other legal and regulatory

We are required to report on the following matters by the Accounts Direction dated 25 October 2019 issued by the Office for Students ('the Accounts Direction').

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE COUNCIL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BUCKINGHAM

In our opinion, in all material respects:

- funds from whatever source administered by the Academy for specific purposes have been properly applied to those purposes and managed in accordance with relevant legislation; and
- the financial statements meet the requirements of the Accounts Direction dated 25 October 2019 issued by the Office for Students.

We are also required by the Accounts Direction to report where the results of our audit work indicate that the University's grant and fee income, as disclosed in the notes to the financial statements, has been materially misstated. We have nothing to report in these respects.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Council, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Governing Body 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 Group and University and its Council, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

MHA

MHA, Statutory Auditor
London, United Kingdom

Date: 31 May 2023

MHA is the trading name of MacIntyre Hudson LLP, a limited liability partnership in England and Wales (registered number OC312313)

MHA is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

GROUP AND UNIVERSITY STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Note		Group 2022 £000	University 2022 £000	Group 2021 £000	University 2021 £000
	Income				
1	Tuition fees and education contracts	41,128	41,128	37,510	37,510
2	Research grants and contracts	1,049	1,049	1,189	1,189
3	Other income	5,498	4,971	4,069	3,544
4	Investment income	145	18	114	2
	Total income before donations and endowments	**47,820**	47,166	**42,882**	**42,245**
5	Donations and endowments	123	513	647	986
	Total income	**47,943**	**47,679**	**43,529**	**43,231**
	Expenditure				
6	Staff Costs	20,455	20,455	17,088	17,085
7	Other operating expenses	27,315	26,940	20,884	20,580
11	Depreciation	2,385	2,095	2,184	1,877
8	Interest and other finance costs	171	171	259	259
9	**Total expenditure**	**50,326**	**49,661**	**40,415**	**39,801**
	(Deficit)/surplus after other gains/ (losses)	**(2,383)**	**(1,982)**	**3,114**	**3,430**
	Gains on disposal of fixed assets	189	189	1,917	1,917
12	(Losses)/gains on investments	(621)	(529)	798	517
	(Deficit)/surplus for the year	**(2,815)**	**(2,322)**	**5,829**	**5,864**
	Total comprehensive (expenditure)/income for the year	**(2,815)**	**(2,322)**	**5,829**	**5,864**
	Represented by:				
17	Endowment (expenditure)/income for the year	(712)	(443)	1,059	798
18	Restricted (expenditure)/income for the year	(107)	173	(303)	(60)
	Unrestricted (expenditure)/income for the year	(1,996)	(2,052)	5,073	5,126
	(Deficit)/surplus for the year	**(2,815)**	**(2,322)**	**5,829**	**5,864**

The consolidated income is attributable to the University and its subsidiaries. There is no non-controlling interest. All income and expenditure of the University and its subsidiaries relates wholly to continuing operations. The notes on pages 52 to 81 form part of these financial statements.

GROUP AND UNIVERSITY STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN RESERVES FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

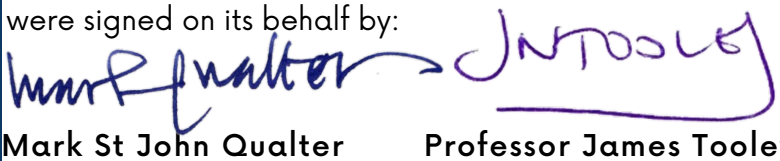
Group	Endowment £000	Restricted £000	Unrestricted £000	Total £000
Balance at 1 January 2021	**6,704**	**6,063**	**4,968**	**17,735**
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	261	(243)	5,811	5,829
Release of restricted funds spent in the year	-	(31)	(355)	(386)
Transfer of expenditure between reserves	552	(169)	(383)	-
New donations and reclassifications	246	140	-	386
Surplus/(deficit) for the year ended 31 December 2021	**1,059**	**(303)**	**5,073**	**5,829**
Balance at 1 January 2022	**7,763**	**5,760**	**10,041**	**23,564**
(Deficit) for the year	(269)	(280)	(2,266)	(2,815)
Release of restricted funds spent in the year	-	(258)	(117)	(375)
Transfer of expenditure between reserves	(443)	80	363	-
New donations and reclassifications	-	351	24	375
(Deficit) for the year ended 31 December 2022	**(712)**	**(107)**	**(1,996)**	**(2,815)**
Balance at 31 December 2022	**7,051**	**5,653**	**8,045**	**20,749**

University	Endowment £000	Restricted £000	Unrestricted £000	Total £000
Balance at 1 January 2021	**3,331**	**5,866**	**2,028**	**11,225**
Surplus for the year	-	-	5,864	**5,864**
Release of restricted funds spent in the year	-	(31)	(355)	**(386)**
Transfer of expenditure between reserves	552	(169)	(383)	-
New donations and reclassifications	246	140	-	**386**
Surplus/(deficit) for the year ended 31 December 2021	**798**	**(60)**	**5,126**	**5,864**
Balance at 1 January 2022	**4,129**	**5,806**	**7,154**	**17,089**
(Deficit) for the year	-	-	(2,322)	**(2,322)**
Release of restricted funds spent in the year	-	(258)	(117)	**(375)**
Transfer of expenditure between reserves	(443)	80	363	-
New donations and reclassifications	-	351	24	**375**
(Deficit)/surplus for the year ended 31 December 2022	**(443)**	**173**	**(2,052)**	**(2,322)**
Balance at 31 December 2022	**3,686**	**5,979**	**5,102**	**14,767**

GROUP AND UNIVERSITY STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

Note		Group 2022 £000	University 2022 £000	Group 2021 £000	University 2021 £000
	Fixed assets				
10	Intangible assets	-	-	-	-
11	Tangible assets	33,757	26,624	35,151	27,733
12	Investments	6,633	7,531	6,581	8,064
	Total fixed assets	**40,390**	**34,155**	**41,732**	**35,797**
	Current assets				
12	Investments	85	-	84	-
13	Trade and other receivables	13,305	14,330	11,777	12,717
	Cash and cash equivalents	12,923	11,163	10,289	7,800
	Total current assets	**26,313**	**25,493**	**22,150**	**20,517**
14	**Less creditors amounts falling due within one year**	(29,102)	(28,837)	**(23,283)**	(22,998)
	Net current liabilities	**(2,789)**	**(3,344)**	**(1,133)**	**(2,481)**
	Total assets less current liabilities	**37,601**	**30,811**	**40,599**	**33,316**
15	**Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year**	**(5,000)**	**(5,000)**	**(5,000)**	**(5,000)**
16	Pension provisions	(3,450)	(3,450)	(2,056)	(2,056)
16	Other provisions	(8,402)	(7,594)	(9,979)	(9,171)
	Total net assets	**20,749**	**14,767**	**23,564**	**17,089**
	Restricted reserves				
17	Income and expenditure reserve - Endowment	7,051	3,686	7,763	4,129
18	Income and expenditure reserve - Restricted	5,653	5,979	5,760	5,806
	Unrestricted reserves				
	Income and expenditure reserve - Unrestricted	8,045	5,102	10,041	7,154
19	**Total reserves**	**20,749**	**14,767**	**23,564**	**17,089**

The financial statements on pages 34 to 81 were approved by Council on 26 May 2023 and were signed on its behalf by:





Mark St John Qualter	Professor James Tooley	David Cole
Chair of Council	Vice-Chancellor	Chief Financial Officer

GROUP STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Group 2022 £000	Group 2021 £000
Cashflow from operating activities		
(Deficit)/surplus for the year	(2,815)	5,829
Adjustments for non-cash items		
Depreciation	2,385	2,184
Release of restricted donations	(375)	(386)
(Increase)/decrease in current investments	(1)	250
(Increase) in student receivables	(2,071)	(1,554)
Decrease/(increase) in other debtors, prepayments, and accrued income	543	(995)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	5,819	(1,761)
(Decrease) in other provisions	(1,577)	(842)
Increase/(decrease) in pension provision, excluding interest of £5,000 (2021:£23,000)	1,389	(1,106)
Adjustments for investing or financial activities		
Interest payable	171	259
Investment income	(145)	(114)
(Gain) on disposal of fixed assets	(189)	(1,917)
Loss/(gain) in investments	621	(798)
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities	3,755	(951)
Cashflows from investing activities		
Investment income	145	114
(Gain)/loss of investments	(621)	798
(Purchase) of investments	(52)	(784)
(Payments) to acquire tangible assets	(1,171)	(2,610)
Proceeds of fixed asset disposals	369	4,943
Net cash (outflow)/inflow from investing activities	(1,330)	2,461
Cash flows from financing activities		
Interest paid	(166)	(274)
New donations - restricted and endowment	375	386
New secured loans	-	5,000
Repayments of amounts borrowed	-	(17,750)
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from financing activities	209	(12,638)
Increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the year	2,634	(11,128)
Cash and cash equivalents as the beginning of the year	10,289	21,417
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	12,923	10,289

Details of the analysis of changes in net debt can be found in Note 20.

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1 Basis of Preparation

The consolidated and University financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP 2019): Accounting for Further and Higher Education, and in accordance with United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102, "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland' (FRS 102)", and the Charities Act 2011.

The University is a public benefit entity and therefore has applied the relevant public benefit requirement of FRS 102. The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis, under the historical cost convention as modified by the recognition of certain financial assets and liabilities measured at fair value. The accounting policies have been applied consistently over the period.

The financial statements reflect the requirements of the Accounts Direction dated 25 October 2019 issued by the Office for Students.

The functional currency of the group is UK sterling and all financial statements have been prepared to the nearest thousand pounds.

The financial statements have been prepared and give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair' view. This departure is required following Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting for further and higher education issued on 1 October 2018, since this statement of recommended practice is most relevant to the University, rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 January 2019.

The University has taken advantage of exemptions in FRS 102 from:

a. Preparing a statement of cash flows for the University, on the basis that it is a qualifying entity and the consolidated statement of cash flows included in these financial statements includes the University's cash flows.

b. The financial instrument disclosures, required under FRS 102 paragraphs 11.39 to 11.48A and paragraphs 12.26 to 12.29, as the information is provided in the consolidated financial statement disclosures.

Basis of preparation - Going concern

The Consolidated and University financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis, based on Trustees' assessment of the financial position, operating model, and forecast cash flows. This assumes the Group and University will continue in operation for the foreseeable future including meeting its future obligations as they fall due.

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

1 Basis of Preparation (continued)

Basis of preparation - Going concern (continued)

The University experienced financial challenges and a decline in financial operating performance in recent years. Responses included measures to reduce costs, such as a necessary programme of staff redundancies to help ensure long-term financial sustainability, in addition to addressing the costs of the Crewe campus lease. The University will continue to drive improved cost efficiency and control in the future to further improve resilience and enable investment in growth and infrastructure to enhance the student experience.

The University continues to engage proactively with its regulators and take actions to further improve governance to prevent recurrence of past issues.

At the balance sheet date the Group is reporting net current liabilities of £2.8m (University: £3.3m), which is a decline of £1.7m (University decline of £0.9m) due to an increase in fees received in advance, trade creditors and accruals.

The University prepares and works to budgets and forecasts on income, expenditure and cashflows to support operational activity and to ensure that it meets all its banking covenant and debt servicing requirements, for the foreseeable future, which is considered to be at least 12 months from the date of this report.

After considering significant potential risks to future plans and forecasts and the potential actions, which could include the sale of additional capital assets and a programme of cost restructuring, the Trustees are satisfied that it remains appropriate to prepare the Group and University financial statements on a going concern basis.

2 Basis of Consolidation

The financial statements for the Group are the consolidation of the financial statements of The University of Buckingham (The "University"), the University of Buckingham Foundation ("the Foundation") and Medical Property Management Ltd ("MPML"). The University has not consolidated its other subsidiaries, being:

a. Buckingham Business Enterprises Ltd, whose net assets and financial performance are immaterial for the purpose of giving a true and fair view.

b. University of Buckingham Medical Sciences North Ltd, a dormant company whose net assets and financial performance are immaterial for the purpose of giving a true and fair view.

The consolidated financial statements do not include the income and expenditure of the Students' Union as the University does not exert control or dominant influence over policy decisions.

2 Basis of Consolidation (continued)

The close relationship between the University and the Foundation is a determining factor in the University exercising effective control. The Trustee board, including the Chair of Trustees, agree that the primary intent of the Foundation is to support the University and are guided by the University in decisions relating to the distribution of funds.

The makeup of the Foundation board is an important, but not the only, factor. Trustees are appointed by the trustee board and the University has a specified minimum number set out in the Foundation trust deed. At the financial year end the Foundation Board comprises four Trustees appointed by the University and three independent of the University.

Membership of the Board fluctuates over time, but the Trustees are clear that their intent is to manage and invest endowments and thereby provide funds for the University in support of its students and staff. They are strongly guided by the University in where funds should be directed, such guidance contributed to the decision to consolidate the results of the Foundation.

Associated companies are accounted for using the equity method. Investment in an associate is held at cost less accumulated impairment losses.

An investment in a subsidiary company is held at cost less accumulated impairment losses in the University's financial statements.

3 Income Recognition

This accounting policy covers: Tuition fees and education contracts, Research grants and contracts, Other income, Investment income, and Donations and endowments.

Income arising from the sale of goods or provision of services (including student accommodation and catering) is recognised and credited to the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income on exchange of such goods and services, or when the terms of the contracts have been satisfied fully. These accounts are shown net of VAT, returns, discounts, and rebates as appropriate. Where services are rendered but are not complete at the end of the period, income is recognised by stage of completion/degree of provision.

Tuition fee income is stated gross of any expenditure which is not a discount. Tuition fee income is credited to the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income on a pro-rata basis across the length of the course, in line with the provision of courses to students.

Bursaries and scholarships are accounted for as expenditure and not deducted from income, unless a restricted donation has been received for the scholarship. These are reflected as a cost to the University, as part of its delivery of student support.

3 Income Recognition (continued)

Validation involves the University reviewing the educational offerings of third-party providers of being a suitable standard for those providers' students to receive University of Buckingham degrees. Validation fee income is recognised when the University is satisfied that its contractual services including academic due diligence have been delivered/ satisfied and the collection of the fees will occur with reasonable certainty.

Franchising involves a third-party provider delivering The University of Buckingham's curriculum to students, who are students of The University of Buckingham, at an external location. Franchise fee income is recognised when the associated student fee income has been billed to students and the collection of these fees will occur with reasonable certainty in the periods in which the students are studying. The University does not currently have any franchise agreements.

Both Validation and Franchise fee income are shown within Other income at Note 3.

Investment income is credited to the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income on a receivable basis.

Grant Funding:

All grant funding, including research grants and capital grants from government and other sources, is recognised in income when the University is entitled to the funding and any performance-related conditions have been met. Performance conditions are defined as 'a condition that requires the performance of a particular level of service or units of output to be delivered, with payment of, or entitlement to, the resources conditional on that performance.'

Income received in advance of performance related conditions being met is recognised as deferred income within Creditors on the Statement of Financial Position and released to income as or when any conditions are met.

Donations and Endowments

Non-exchangeable transactions without performance related conditions are donations and endowments. Donations and endowments with donor-imposed restrictions are recognised as income when the University is entitled to the funds. Income is retained within the restricted reserve until such time that it is utilised in line with such restrictions at which point the income is released to general reserves through a reserve transfer. Donations with no restrictions are recognised as income once the University is entitled to the funds.

Investment income and appreciation of endowments is recorded in income in the year in which it arises and as either restricted or unrestricted income according to the terms applied to the individual endowment fund.

3 Income Recognition (continued)

Donations and Endowments (continued)

There are five main types of donations and endowments identified within reserves:

(a) Restricted donations – the donor has specified that the donation must be used for a particular objective.
(b) Unrestricted donations – the donor has not specified the use of the donation and so it is to be used for the general benefit of the University.
(c) Unrestricted permanent endowments – the donor has specified that the fund is to be permanently invested to generate an income stream for the general benefit of the University.
(d) Restricted expendable endowments – the donor has specified a particular objective other than the purchase or construction of tangible fixed assets, and the University has the power to use the capital.
(e) Restricted permanent endowments – the donor has specified that the fund is to be permanently invested to generate an income stream to be applied to a particular objective.

4 Pension Schemes

The Aviva Group Personal Pension Plan (GPP) is a defined contribution scheme, established by contract. The employer's contributions payable for each accounting period are accounted for as expenditure in the period in which they are incurred.

The NEST Auto Enrolment Scheme (NEST-AES) is a defined contribution scheme, established by contract. The employer's contributions payable for each accounting period are accounted for as expenditure in the period in which they are incurred.

The Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) is a defined benefit scheme, established by trust deed with assets held in a separate fund. The employer's contributions payable for each accounting period are accounted for as expenditure in the period in which they are incurred. In addition, the University is required to provide for the future liability of the deficit recovery plan implemented by the USS.

The University of Buckingham Employee Benefits Plan (EBP), established as a defined contribution scheme by trust deed was closed to further contributions on 31 December 2007. However, the scheme provides a Guaranteed Minimum Pension in respect of periods of membership prior to 6 April 1997. The University accounts for any funding deficit, based on the actuary's reports to the scheme's Trustees on the funding of the scheme at the schemes most recent valuation date, April 2020.

5 Taxation and Charitable status

The University is a Registered Charity within the meaning of Part 3 of the Charities Act 2011. It is also a charity within the meaning of Paragraph 1 of Schedule 6 to the Finance Act 2010. The University is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by section 472 – 488 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied to exclusively charitable purposes.

Charitable status provides no similar exemption from VAT, but the University is defined as an Eligible Body by Schedule 9 Group 6 of the VAT Act 1994. This means that the education provided is exempt from VAT but that VAT cannot be recovered on education related purchases. Irrecoverable VAT is therefore included in both revenue and capital expenditure.

6 Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at historic purchase cost less accumulated depreciation. Cost includes the original purchase price of the asset and the costs attributable to bringing the asset to its working condition for its intended use.

Equipment and property costing more than £3,000 per item or project is capitalised. Other equipment is written off in the year of purchase. Land is not depreciated. Depreciation is provided on a straight-line basis on other assets at the following annual rates so as to write off the cost/valuation:

Buildings:		2%
Equipment:	Furniture, furnishings, equipment	10%-20%
	Office equipment	10%-20%
	Science laboratory equipment	20%-25%
	Motor vehicles	20%
	Computing equipment and software	25%
	Specialist laboratory equipment	33%

On the grounds of materiality, the above six categories have been aggregated as equipment.

The carrying amount of fixed assets is tested for impairment in accordance with the policy described in Note 9.

7 Intangible Assets

Intangible assets are stated at cost less accumulated amortisation and any impairment losses. Cost includes the original purchase price of the asset and costs attributable to bringing the asset to its working condition for intended use.

Amortisation is provided on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful life of the asset. The carrying amount of intangible assets is tested for impairment in accordance with the policy described in Note 9.

8 Investments and joint ventures

Investments

Investments in listed shares are re-measured to fair value at each year-end date. Gains and losses on re-measurement are recognised in surplus or loss for the period. Gains or losses on disposal are recognised within Gains/(losses) on investments within the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

Investments in subsidiaries are carried as cost less impairment.

Joint ventures

Interests in joint ventures are accounted for using the equity method, after being recognised initially at cost in the consolidated Statement of Financial Position.

Under the equity method of accounting, the investments are initially recognised at cost and adjusted thereafter to recognise the Group's share of the post-acquisition profits or losses of the investee in the Group Statement of Comprehensive Income. Dividends received or receivable from associates and joint ventures are recognised as a reduction in the carrying amount of the investment.

Where the Group's share of losses in an equity-accounted investment equals or exceeds its interest in the entity, including any other unsecured long-term receivables, the Group does not recognise further losses, unless it has incurred obligations or made payments on behalf of the other entity.

Unrealised gains on transactions between the Group and its associates and joint ventures are eliminated to the extent of the Group's interest in these entities. Unrealised losses are also eliminated unless the transaction provides evidence of an impairment of the asset transferred. Accounting policies of equity-accounted investees have been changed where necessary to ensure consistency with the policies adopted by the group.

The carrying amount of equity-accounted investments is tested for impairment in accordance with the policy described in Note 9.

9 Impairment of assets

Assets are tested for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount might not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount. The recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less costs of disposal and value in use. For the purposes of assessing impairment, assets are grouped at the lowest levels for which there are separately identifiable cash inflows which are largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets (cash generating units). Non-financial assets other than goodwill that suffered an impairment are reviewed for possible reversal of the impairment at the end of each reporting period.

10 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash includes cash in hand, deposits repayable on demand and overdrafts. Deposits are repayable on demand if they are in practice available within 24 hours without penalty.

An investment qualifies as a cash equivalent only when it has a short term maturity of three months or less from the acquisition date.

11 Provisions

Provisions are recognised in the financial statements when:

(a) The University has a present obligation (legal or constructive) as a result of a past event;
(b) It is probable that an outflow of economic benefit will be required to settle the obligation; and
(c) A reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

12 Reserves

Reserves are classified as restricted or unrestricted. There are two types of restricted reserves:

(a) The first type of restricted reserve, "Endowment reserves", include balances which, through endowment to the University, are held as a permanently restricted fund which the University must hold in perpetuity.
(b) The second type of restricted reserve, called "Restricted reserves", includes balances where the donor has designated a specific purpose and therefore the University is restricted in the use of these funds, and unspent balances of restricted donations are treated in line with the British Universities Finance Directors Group (BUFDG) Implementation Guidance to the SORP. Reserve transfers are made between Restricted and Unrestricted reserves for the depreciation on assets that were funded by grants or donations with restrictions on those underlying assets.

13 Leases

The Group and the University are lessees of property and whether an arrangement is or contains a lease depends on the substance of that arrangement. Leases in which substantially all the risk and rewards incidental to the ownership of an asset are transferred to the lessee by the lessor are classed as finance leases. Leases which are not finance leases are classified as operating leases. Gross rental expenditure in respect of operating leases is recognised on a straight-line basis over the term of the leases, unless another systemic basis is representative of the time pattern of the lessee's benefit from the use of the leased asset. Rent free periods are accounted for within the Statement of Financial Position as Accruals and deferred income.

14 Financial instruments

The Group has chosen to adopt Sections 11 and 12 of FRS 102 in respect of financial instruments.

i) Financial assets

Basic financial assets, including trade and other receivables, cash and bank balances and investments in commercial paper, are initially recognised at transaction price, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest.

Such assets are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

At the end of each reporting period financial assets measured at amortised cost are assessed for objective evidence of impairment. If an asset is impaired, the impairment loss is the difference between the carrying amount and the present value of the estimated cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. The impairment loss is recognised in the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income.

If there is a decrease in the impairment loss arising from an event occurring after the impairment was recognised, the impairment is reversed. The reversal is such that the current carrying amount does not exceed what the carrying amount would have been had the impairment not previously been recognised. The impairment reversal is recognised in profit or loss.

Other financial assets, including investments in equity instruments which are not subsidiaries, associates or joint ventures, are initially measured at fair value, which is normally the transaction price. Such assets are subsequently carried at fair value and the changes in fair value are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income, except that investments in equity instruments that are not publicly traded and whose fair values cannot be measured reliably are measured at cost less impairment.

14 Financial Instruments (continued)

i) Financial assets (continued)

Financial assets are derecognised when:

(a) the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire or are settled; or

(b) substantially all the risks and rewards of the ownership of the asset are transferred to another party; or

(c) despite having retained some significant risks and rewards of ownership, control of the asset has been transferred to another party who has the practical ability to unilaterally sell the asset to an unrelated third party without imposing additional restrictions.

ii) Financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including trade and other payables, bank loans, and loans from fellow Group entities are initially recognised at transaction price, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Fees paid on the establishment of loan facilities are recognised as transaction costs of the loan to the extent that it is probable that some or all of the facility will be drawn down. In this case, the fee is deferred until the draw-down occurs. To the extent there is no evidence that it is probable that some or all of the facility will be drawn down, the fee is capitalised as a pre-payment for liquidity services and amortised over the period of the facility to which it relates.

Trade payables are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Trade payables are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade payables are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the liability is extinguished, that is when the contractual obligation is discharged, cancelled or expires.

iii) Offsetting

Financial assets and liabilities are offset and the net amounts presented in the financial statements when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

14 Financial Instruments (continued)

iv) Financial guarantee contracts

A financial guarantee contract is a contract that requires the issuer to make specified payments to reimburse the holder for a loss it incurs because a specified debtor fails to make payments when due in accordance with the original or modified terms of a debt instrument. These are accounted for under Section 21 of FRS 102. Where appropriate, a provision has been made and/or a contingent liability disclosed.

15 Critical Accounting Judgements and Estimates

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make judgements and adopt estimates that affect the financial statements during the reporting period. These estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

a) Critical judgements in applying the Group and University's accounting policies

(i) Evaluation of the Universities Superannuation Scheme as a multi-employer scheme

The University has judged that the USS meets the definition of a multi-employer scheme for the reasons set out in Note 22.

The scheme is a hybrid pension scheme, providing defined benefits for all members as well as defined contribution benefits. The assets of the scheme are held in a separate trustee-administered fund. Because of the mutual nature of the scheme, the assets are not attributed to individual institutions and a scheme-wide contribution rate is set. The University is therefore exposed to actuarial risks associated with other institutions' employees and is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the scheme on a consistent and reasonable basis. Therefore, as required by Section 28 of FRS 102 "Employee benefits", the University accounts for the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme.

(ii) Effective control of The University of Buckingham Foundation

The University has judged that it is in a position of effective control arising from a number of factors, notwithstanding that the Foundation is a distinct charitable trust, therefore the results of the Foundation have been consolidated in the consolidated financial statements.

The trust deed for the Foundation declares that its primary purpose is to advance the education of the public by, in particular, supporting and promoting the education of students attending the University and by benefiting the wider academic community and purposes of the University as a whole.

15 Critical Accounting Judgements and Estimates (continued)

a) Critical judgements in applying the Group and University's accounting policies (continued)

The close relationship between the University and the Foundation is a determining factor in the University exercising effective control. The Trustee board, a number of whom are officers of the University, agree that the primary intent of the Foundation is to support the University and are guided by the University in decisions relating the distribution of funds.

(iii) The extent of control over a joint venture, Apollo Buckingham Health Sciences Campus Ltd (ABHSC)

The University has a 48% shareholding in ABHSC as at 31 December 2022 (2021: 40%). It has judged that this should be accounted for as a joint venture and as a jointly controlled entity. ABHSC is governed by a joint venture agreement (JVA) between the University and the other two parties holding the remaining shareholding, with no single party having majority control. The JVA sets out the contractual terms governing the joint venture and as such the University has judged that it will account for its shareholding and the results of ABHSC in accordance with the equity method.

(iv) Estimate of financial guarantee contract

The University has provided a commitment to make good up to 50% of any lease payment shortfall for the Booth Hall student residences in Crewe. The lease of Booth Hall was taken out by the JV (ABHSC) from Manchester Metropolitan University. The full value of the guarantee is maintained in a separate Escrow bank account in favour of Manchester Metropolitan University. The Council of The University of Buckingham considers that due to the level of uncertainty of the level of student accommodation income in the JV the full amount of the financial guarantee may need to be invoked, and have maintained appropriate provision for this.

b) Critical estimates in applying the Group and University's accounting policies

In the preparation of the consolidated financial statements, management has made estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported for assets and liabilities as at the Statement of Financial Position date and the amounts reported for income and expenses during the year. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

15 Critical Accounting Judgements and Estimates (continued)

b) Critical estimates in applying the Group and University's accounting policies (continued)

(i) Depreciation and impairment of fixed assets

Assets are depreciated as set out in Note 6, Principal Accounting Policies, which are judged to be an appropriate assessment of the useful life of assets, and assuming that the University is operating as a going concern on the Buckingham campus for the foreseeable future.

The University's material fixed assets are reviewed annually to determine whether their book value should be reduced due to their value being impaired. Estimates are made of the extent of any impairment on individual assets or related groups of assets.

(ii) Onerous contract provisions

The University has a liability under non-cancellable operating lease for its Crewe campus. The lease is effective for 10 years from 2019, with a rent review from 1 January 2025 and an option to renew beyond 10 years. More details are set out in Note 27.

The financial viability of the Crewe campus is dependent on income from Medical and Allied Health students, generated through their teaching and learning at Crewe and on the Joint venture agreement with the Crewe partners

The Crewe campus operating lease is considered to be an onerous lease as the expected net revenues to the University from all relevant activities at Crewe is materially less than the operating lease costs over the lease period, both on a net present value basis. The University uses internal assumptions on forecast student numbers and income and discount rates, and assesses the net revenue due to the University in accordance with the profit share arrangements set out in the Crewe joint venture agreement. Whilst negotiations are ongoing to make new arrangements including a new replacement lease, council considers it prudent to maintain the full provision for the onerous lease made in previous financial statements until the outcome is more certain.

(iii) Impairment of receivables

Student and commercial/trade receivables are reviewed at least annually to determine the extent to which a provision is required against debts that have a reasonable risk of non-payment. The risk reflects the length of time for which the debt has been unpaid and the reason for non-payment.

The University assesses such debts on an individual student or customer basis and does not include general provisions. The University continues to seek payment of such debts until all reasonable efforts have been exhausted.

15 Critical Accounting Judgements and Estimates (continued)

b) Critical estimates in applying the Group and University's accounting policies (continued)

(iv) USS provision

Management, aided by external third-party advisers, has made estimates, as set out in Note 23, on economic and mortality assumptions, including pay awards, as well as estimates of changes to the future membership of the scheme as the scheme is closed to new entrants to the University, unless new staff are transferring benefits.

A key assumption is that future contribution rates will not change, apart from the unwinding of the deficit recovery plan.

16 Related party transactions

The Group and University discloses transactions with related parties which are not wholly owned within the same Group. Where appropriate, transactions of a similar nature, such as regular payments, are aggregated unless, in the opinion of the Council, separate disclosure is necessary to understand the effect of the transactions on the consolidated financial statements.

17 Termination benefits

Termination benefits of any kind relating to staff are based upon the relevant employment contracts, length of service, discretionary awards, and any statutory requirements.

18 Exceptional items

Exceptional items are disclosed separately in the financial statements where it is necessary to do so to provide further understanding of the financial performance of the company. They are items that are material either because of their size or their nature, or that are non-recurring and are considered as exceptional items.

1 Tuition fees and education contract

	Group 2022 £000	University 2022 £000	Group 2021 £000	University 2021 £000
Full-time undergraduates - Home & EU	15,296	15,296	14,616	14,616
Full-time undergraduates – International	17,323	17,323	14,411	14,411
Part-time undergraduates	170	170	167	167
Postgraduates - Home & EU	5,776	5,776	5,238	5,238
Postgraduates - International	2,328	2,328	2,048	2,048
Pre and non-degree courses	235	235	1,030	1,030
	41,128	**41,128**	**37,510**	**37,510**

2 Research grants and contracts

	Group 2022 £000	University 2022 £000	Group 2021 £000	University 2021 £000
Research charities	257	257	292	292
Industry and commerce	792	792	897	897
	1,049	**1,049**	**1,189**	**1,189**

3 Other income

	Group 2022 £000	University 2022 £000	Group 2021 £000	University 2021 £000
Residences	2,932	2,932	1,766	1,766
Catering and bar	365	365	76	76
Validation and franchise fees	1,181	1,181	1,196	1,196
Other income *	973	446	999	474
Government**	47	47	32	32
	5,498	**4,971**	**4,069**	**3,544**

*Other income comprises, in particular: registration fees, medical school materials, credit card commissions earned, and rental income from parties outside The University of Buckingham.

**Figure comprised entirely of the payments received from the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme. Amounts are recognised, having met all the conditions of the scheme.

4 Investment income

	Group 2022 £000	University 2022 £000	Group 2021 £000	University 2021 £000
Investment income	127	-	112	-
Other investment income	18	18	2	2
	145	**18**	**114**	**2**

5 Donations and endowments

	Group 2022 £000	University 2022 £000	Group 2021 £000	University 2021 £000
Donations with restrictions	80	80	647	647
University of Buckingham Foundation donations	-	390	-	339
Unrestricted donations	43	43	-	-
	123	513	647	986

6 Staff costs

	Group 2022 £000	University 2022 £000	Group 2021 £000	University 2021 £000
Salaries*	15,762	15,762	14,963	14,960
Social security costs	1,626	1,626	1,493	1,493
Pension costs, excluding USS	1,615	1,615	1,678	1,678
USS exceptional provisions	1,390	1,390	(1,106)	(1,106)
Apprenticeship levy	62	62	60	60
	20,455	**20,455**	**17,088**	**17,085**

*Within salaries, compensation for loss of office (including voluntary severance) of £66,385 was paid in 2022 (2021: £120,335) which relates to 3 employees (2021: 5 employees). Within these figures, no payments were made in 2022 in respect of compensation for loss of office to members of the key management personnel (2021: £nil).

6 Staff costs (continued)

Average number of full time equivalent members of staff	Group 2022	University 2022	Group 2021	University 2021
Academic	128	128	132	132
Research	8	8	9	9
Support	188	188	208	207
Manual	34	34	34	34
	358	**358**	**383**	**382**

Average headcount of members of staff	Group 2022	University 2022	Group 2021	University 2021
Academic	152	152	140	140
Research	10	10	10	10
Support	223	223	220	219
Manual	40	40	36	36
	425	**425**	**406**	**405**

Remuneration of the Vice-Chancellor

Emoluments of the Vice-Chancellor	2022 £	2021 £
Basic Salary	174,708	170,638
Non-taxable benefits - living accommodation	21,000	18,000
Bonus	-	37,735
Pension contribution to USS	37,650	36,134
	233,358	**262,507**

As a requirement of the contract of employment, the Vice-Chancellor is required to reside at Ondaatje Hall in order to discharge their duties fully. There is considerable value to the University in the Vice-Chancellor residing on the University campus. The University, and not the Vice-Chancellor, has first call on the use of the ground floor and garden of Ondaatje Hall, which is used for hosting University seminars and events during the working week, evenings and weekends. The annual rental value of Ondaatje Hall, a two-storey house, has been assessed by a local estate agent to be £42,000 per annum. The Vice-Chancellor has exclusive use of the first floor only, so £21,000 per annum is considered an appropriate value of the benefit to the Vice-Chancellor. In these financial statements this has been treated as a non-taxable benefit in kind.

6 Staff costs (continued)

The benefit is considered exempt from tax as it is provided for the better performance of the employee's duties and the employment is one of the kinds for which it's customary for employers to provide accommodation for the employee.

Performance-related payments are not contractually a part of the Vice-Chancellor's salary package. During 2022 no ex-gratia bonus was made to the Vice-Chancellor (2021: £37,735).

The Vice-Chancellor's salary is 7.16 times the median salary of staff (2021: 5), where the median pay is calculated on a full-time equivalent basis for the salaries paid by the University to its staff. The Vice-Chancellor's remuneration is 8.87 times (2021: 7.5) the median total remuneration of staff where the median total remuneration is calculated on a full-time equivalent basis for the total remuneration by the University of its staff.

The Vice-Chancellor has the overall responsibility for ensuring the effective and efficient management of the University. The Vice-Chancellor is the Accountable Officer as per OfS Regulatory Advice 10 and as such, bears the responsibility of effective governance and financial stewardship of the University.

The University undertakes collaborations with other institutions around the world and its undergraduate and postgraduate students come from various parts of the world. The Vice-Chancellor is responsible for promoting the University's interests at home and overseas, developing good business relationships between the University and its Collaboration Partners and other stakeholders; including Government representatives, the Office for Students and the Charity Commission.

The Vice-Chancellor works closely with both Council and Senate bodies and leads the Executive Board of the University in all matters relating to governing and running the operations of the University. This ensures appropriate strategic development to deliver the University's academic and financial sustainability.

Assessment of the Vice-Chancellor's performance is conducted on an annual basis This is conducted by the Chair of Council, in consultation with the Remuneration Committee which is based on achievements against the set objectives and the overall performance of the University. These include student recruitment and completion, student satisfaction, staff satisfaction and the overall financial performance.

The Remuneration Committee is responsible for ensuring the right remuneration is set for the Vice-Chancellor to reflect the strategic workload, achievement of performance targets and the general remuneration for Higher Education Heads in the United Kingdom.

6 Staff costs (continued)

Below are the numbers of staff members throughout the University whose basic pay exceeded £100k. Following the guidance issued by the OfS, amounts reimbursed by another body (such as the National Health Service, or the research councils), bonus payments, employer pension contributions, compensation for loss of office and payments under early retirement schemes are not included in these figures.

£	**31 Dec 2022 Number**	Restated 31 Dec 2021 Number
100,000 - 104,999	**1**	-
105,000 - 109,999	**-**	-
110,000 - 114,999	**-**	-
115,000 - 119,999	**-**	-
120,000 - 124,999	**1**	1
125,000 - 129,999	**1**	1
130,000 - 134,999	**-**	1
135,000 - 139,999	**2**	2
140,000 - 144,999	**-**	-
145,000 - 149,999	**-**	-
150,000 - 154,999	**-**	-
155,000 - 159,999	**-**	-
160,000 - 164,999	**-**	-
165,000 - 169,999	**-**	-
170,000 - 174,999	**1**	1
	6	6

Key management personnel

Key management personnel are those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the University and are represented at the University's Executive Committee. Staff costs include salaries paid to key management personnel, plus employer's pension contributions.

	Group/University 2022	Group/University 2021
Key management personnel - total remuneration	£1.27m	£1.17m
Number of key management personnel	10	11
Key management personnel - average remuneration	£127k	£106k

6 Staff costs (continued)

Council members

Council members are the Trustees for charitable law purposes.

A list of Council members who served at any time during the financial year and until the date these financial statements were formally approved is contained in the "Chancellor and Members of Council" section on page 22.

Due to the nature of the University's operations and the composition of the Council, drawn from local public and private sector organisations, it is inevitable that transactions may take place with organisations in which a member of Council may have an interest. All transactions involving organisations in which a member of Council have an interest, including those identified below, are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the University's Financial Regulations and usual procurement procedures. Note 23 contains details of related party transactions in the year.

No members of Council received honoraria from the University during the year (2021: Nil).

The total expenses paid to or on behalf of the Council members in the year was £nil (2021: £1,980), representing travel and subsistence expenses incurred in attending Council, Committee meetings and Charity events including fundraising in their official capacity.

7 Other operating expenses

Other operating expenses include:	**Group 2022 £000**	**University 2022 £000**	Group 2021 £000	University 2021 £000
External auditors' remuneration in respect of audit services	126	120	148	138
Accountancy services from firms other than the external auditor	-	-	32	32
Other costs (see page 58 for further analysis)	27,189	26,820	20,704	20,410
	27,315	**26,940**	**20,884**	**20,580**

7 Other operating expenses (continued)

Further analysis of other costs

Significant cost categories included within other costs:	Group 2022 £000	University 2022 £000	Group 2021 £000	University 2021 £000
Curriculum costs	4,306	4,306	3,377	3,377
Medical student placement fees	7,435	7,435	6,385	6,385
Staff and student travel	1,455	1,455	730	730
Premises costs	3,476	3,247	2,232	2,084
Residence costs	595	595	479	479
General administrative expenses*	9,599	9,459	7,362	7,216
Catering and merchandising costs	323	323	139	139
	27,189	**26,820**	**20,704**	**20,410**

*General administrative expenses include the movements in provisions disclosed in Note 16, plus an increase in the bad debt provision by £1m and other general accruals increases.

8 Interest and other finance costs

	Group 2022 £000	University 2022 £000	Group 2021 £000	University 2021 £000
Bank loans	166	166	236	236
Pension finance interest	5	5	23	23
	171	**171**	**259**	**259**

The Pension finance interest relates to interest charges, incurred by The University of Buckingham, relating to the USS pension scheme.

9 Total expenditure

	Group 2022 £000	University 2022 £000	Restated Group 2021 £000	Restated University 2021 £000
Academic and related expenditure	25,597	25,597	20,071	20,070
Administration and central services	18,930	18,265	15,066	14,453
Premises	3,424	3,424	3,062	3,062
Residences	1,246	1,246	1,148	1,148
Catering and bar	301	301	148	148
Research grants and contracts	828	828	920	920
	50,326	**49,661**	**40,415**	**39,801**

9 Total expenditure (continued)

The University has two classes of business being the provision of education and the delivery of research. The provision of residences, catering, bar plus administration and central services are ancillary activities.

Group Academic and central services expenditure does not include (primarily) £300,000 (restated 2021: £300,000) of rent charged by MPML to the University, as this is eliminated upon consolidation.

In reviewing the categorisation of total expenditure, we have restated the 2021 comparison in order to include the most appropriate costs in each category. there is no impact on the overall results for 2021.

10 Intangible assets

The Group holds one written down intangible asset, relating to a podiatry programme curriculum, acquired by MPML in 2019 at a cost of £246k (2021: £246k). This has been fully amortised and therefore carried a year end book value of £nil (2021: £nil).

11 Tangible assets

GROUP	Freehold land £000	Freehold Buildings £000	Equipment £000	Assets in course of construction £000	**Total £000**
Cost:					
At 1 January 2022	4,222	36,179	19,510	230	**60,141**
Additions	-	-	-	1,171	**1,171**
Disposal	-	(229)	-	-	(229)
Transfer	-	-	1,141	(1,141)	-
At 31 December 2022	**4,222**	**35,950**	**20,651**	**260**	**61,083**
At 1 January 2022	403	11,715	12,872	-	**24,990**
Charge for the year	-	670	1,715	-	**2,385**
Disposal	-	(49)	-	-	**(49)**
At 31 December 2022	**403**	**12,336**	**14,587**	**-**	**27,326**
Net book amount:					
At 31 December 2022	**3,819**	**23,614**	**6,064**	**260**	**33,757**
At 31 December 2021	3,819	24,464	6,638	230	**35,151**

11 Tangible assets (continued)

UNIVERSITY	Freehold land £000	Freehold Buildings £000	Equipment £000	Assets in course of construction £000	**Total £000**
Cost:					
At 1 January 2022	4,222	29,265	17,774	230	**51,491**
Additions	-	-	-	1,166	**1,166**
Disposals	-	(229)	-	-	**(229)**
Transfer	-	-	1,141	(1,141)	**-**
At 31 December 2022	**4,222**	**29,036**	**18,915**	**255**	**52,428**
Accumulated depreciation:					
At 1 January 2022	403	11,103	12,252	-	**23,758**
Charge for the year	-	574	1,521	-	**2,095**
Disposal	-	(49)	-	-	**(49)**
At 31 December 2022	**403**	**11,628**	**13,773**	**-**	**25,804**
Net book amount:					
At 31 December 2022	**3,819**	**17,408**	**5,142**	**255**	**26,624**
At 31 December 2021	3,819	18,162	5,522	230	**27,733**

12 Investments

	Group 2022 £000	**University 2022 £000**	Group 2021 £000	University 2021 £000
Investments in subsidiary undertaking	-	3,844	(53)	3,946
Shares in ABHSC (a joint venture)*	-	-	-	-
Shares in CVCP Properties Plc	23	23	23	23
Other listed investments	6,462	3,516	6,496	3,980
Cash investment deposits: Non-current	148	148	115	115
Cash investment deposits: Current	85	-	84	-
	6,718	**7,531**	**6,665**	**8,064**

*Further details of the joint venture can be found in Note 24

The University owns 0.54% of the issued ordinary share capital in CVCP Properties plc, the company that owns the offices of Universities UK.

The University has an immaterial dormant subsidiary, University of Buckingham Medical Sciences North Ltd., as detailed in Note 24.

12 Investments (continued)

Other listed investments represent equity shares, principally UK equities, managed by external independent professional fund managers. These are recognised as non-current asset investments, as they are held with a long-term intention to earn recurring income that pays for expenditure connected with Restricted and Endowment Funds.

	Group £000	University £000
At 1 January 2022	6,665	8,064
Net movement in the year*	53	(533)
At 31 December 2022	6,718	7,531

*The net movement in the year consists of:

GROUP	£000
(Losses) on investments	(372)
(Losses) on investments held by Foundation	(249)
(Losses) on investments held by the Group	(621)
Net disposal of investments	674
At 31 December 2022	53

UNIVERSITY	£000
(Losses) on investments	(529)
At 31 December 2022	(529)

13 Trade and other receivables

	Group 2022 £000	University 2022 £000	Group 2021 £000	University 2021 £000
Amounts falling due within one year:				
Escrow funds	2,512	2,512	2,507	2,507
Student receivables	9,295	9,295	7,224	7,224
Other trade receivables	76	9	291	6
Prepayments and accrued income	962	958	1,337	1,333
Amounts due from subsidiary undertakings	-	1,096	-	1,229
Other debtors	460	460	418	418
	13,305	**14,330**	**11,777**	**12,717**

The amounts due from subsidiary undertakings are unsecured interest free loans and repayable on demand.

The Group holds £2,512k of funds in an escrow account relating to the financial guarantee contract connected with the Booth Hall student accommodation. The funds were placed in escrow and the liability of £1,623k as at 31 December 2022 (2021: £2,126k) is held within Provisions in these financial statements. The University was required to place these funds in escrow as part of the arrangement made by ABHSC to lease the Booth Hall student accommodation.

The University has judged that this should be treated in the financial statements as a receivable rather than cash and cash equivalents. The restricted cash is contained in a bank account held jointly in escrow with Manchester Metropolitan University and, whilst this does represent cash funds, it is freely available only to the extent released by both parties following payment of rents due.

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Group 2022 £000	University 2022 £000	Group 2021 £000	University 2021 £000
Student fees received in advance	14,618	14,618	12,156	12,156
Trade payables	5,077	5,033	3,362	3,103
Social security and other taxation payable	378	378	300	299
Other payables	1,568	1,568	1,464	1,464
Accruals and deferred income	7,461	7,240	6,001	5,976
	29,102	**28,837**	**23,283**	**22,998**

Any amounts owing to group companies are unsecured, interest free and repayable on demand.

15 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	Group 2022 £000	University 2022 £000	Group 2021 £000	University 2021 £000
Bank loans	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000

Analysis of loan repayments	2022 £000	2021 £000
Due between two and five years	**5,000**	5,000
At 31 December 2022	**5,000**	5,000

The £5m term loan agreement that was set up in 2021 is repayable in 5 years and bears a fixed interest rate of 2.15%. As part of the agreement, a revolving credit facility is available to the University for the duration of the loan, at £7m for 2 years, reducing to £5m in 2023. The revolving credit facility has not been used since the start of the loan agreement. The terms of the loan include financial covenants and in 2022 the University agreed with NatWest that the covenant reporting would be measured from 31st December 2022 and then on a quarterly basis thereafter.

16 Provisions

GROUP	Financial guarantee contract provision	Pension: Employee Benefit Plan	Pension: USS	VAT provision	Crewe lease	**Total**
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	**£000**
At 1 January 2022	2,126	134	1,922	808	7,045	**12,035**
Additional provision	-	-	1,394	-	-	**1,394**
Utilised in the year	(503)	-	-	-	(1,074)	**(1,577)**
At 31 December 2022	**1,623**	**134**	**3,316**	**808**	**5,971**	**11,852**

Financial guarantee contract provision

The Group holds £2,512k of funds in escrow relating to the financial guarantee contract with Manchester Metropolitan University on behalf of ABHSC in relation to the Booth Hall student accommodation. The funds were placed in escrow and the guarantee value as at 31 December 2022 is £1,623k (2021: £2,126k); and as such the provision has been reduced to that value.

Employee Benefit Plan

The Employee Benefit Plan is an in-house pension scheme that is in the process of being wound up. Provisions relate to guaranteed minimum payment equalisation and legal and professional costs relating to the wind-up.

Universities Superannuation Scheme ('USS')

Figures recorded in the table above for the USS pension represent the University's share of the scheme's liabilities and past deficits. USS will adjust its scheme contribution rates from time-to-time, in order to address the deficit in this multi-employer pension scheme. See Note 22 for details.

Adjustment for VAT repayable by the MPML subsidiary

The VAT provision was initially recognised in the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019 and relates to the Medical Property Management Ltd (MPML) subsidiary which is expected to pay a sum to HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) relating to the correction of overclaims of VAT in previous years. These errors relate to the change in the VAT group structure made in early 2018 but implemented retroactively in late 2017, plus corrections regarding the use of the Capital Goods Scheme.

MPML has in subsequent years been in communication with HMRC to make disclosures concerning these errors and with the assistance of independent professional taxation advisers has been liaising with HMRC to finalise the quantum of monies repayable and the chronology for repayment.

16 Provisions (continued)

A Notice of VAT assessments and over-declarations has been received from HMRC which indicates an initial assessment of this liability of £115k. However, HMRC are continuing their investigations regarding other aspects of the liability, all material areas remain under consideration, and interest and penalties can be applied on the amounts due, accordingly at the year end the best estimate of the ultimate liability remains at £808,000. However, this provision is subject to material estimation uncertainty as there are plausible and realistic scenarios under which the total liability could be significantly lower than this current estimate.

Subject to further enquiries being made by HMRC it is anticipated that this matter will be resolved and settled during calendar year 2023.

Crewe campus lease

Where anticipated costs in relation to a leasehold property exceed its anticipated income, a provision is made for the future shortfall to the end of the lease. This provision relates to the Crewe campus lease between ABHSC and the University. Discussions on revised lease terms continued during the year and were ongoing at the date of the signing of these accounts and it is therefore considered prudent to maintain a provision until the results of those discussions are more certain. Movement in provision in the year is the result of the review and update of the discounted cashflow model assumptions.

UNIVERSITY	Financial guarantee contract provision	Pension: Employee Benefit Plan	Pension: USS	Crewe lease	**Total**
	£000	£000	£000	£000	**£000**
At 1 January 2022	2,126	134	1,922	7,045	**11,227**
Additional provision	-	-	1,394	-	**1,394**
Utilised in the year	(503)	-	-	(1,074)	**(1,577)**
At 31 December 2022	**1,623**	**134**	**3,316**	**5,971**	**11,044**

17 Endowment reserves

2022 Capital	Group Restricted Permanent £000	Group Restricted Expendable £000	**Group Total £000**	University Restricted Permanent £000	University Restricted Expendable £000	**University Total £000**
As at 1 January 2022	5,590	910	**6,500**	3,447	22	**3,469**
New donations	-	-	**-**	-	-	**-**
Decrease in market value of investments	(631)	(62)	**(693)**	(443)	-	**(443)**
Capital expenditure	(19)	-	**(19)**	-	-	**-**
As at 31 December 2022	**4,940**	**848**	**5,788**	**3,004**	**22**	**3,026**
Accumulated Income						
As at 1 January 2022	1,128	135	**1,263**	660	-	**660**
Investment income	-	-	**-**	-	-	**-**
Expenditure	-	-	**-**	-	-	**-**
As at 31 December 2022	**1,128**	**135**	**1,263**	**660**	**-**	**660**
Total Funds						
As at 1 January 2022	6,718	1,045	7,763	4,107	22	4,129
As at 31 December 2022	**6,068**	**983**	**7,051**	**3,664**	**22**	**3,686**
Analysis by Fund Type						
Scholarships and bursaries	2,104	961	**3,065**	-	-	**-**
Development funds	3,964	22	**3,986**	3,664	22	**3,686**
At 31 December 2022	**6,068**	**983**	**7,051**	**3,664**	**22**	**3,686**

Analysis by asset type 2022	**Group Total £000**	**University Total £000**
Fixed assets	888	-
Investments	6,611	4,095
Other current assets	(448)	(409)
At 31 December 2022	**7,051**	**3,686**

17 Endowment reserves (continued)

2021 Capital	Group Restricted Permanent £000	Group Restricted Expendable £000	**Group Total £000**	University Restricted Permanent £000	Univeristy Restricted Expendable £000	**University Total £000**
As at 1 January 2021	4,579	841	**5,420**	2,628	22	**2,650**
New donations	246	-	**246**	246	-	**246**
Increase in market value of investments	784	69	**853**	573	-	**573**
Capital expenditure	(19)	-	**(19)**	-	-	**-**
As at 31 December 2021	**5,590**	**910**	**6,500**	**3,447**	**22**	**3,469**
Accumulated Income						
As at 1 January 2021	1,149	135	**1,284**	681	-	**681**
Investment income	40	-	**40**	40	-	**40**
Expenditure	(61)	-	**(61)**	(61)	-	**(61)**
As at 31 December 2021	**1,128**	**135**	**1,263**	**660**	**-**	**660**
Total Funds						
As at 1 January 2021	**5,728**	**976**	**6,704**	**3,309**	**22**	**3,331**
As at 31 December 2021	**6,718**	**1,045**	**7,763**	**4,107**	**22**	**4,129**
Analysis by Fund Type						
Scholarships and bursaries	2,311	1,023	**3,334**	-	-	**-**
Development funds	4,407	22	**4,429**	4,107	22	**4,129**
At 31 December 2021	**6,718**	**1,045**	**7,763**	**4,107**	**22**	**4,129**

Analysis by asset type 2021	**Group Total £000**	**University Total £000**
Fixed assets	888	-
Investments	6,611	4,095
Other current assets	264	34
At 31 December 2021	**7,763**	**4,129**

17 Endowment reserves (continued)

Details of the material funds (balances over £500,000) as at 31 December 2022 are as follows:

Fund Name	Type	Purpose	As at 1 January 2022 £000	Income & New Donations £000	Expenditure £000	Revaluation Gains/ (losses) £000	As at 31 December 2022 £000
Vinson	Permanent	Economics & Entrepreneurship	4,107	-	-	(443)	3,664
Gregory	Permanent	Economics & Entrepreneurship	1,852	90	(42)	(111)	1,789
Desborough	Expendable	Scholarships & Bursaries	657	10	(3)	(40)	624

Each of the individually material endowment funds detailed above represent other listed investments and cash investment deposits only, and each are of sufficient value and liquidity to enable them to be applied in accordance with their associated restrictions.

18 Restricted reserves

Reserves with restrictions are as follows:

2022	Group £000	University £000
At 1 January 2022	5,760	5,806
Other restricted income	127	-
New donations and re-classifications	375	351
Expenditure	(689)	(258)
Transfer to unrestricted reserves	80	80
Total restricted reserve comprehensive (expenditure)/income for the year	**(107)**	**173**
At 31 December 2022	**5,653**	**5,979**

2021	Group £000	University £000
At 1 January 2021	6,063	5,866
Other restricted income	112	-
New donations and re-classifications	140	140
Expenditure	(386)	(31)
Transfer to unrestricted reserves	(169)	(169)
Total restricted reserve comprehensive (expenditure) for the year	**(303)**	**(60)**
At 31 December 2021	**5,760**	**5,806**

19 Total reserves

	Group 2022 £000	University 2022 £000	Group 2021 £000	University 2021 £000
At 1 January	23,564	17,089	17,735	11,225
(Deficit)/surplus for the year	(2,815)	(2,322)	5,829	5,864
Release of restricted funds spent in year	(375)	(375)	(386)	(386)
New donations and re-classifications	375	375	386	386
At 31 December	**20,749**	**14,767**	**23,564**	**17,089**

Analysis of donations and new grants in the year by type of purpose:

	Group 2022 £000	University 2022 £000	Group 2021 £000	University 2021 £000
Scholarships and bursaries	80	80	647	647
Research support	-	390	-	339
Unrestricted donations	43	43	-	-
	123	513	647	986

	Group 2022 £000	University 2022 £000	Group 2021 £000	University 2021 £000
Restricted donations	80	470	647	986
Unrestricted donations	43	43	-	-
	123	513	647	986

At the date of the signing of these accounts the Trustees were performing but had not yet completed a review of the University's Endowment, Restricted and Unrestricted funds, and the presentation of income and expenditure associated with the University endowment funds.

20 Consolidated reconciliation of net debt

	At 31 December 2022 £000
Net debt 1 January	**(5,289)**
Movement in cash and cash equivalents	2,634
Other non-cash changes	(5,268)
Net debt 31 December	**(7,923)**
Change in net debt	(2,634)

Analysis of net debt:	**2022 £000**	2021 £000
Cash and cash equivalents	**12,923**	10,289
Borrowings: amounts falling due in one year		
Unsecured loans	-	-
Borrowings: amounts falling due after more than one year		
Unsecured loans	**(5,000)**	(5,000)
Net debt	**(7,923)**	**(5,289)**

21 Capital commitments

At the year end the University had £1.6m in capital commitments (2021: £nil), relating to the Franciscan building development project (£1.4m) and other smaller renovation projects (£0.2M), started in 2022.

22 Pension commitments

The University participates in the following pension schemes:

- The Aviva Group Personal Pension Plan ('GPP') and the NEST Auto Enrolment Scheme ('NEST-AES') are defined contribution schemes, so no commitment exists beyond the employer's contractual contributions for each accounting period. The NEST-AES is a money purchase scheme contracted into the State Second Pension ('S2P'), which covers a small number of staff under auto enrolment.
- The University of Buckingham Employee Benefits Plan ('EBP') has defined benefits for those members with Guaranteed Minimum Pension rights and the University accounts for the deficit of EBP's liabilities over assets.
- The Universities Superannuation Scheme ('USS') provides defined benefits, which entail long term liabilities, for which the University is ultimately responsible and accounts for its share of USS's deficit. The fund is valued every three years by professionally qualified independent actuaries. Membership of the fund is closed to new members of staff unless they are already members of the scheme through previous employments.

22 Pension commitments (continued)

The Universities Superannuation Scheme ('USS')

Basis of the scheme

USS is the main scheme covering academic and academic-related staff which provides pensions based in part on defined benefit career average and part defined contributions. The scheme is a hybrid pension scheme, providing defined benefits for all members as well as defined contribution benefits. The assets of the scheme are held in a separate trustee-administered fund. Because of the mutual nature of the scheme, the assets are not attributed to individual institutions and a scheme-wide contribution rate is set. The University is therefore exposed to actuarial risks associated with other institutions' employees and is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the scheme on a consistent and reasonable basis.

As required by Section 28 of FRS 102, "Employee benefits", the University accounts for the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. As a result, the amount charged to the Statement of Income represents the contributions payable to the scheme. Since the University has entered into an agreement (the 'Recovery Plan') that determines how each employer within the scheme will fund the overall deficit, the University recognises a liability for the contributions payable that arise from the agreement (to the extent that they relate to the deficit) and an expense is recognised.

FRS 102 makes the distinction between a group plan and a multi-employer scheme. A group plan consists of a collection of entities under common control typically with a sponsoring employer. A multi-employer scheme is a scheme for entities not under common control and typically represents an industry-wide scheme such as USS.

In a multi-employer scheme, where the employer has entered into an agreement with the scheme that determines how the employer will fund a deficit, this results in the recognition of a liability for the contributions payable (to the extent that they relate to the deficit). The resulting expense is reflected in profit or loss in accordance with section 28 of FRS 102. The University is satisfied that the USS meets the definition of a multi-employer scheme and has therefore recognised the discounted fair value of the contractual contributions under the latest available recovery plan at the year end.

Financial impact of the scheme valuation

A schedule of contributions based on the 31 March 2022 valuation has been agreed as:

	Employer	Employee
1 October 2019 to 30 September 2021	21.1%	9.6%
1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022	21.4%	9.8%
1 April 2022 to 31 March 2024	21.6%	9.8%
1 April 2024 onwards	21.4%	9.8%

These contributions include a provision for the costs of future accrual of defined benefits and contributions towards the correction of the deficit in the defined benefit section.

22 Pension commitments (continued)

The University's provision for future liabilities increased by £1.4 during the year to £3.3m at 31 December 2022 (2021: £1.9m).

Actuarial information and assumptions

Since the University cannot identify its share of USS Retirement Income Builder assets and liabilities, the following disclosures reflect those relevant for the scheme's assets and liabilities as a whole.

The University has 113 active members as at 31 December 2022 (2021: 113 active members).

Discount rate: 4.0% at 31 December 2022, based on the discount rate for Barclays 2-Year Flexible Bond - Issue 55 as at 31 December 2022.

Discount rate (forward rates)
Years 1-10: CPI + 0.14% reducing linearly to CPI – 0.73%
Years 11-20: CPI + 2.52% reducing linearly to CPI + 1.55%
Years 21+: CPI + 1.55%

Pension increases (CPI): term dependent rates in line with the difference between the fixed interest and index linked yield curves less 1.3%

Pay increases: Future salaries increase rate 2%, no change in staff membership.

Mortality base table
The main demographic assumption relates to the mortality assumptions. These assumptions are based on analysis of the scheme's experience carried out as part of the 31 March 2018 actuarial valuation.

The current life expectancies on retirement at age 65 are:

	2022	2021
Males currently aged 65 years	24.4 years	24.4 years
Females currently aged 65 years	25.9 years	25.9 years
Males currently aged 45 years	26.3 years	26.3 years
Females currently aged 45 years	27.7 years	27.7 years

Figures in the table above are identical for 2022 and 2021; they are taken from the scheme valuation dated 31 March 2018 and there was no scheme valuation performed in 2022.

22 Pension commitments (continued)

Cost to the University	Group/Univeristy 2022 £000	Group/University 2021 £000
Contributions to USS	**950**	1,081
Contributions to GPP	**656**	589
Contributions to AES	**9**	7
Increase/(decrease) in provision for USS liabilities	**1,390**	(1,106)
Total pension cost for the year (Note 6)	**3,005**	**571**

Contributions outstanding at 31 December	Group/Univeristy 2022 £000	Group/University 2021 £000
To USS	**107**	117
To GPP	**85**	80
To AES	**4**	2
Total outstanding	**196**	**199**

Most recent actuarial valuations

A triennial actuarial valuation of the USS Retirement Income Builder was carried out at 31 March 2020 (the valuation date), using the projected unit method. This was performed for USS 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 of 31 March 2022, the value of the assets of the scheme was £88.9 billion and the value of the scheme's technical provisions was £91.0 billion indicating a deficit of £2.1 billion and a funding ratio of 97.0%.

Based on the Schedule of contributions per the 31 March 2022 valuation, the agreed contributions for employer and employee is now 21.4% and 9.8% respectively, from 1 April 2024 onwards.

In accordance with the requirements of FRS 102, the University currently recognises a provision for its obligation to fund past deficits arising within USS. The recovery plan in the 2018 actuarial valuation required employers to contribute 2.0% of salaries over the period 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2021, at which point the rate would increase to 6.0%. If the deficit contributions are made at this level and experiences follow the assumptions made in the recovery plan, the deficit is expected to be resolved by 31 March 2028.

22 Pension commitments (continued)

The Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) "Schedule of contributions – March 2022" has been prepared by the Trustee of USS, to satisfy the requirements of section 227 of the Pensions Act 2004, after obtaining advice of Aaron Punwani, the actuary to the Scheme appointed by the Trustee.

This is the second schedule of contributions for the Scheme following the valuation with an effective date of 31 March 2020 and it supersedes all earlier versions. It reflects the benefit structure and covenant support measures implemented as part of and then subsequent to the 2020 valuation.

A pattern of contributions was determined by the Trustee on 28 March 2022 after consultation with Universities UK, the body nominated by the Rules of the Scheme to act as the representative of the institutions with a liability in the Scheme (the "Employers"), for the purposes of consultation required by the Trustee with Employers under Section 229 of the Pensions Act 2004.

The Trustee has signed the March 2022 Schedule of contributions to indicate that it represent an accurate record of the pattern of contributions and the schedule is effective from the date it is certified by the Scheme Actuary (i.e. 28 March 2022).

The USS Trustee board has agreed the future contribution rates effective from 1 October 2021, with employer contributions at 21.4% and member contributions at 9.8%. This replaces the employer and member contributions in place to 30 September 2021 of 21.1% and 9.6% respectively. In February 2022 the board confirmed they will pursue their initial proposal to instigate a small increase in contribution rates from the 2018 valuation but extend the deficit recovery period as a result of the decision to proceed with benefit change by the Joint Negotiating Committee (JNC).

Management are assessing the impact of this revised schedule of contributions on the reported deficit provision.

The University of Buckingham Employee Benefits Plan (EBP)

The EBP is a defined contribution (money purchase) scheme which includes guaranteed minimum pension (GMP) benefits. The scheme started to wind up on 31 January 2008 when it operated on a contracted in basis. The scheme was contracted out on a GMP basis prior to 6 April 1997.

Those members with GMP benefits in respect of contracted out service prior to April 1997 have pensions payable from the scheme which must not be less than the GMPs specified in legislation. The GMP rights mean the scheme provides a defined benefit. On retirement the full proceeds of each member's individual account with Royal London are used to secure benefits in terms of the rules of the scheme, via the purchase of an annuity policy.

22 Pension commitments (continued)

The net assets of the fund as at 5 April 2020 (the plan's financial year-end) were £65,000 with the value of investments designated to members valued on this date as £65,000. The assets of the plan are invested in units of various funds with Royal London.

The latest actuarial valuation of the scheme in place at the year-end was prepared as at 6 April 2020. The valuation results indicated the scheme was 75% funded with a calculated shortfall of £152,000. It was agreed that no further contributions will be made but UOB will continue to pay the cost of Pensions Protection Fund levies and the cost of any expenses other than those paid by Royal London.

The assumptions underlying the contributions required to address the valuation shortfall allow for changes since the valuation date. The purchase of immediate annuities for 3 members and deferred annuities for the remaining two members match the members' benefits. The assets at the valuation date are slightly in excess of the purchase price of the deferred annuities, leading to no shortfall in the scheme and no recovery plan contributions were required, despite a shortfall being shown at the valuation date.

Most recent valuations and actuarial information and assumptions

There are 5 members of the scheme.

Funding Position	**6 April 2020 Valuation £000**	**6 April 2017 Valuation £000**
Total GMP member liabilities	**153**	**201**
Assets		
GMP accounts	-	113
Contingency account	7	43
Net current assets	(6)	(6)
Total Assets	**1**	**150**
(Deficit)	**(152)**	**(51)**
Funding ratio	1%	75%

Discount rate:
Before retirement 0.6% p.a. (10 year gilts -0.95%)
After retirement 0.2% p.a. (10 year gilts -0.55%)

	2022	**2021**
RPI inflation:	3.1% p.a.	3.1% p.a.
CPI inflation:	2.3% p.a.	2.3% p.a.
GMP increases in deferment:	Fixed rates	Fixed rates

Increases in payment:	**2021**	**2021**
GMP earned before 6/4/88 level	0.0% p.a.	0.0% p.a.
GMP earned on or after 6/4/88 (CPI max 3% p.a)	2.3% p.a.	2.3% p.a.

22 Pension commitments (continued)

Mortality base table:

The main demographic assumption relates to the mortality assumptions. These assumptions are based on analysis of the scheme's experience carried out as part of the 6 April 2020 actuarial valuation. The mortality assumptions used in these figures are as follows:

	Male	Female
Current pensioner aged 65 years - cohort	87.5	89.1
Current pensioner aged 65 years - period	86.1	87.8
Future pensioner aged 65 - 20 years in the future	89.2	90.7
Future improvement rate	1.50%	1.25%

The EBP pension provision of £134,000 in the University relates to potential payments to encourage a reduction in Scheme membership by way of transfer values or the purchase of annuities, where possible. The provisions are required for GMP equalisation costs and legal advice, together with wind up costs. If a member, after taking financial advice, decides that he/she wishes to transfer his/her benefits to a new provider, then the employer will need to provide this enhancement. The aim has been for the benefits of the GMP members to be bought and replaced with a deferred annuity. The intention is to wind up the scheme and distribute assets to remaining members.

23 Related party transactions

Council members are the trustees for charitable law purposes. Due to the nature of the University's operations and the composition of the Council, being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, it is inevitable that transactions will take place with organisations in which a member of the Council may have an interest. All transactions involving organisations in which a member of Council may have an interest are conducted in accordance with the University's Financial Regulations and usual procurement procedures. An updated Register of Interests for all members of Council and senior management is maintained.

23 Related party transactions (continued)

Individual Trustee or senior management	Related party and relationship	Transaction	2022			
			Receipts £	Payments £	Debtors £	Creditors £
Professor Joe Harrison	Chief Executive Officer of Milton Keynes University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	Operating costs of the University - payments made to the NHS Trust not to Prof. Harrison personally	-	1,256,199	-	2,160,411
Caitlin Botha	Member of the University Council	Accommodation Provided	1,435	-	1,515	-
Mr Nicholas Hillman	Director of HEPI	The University pays an annual membership to HEPI and sponsored a specific report	-	2,400	-	4,200
Rachael Shimmin	Chief Executive Officer of Buckinghamshire Council	Operating costs of the University - payments made to the Council not to Ms Shimmin personally	-	68,773	-	-
Mr Keith Bothongo	Daughter was a student	Course fees	19,000	-	-	-

Adolfo Paolini and Debapita Bardhan-Correia, a member of Council and of senior management respectively, had spouses employed by the University during 2022 and 2021. Their employment was on an arms length basis

Individual Trustee or senior management	Related Party and Relationship	Transaction	2021			
			Receipts £	Payments £	Debtors £	Creditors £
Professor Joe Harrison	Chief Executive Officer of Milton Keynes University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	Operating costs of the University - payments made to the NHS Trust not to Prof. Harrison personally	-	2,932,547	-	686,268
Ms Misty McCrory	Director of Medical Property Management Ltd	Salary from wholly-owned subsidiary	-	2,629	-	-
Caitlin Botha	Member of the University Council	Accommodation Provided	11,874	-	2,950	-
Mr Nicholas Hillman	Director of HEPI	The University pays an annual membership to HEPI	-	2,400	-	-
Mr Mark Rushton	Member of the University Council	Expenses as Council Member of the University	2,250	-	-	-

23 Related party transactions (continued)

Related party transactions for the year ended 31 December 2022 are as follows:

Medical Property Management Ltd (MPML)

Transaction	2022				2021			
	Receipts £	Payments £	Debtors £	Creditors £	Receipts £	Payments £	Debtors £	Creditors £
Rental payments made by the University to MPML for the former's use of the Milton Keynes Academic Centre	-	450,000	-	-	-	300,000	-	150,000
Settlement of inter-company balance	630,695	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Amounts owed by MPML to the University	-	-	93,979	-	-	-	630,695	-

University of Buckingham Foundation (UoBF)

Transaction	2022				2021			
	Receipts £	Payments £	Debtors £	Creditors £	Receipts £	Payments £	Debtors £	Creditors £
Grants awarded by the Foundation to the University	-	-	414,840	-	-	-	339,732	-
Rent paid by the University regarding student accommodation properties owned by the Foundation	-	61,200	-	-	-	61,200	-	-
Balances owed by the Foundation to the University at year end	-	-	1,002,395	-	-	-	598,229	-

Other related party transactions and disclosures are as follows:

- Apollo Buckingham Health Sciences Campus Ltd (ABHSC) is a related party of The University of Buckingham. Two of the four Board of Directors of ABHSC are University employees and the University is not considered to be the controlling entity.

  The University provides a financial guarantee contract for 50% of the lease payments between ABHSC and Manchester Metropolitan University as per Note 13.

  In 2019 the University entered into lease arrangements with ABHSC in respect of the campus at Crewe. The lease is currently being renegotiated, an update on which is provided in Note 24.

- Mr Mohammed Syed, Council member and Chair of the University's Finance, Estates and Resources committee during the year, is a senior executive of a bank which is a member of National Westminster Bank plc (NatWest). NatWest are the University's main bankers and have provided loans to the University, as set out in Note 15.

24 Subsidiary, joint venture, and associate undertakings

Company	Principal Activity	Status	Holding of ordinary shares	Registered Office
Medical Property Management Ltd	Property holding and management, acquisition of academic curriculum	Subsidiary	100%	Yeomanry House Hunter Street Buckingham MK18 1EG
Buckingham Business Enterprise Ltd	Used as academic support for business, enterprise, and innovation students	Subsidiary	100%	Yeomanry House Hunter Street Buckingham MK18 1EG
The University of Buckingham Foundation	Receives, holds, and distributes donations, primarily in support of the University	A separately constituted unincorporated charity, under the effective control of the University	Not applicable	Yeomanry House Hunter Street Buckingham MK18 1EG
Apollo Buckingham Health Sciences Campus Ltd	Provides facilities management and student support services for medical and other Allied Health students on the Crewe campus	Joint venture	48%	College House The Campus Crewe Green Road Crewe Cheshire CW1 5DU
University of Buckingham Press Ltd	Publishers	Associate	25%	9 The Fairway Northwood HA6 3DZ
University of Buckingham Medical Sciences North Ltd	Dormant company	Subsidiary	N/A Company limited by guarantee	Yeomanry House Hunter Street Buckingham MK18 1EG

Medical Property Management Ltd
This wholly owned subsidiary has been consolidated in the University financial statements.

Buckingham Business Enterprise Ltd
The results of this wholly owned subsidiary are deemed to be immaterial to the results of the University so have not been consolidated.

24 Subsidiary, joint venture, and associate undertakings (continued)

The University of Buckingham Foundation (the Foundation)

The University is in a position of effective control arising from a number of factors, notwithstanding that the Foundation is a distinct charitable trust and therefore the results of the Foundation have been consolidated in the consolidated financial statements.

The trust deed for the Foundation declares that its purpose is to advance education, in particular supporting and promoting the education of students at the University, and to promote research into academic and scientific fields of learning.

The close relationship between the University and the Foundation is a determining factor in the University exercising effective control. The Foundation's Board of Trustees agrees that the primary intent of the Foundation is to support the University and the Trustees are guided by the University in decisions relating to the distribution of funds.

Apollo Buckingham Health Sciences Campus Ltd (ABHSC)

The University held a 40% shareholding (80 x £1 ordinary shares) in the company, ABHSC from its inception in 2019, until an agreement was signed in October 2022, whereby the share in the joint venture held by Unique CIC were transferred in agreed proportions to the University and Apollo Education UK Ltd," increasing the University's shareholding in the JV to 48%.

In August 2022, £1.3m became payable under an agreement signed in December 2021 and was duly paid. Discussions are continuing, the purpose of which is to review and revise the commercial arrangements, as set out in the joint venture agreement, plus the University's arrangements to occupy certain buildings on campus. and even though the sum has been paid, the University has a reasonable expectation that its financial commitments overall will be lower than current commitments (per Note 25) as a result of a new agreement.

The University has no contractual commitment to cover any losses of ABHSC but is committed to its occupational damages payments reflecting an economic rental for the utilised campus whilst contractual lease arrangements are renegotiated.

The unaudited ABHSC financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022 show retained losses of £2,730,000 from incorporation on 24 March 2017 to 31 March 2022. Accordingly, the University's shares in ABHSC are held at 31 December 2022 at a value of £nil (2021: £nil).

University of Buckingham Press Ltd

The results of the University's minority investment in this company are immaterial to the results of the University and have not been consolidated.

University of Buckingham Medical Sciences North Ltd

This subsidiary was registered on 29 January 2020. This company has remained dormant since its incorporation.

25 Lease commitments

The University entered into a joint venture agreement in October 2018 with Apollo Education UK Ltd and Unique Children's Community Interest Company, including a 10 year lease with Apollo Buckingham Heath Sciences Ltd for the University's campus in Crewe. Under the agreement, the University would be committed to lease payments estimated at £40.1m in total over 10 years, after the benefit of an initial £4.0m rent-free amount. Lease payments are fixed amounts payable in accordance with the terms of the operating lease agreement until 31 December 2024, following which there is a rent review option. There is an option to renew the lease after 10 years. These arrangements are all subject to the discussions as per Note 24 and as such are in the process of being renegotiated. The commitments disclosed here are as per the original lease as at the balance sheet date.

Total minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases under the lease for the Crewe campus are as follows, after taking into account the £4m rent-free amount:

	Land and buildings 2022 £000	Other Leases 2022 £000	Total 2022 £000	Land and buildings 2021 £000	Other Leases 2021 £000	Total 2021 £000
Not later than one year	4,424	43	**4,467**	3,913	31	**3,944**
Later than one year and not later than five years	19,548	52	**19,600**	18,950	73	**19,023**
Later than five years	10,347	-	**10,347**	15,384	-	**15,384**
	34,319	**95**	**34,414**	**38,247**	**104**	**38,351**

Onerous lease provisions have been disclosed in Note 16.

Lease payments in the year amounted to £1,400k (2021: £1,525k) for land and buildings leases and £64k (2021: £36k) for other leases.

THE UNIVERSITY OF BUCKINGHAM

England & Wales - Charity number 1141691

Accounts



The University of Buckingham

Annual report & financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2021

Registered Charity Number 1141691

Annual Report & Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2021

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LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Corporate Status

The University of Buckingham (the "University") is incorporated by Royal Charter, number RC000730. The University is a Registered Charity, number 1141691.

Principal place of business
The University of Buckingham
Yeomanry House
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Buckingham
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Independent auditors
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EC2Y 5AU

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National Westminster Bank plc
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80 High Street
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MK11 1AJ

CHAIR'S STATEMENT

As I write this statement at the beginning of 2023 and in only my third month as Chair, a significant amount of time has elapsed since the 2021 accounting year to which these statements refer. As in 2020, the University was still being impacted by the COVID pandemic but had successfully adapted its operations to continue to serve its students with the highest standards of learning. That did not come without challenge, and I pay tribute again to both our staff and our students for how they adapted to them. 1,100 students graduated in the year across 15 subjects which is something to be very proud of under the circumstances.

During all this time, the University continued to welcome students from the UK and all around the world, albeit in many cases digitally, but still managed to nurture and inculcate our core values and principles of independence, free speech, and diversity, of which we are so proud and which we believe make us very different.

The University continued to work through the governance issues referred to in previous financial statements and continued embedding the improved policies and procedures recommended to the governing body. In August 2021, a new Charter and set of Statutes were approved by the Privy Council and came into force together with a comprehensive set of Ordinances and New Schemes of Delegation. All of these have been specifically designed to improve governance, accountability and transparency. We continue to work tirelessly to embed these across all our operations.

As was the case for the 2020 financial year, we are presenting these financial statements much later than we would have liked due to the continued knock-on effect of the issues with the 2019 accounts. That said, we are releasing these accounts just two months after submitting the 2020 accounts, and are now fully compliant with our reporting obligations. I am pleased to point out the continued improvement in financial performance. I must pay tribute here to our Chief Financial Officer who joined the University less than a year ago. He has done a fantastic job to get us to where we are. I must also thank his small team for the considerable efforts they have made. Our Vice Chancellor, James Tooley, who took on his role at a very difficult time continues to lead the institution with real passion and enthusiasm.

I write this statement with real optimism for the future. Over the first few weeks as Chair, I have personally spoken to a number of people across our Council, Senate, the senior team, staff colleagues and student representatives and they are all hugely committed to the success of the University of Buckingham and to delivering world-class learning and a truly memorable student experience. As we emerge from the difficulties of recent times, we now at last can start to turn to the future and develop a strategy worthy of the institution that ensures the sustained success of this unique University.



Mark St John Qualter
Chair of Council

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S STATEMENT

Like my Chair of Council, I acknowledge that these financial statements are delivered much later than we would have liked. This is the inevitable knock-on consequences of the very much delayed accounts of 2019, which led to delays to 2020 and finally to these. However, with the delivery of these financial statements I am delighted that we are now compliant once again with our regulators – and will maintain this when the 2022 financial statements are delivered on time. I would like to express my deep gratitude to our finance team for their dedicated work in getting us to this point, and to our audit team, for their support throughout.

Looking back to 2021, July 19th was the momentous day the British government finally lifted lockdown restrictions, in place since March 2020.

The University of Buckingham energetically and immediately embraced the freedoms this offered. We recommenced our "Tales from the River Bank" public talks for town and gown, held in the garden of the Vice-Chancellor's residence, adjacent to the River Great Ouse. The first talk featured Dr Tony (now Baron) Sewell, talking about his Commission's recent report on race and ethnic disparities.

Open Day in July, the first face-to-face one since October 2019, and a second in October were both well received. We resumed face-to-face graduations, the first for over two years, all attended in person by our dedicated Chancellor, Dame Mary Archer. It was also a pleasure to conduct graduation ceremonies in person with some of our collaboration partners, including the Condé Nast College of Fashion & Design in Soho.

The wider community too benefited from the University's "re-opening". Buckinghamshire Business First held their open day in the Vinson Building, with the Department of Trade and Industry following with a learning taster day. We also held two well-attended face-to-face alumni events, a colloquium on innovation and the environment, with a panel featuring amongst others our MP, Greg Smith, and a long awaited "Return to Campus" event, in which over 200 alumni, students and staff enjoyed reconnecting in the glitzy setting of the Villiers Ballroom.

With lockdown lifted, I was once again able to take part in events in the Town. These included opening the Buckingham Art for All festival, and the town-versus-gown "University Challenge" quiz event, organised by BACAB, the charity which raises money for the Buckingham Citizens' Advice Bureau.

With all of this activity, I was proud that we re-opened more quickly than many other British universities. It was so thrilling to see students and staff drifting back onto campus after the long enforced absence. Of course, this is in part because the University of Buckingham does not have a long summer break and has an extra term which makes possible our two-year undergraduate degrees.

We had the advantage that our two major points of entry brought; young people that were reluctant to start courses in Autumn 2021, unsure of how things would unfold vis-à-vis lockdowns, were able to join us in January 2022 once reassured, starting only a few months later rather than waiting a full year.

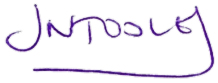
During 2021, some major building and renovation work took place; including phase I of an extensive refurbishment in the Franciscan Building, providing additional labs for computing students and to update the technology held by the University. The old cellars became state-of-the-art AI and robotics facilities. We also completed a phase I update to our student facilities in the Tanlaw Mill, an investment to improve the student experience. I am now proud to show people around these attractively designed amenities.

2021 was the year the Faculty of Education came in from the cold, as it were, joining us on the Buckingham campus taking up residence in the top floor of the Vinson Building.

Joint working between Senate and Council also led to the successful update of our Charter & Statutes, submitted to the Privy Council in April 2021.

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S STATEMENT (continued)

To conclude, there is now a great feeling of optimism around the University. We have overcome the difficulties that resulted in the late publication of our financial statements, and are looking to the future with renewed confidence.



Professor James Tooley
Vice-Chancellor

TRUSTEES' REPORT

The Trustees' Report represents the strategic review for the Group and University.

Corporate Status, Reference and Administrative Details

The University of Buckingham was incorporated by Royal Charter on 11 February 1983. Prior to that, the University College at Buckingham was founded in 1973 and admitted its first students in 1976.

The University is not-for profit and is a Recognised Body under Statutory Instrument No.2992 (The Education (Recognised Bodies) (England) Order 2013); it is authorised by its Royal Charter to award taught and research degrees in perpetuity.

The University is registered at the Charity Commission for England and Wales, with Charity number: 1141691. The principal place of the University's business, as well as the names and addresses of the University's auditor and bankers, have been presented separately in the Legal and Administrative Information section of this Report.

The University is registered with the Office for Students (OfS) in the Approved provider category. Approved higher education providers (HEPs) differ from Approved (Fee Cap) HEPs in being able to levy uncapped tuition fees for undergraduate degrees but with the caveat that students at Approved providers can only access student loan funding to the lower limit. Since 2018, and through 2021, this has been £6,165 per annum for three-year programmes and £7,400 per annum for two-year programmes. As an Approved provider, the University is unable to access any direct government funding for learning & teaching, research or capital activity; however, the University remains subject to the full suite of OfS Conditions of Registration, with the only exception being it is not required to have an Access and Participation Plan.

The names of all Trustees / council members who served in the period and at the report date, and the name of Vice-Chancellor, have been presented in Members of Council section of this Report.

Structure, Governance and Management

The University's governing document is the Governance Handbook, which includes: the University's Royal Charter and Statutes, upon which our governance structures are based; our academic, management and committee structures; the Standing Orders of the statutory bodies (Council and Senate); and the terms of reference and membership of all committees. In addition, the Ordinances codify the procedures by which the powers articulated in the University's Charter and Statutes are exercised, including the procedures on the recruitment, appointment, induction and training of Trustees.

The University Group financial statements include a subsidiary company and a charity, being Medical Property Management Ltd (MPML) and The University of Buckingham Foundation respectively. MPML is a wholly owned trading subsidiary whose purpose is to further the University's charitable purposes, in particular in the construction and subsequent rental of the Milton Keynes Academic Centre. The latter is a charitable trust whose purpose is to advance education, in particular supporting and promoting the education of students at the University, and to promote research into academic and scientific fields of learning. Financial statements of these entities can be obtained from the University's principal place of business, which is noted on page 1 of these accounts.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

The Trustees are required to ensure the University is carrying out its purposes for the public benefit, complies with the governing document and law, acts in the University's best interests, manages its resources responsibly and is accountable, through the organisation and conduct of regular meetings for both the Council and its sub-committees. The agreed decisions and actions from the meetings are then appropriately delegated to, and implemented by the University's senior management and functional departments.

With regards to the setting of remuneration, the University, through written commitment provided in the Ordinances, comply with the Higher Education Remuneration Code published by the Committee of University Chairs. In practice, the University's Nominations, Performance and Remuneration Committee consider the comparative information on the emoluments of the employees within its remit; ensure all arrangements are unambiguous and diligently recorded; and determine annually the principles on which merit awards shall be made for all members of staff in the salary review for that year.

University of Buckingham is a member of the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA). The University has also developed a number of important partnerships which are geographically spread and culturally diverse, and has collaborations with key academic institutions such as British University in Georgia, Helsinki Design School, International Business School in Budapest and the Anglo Mexican Foundation.

Details of transactions with the University's related parties during the year are presented in Note 23 of the financial statements.

Objectives and Activities

As codified in the University's statutes, the University's objectives are the advancement of learning and knowledge by teaching and research, and to enable students to obtain the advantages of university education.

The Trustees have had due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit during their stewardship of the University's activities. Details of activities to further public benefit are set out in this Report.

In particular, the Trustees have taken care to:

a. Make strategic decisions that further the charitable objectives;
b. Maximise public benefit to significant numbers of beneficiaries who are local to Buckingham, as well as more widely;
c. Manage and mitigate risks to our beneficiaries and to the University itself.

Buckingham's distinctive position

The distinctive position of the University of Buckingham is that it is an early innovator, including pioneering the accelerated two-year honours degree some 40 years ago. This is a cost-effective route for students to spend less on tuition and living costs than if they were taking a three-year degree, and enter employment a year earlier if they wish, or leave after three years with a master's degree. The three-year honours degree option is also available. Our Medicine course is also unique, offering a GMC accredited four-and-a-half-year course with a January start date. Furthermore, the removal of long holidays allows for shorter overall study time meaning graduated students are able to enter the NHS foundation programme in August each year.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

A suitable motto is "Small is Beautiful": The University of Buckingham prides itself on the close personal attention afforded to its students, with small group tutorials the most important part of its teaching. The small size of the campuses also promotes the sense of personal attention.

The University holds academic and social events open to the public, as well as to our staff and students, at University premises, such as lectures, fireside chats with renowned guest speakers, taster days and musical concerts. It has been a pleasure to welcome members of the local community to these.

Staff

As with any organisation, staff numbers fluctuate through the year, therefore average numbers are used in these financial statements. In 2021 there was an average of 383 full time equivalent members of staff (2020: 388), comprising 132 academic (2020: 127), 9 research (2020: 8), 208 support (2020: 211) and 34 manual staff (2020: 42), who are all committed to supporting our students.

Achievements and Performance on Teaching & Research

The founders of the University were driven by a desire to cultivate an institution that was rigorously independent; this ethos has underpinned three striking features of the University's provision:

1. the pioneering of an eight-term (two-year) accelerated undergraduate degree,
2. an early focus on the student experience, and
3. a resourcing model in which academic staff teach for three out of the four terms, with the remaining term given over to research, external engagement and programme review that ensures the availability of senior and permanent teaching staff throughout the full calendar year.

Whilst keeping a keen eye on affordability, the University sets fee levels that fund a high-quality academic experience, incorporating personalised learning and pastoral support, enabling students to thrive. The University's robust academic and personal tutorial systems have been integral to the University's results in recent league tables. In the Good University Guide (2022) we were ranked 15th in the UK for teaching quality and 6th in the UK for Graduate Prospects, just below Oxford and Cambridge and above Bath and Warwick. In the Complete University Guide (2023), we maintained our top 10 ranking for Student Satisfaction climbing from 8th to 7th in England, also rising significantly on "Graduate Prospects – outcomes" from 61st to 9th.

The University aims to ensure that all students feel as though they are stakeholders in their university and that it revolves around them rather than the other way around. As such, the University places a very high value on the staff-student partnership: students are represented on academic committees at every level and their feedback, both formal (via satisfaction surveys) and informal, is sought on both the University's courses as well as the wider learning environment. Feedback is discussed with the University Executive team and appropriate actions are taken as warranted.

Student numbers

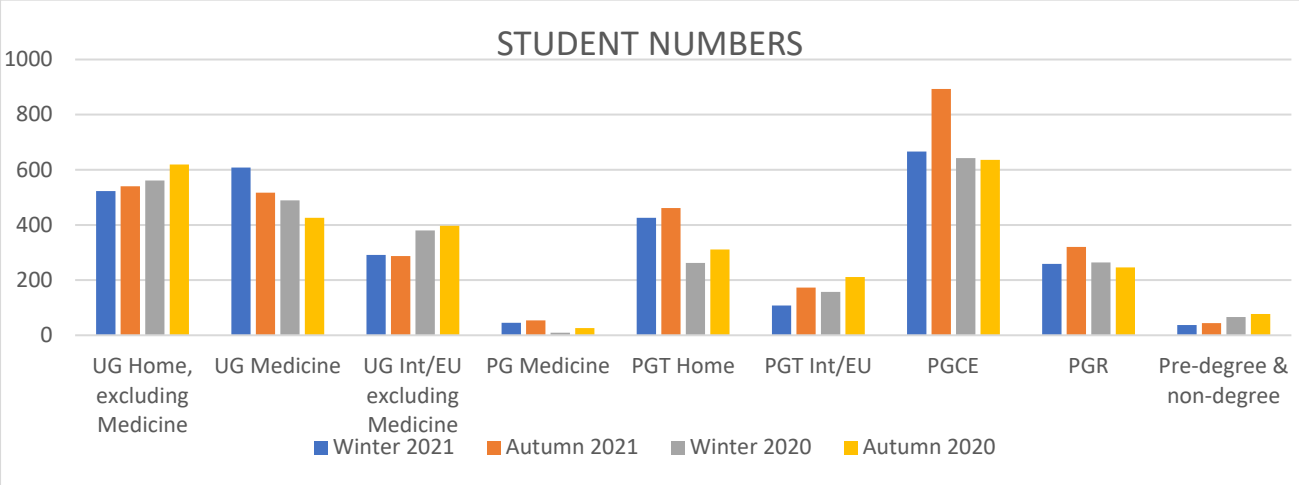
Total student numbers increased to 3,289 in Autumn 2021, up 11.5% from 2020.

Undergraduate (UG) students remained consistent with the previous year and remains the largest level of study across our whole student group. UG Medicine continues to show growth, as cohorts increase year on year.

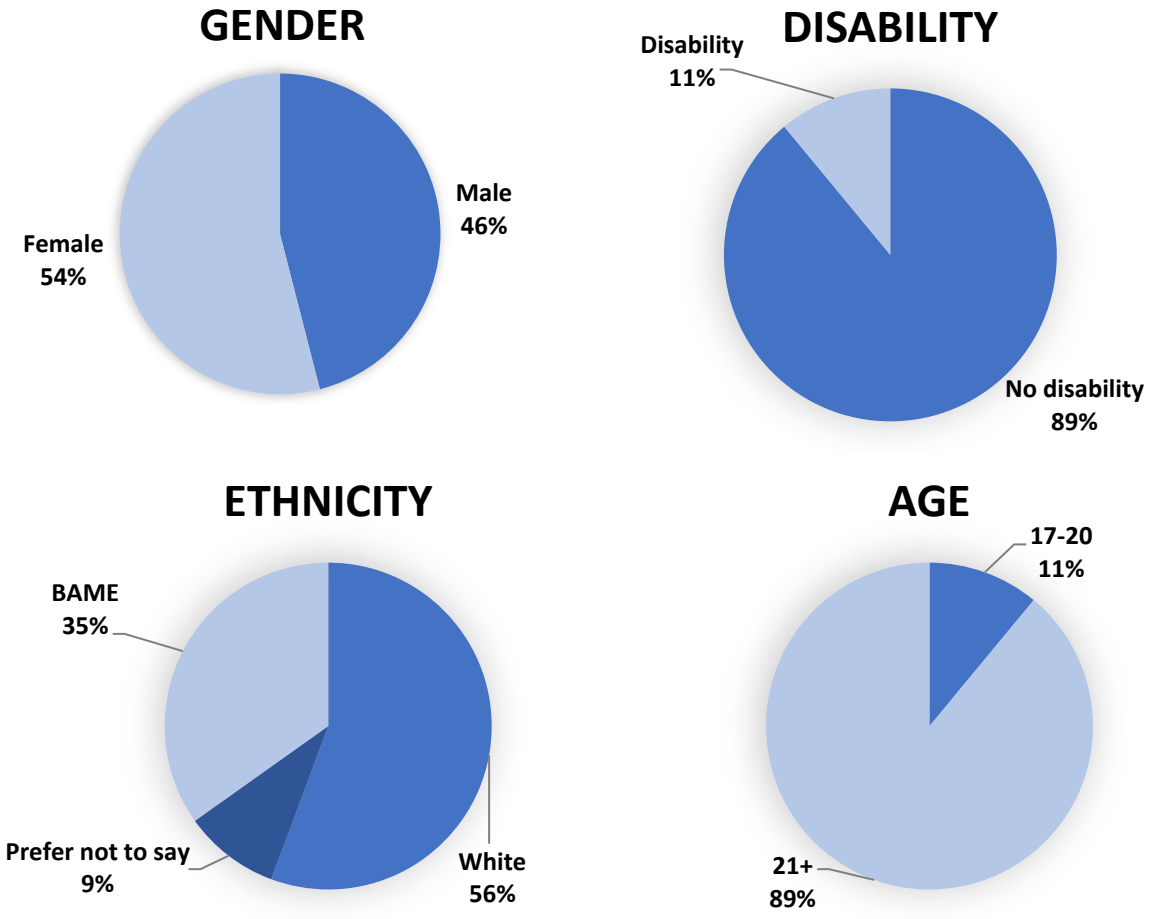
TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

Postgraduate taught (PGT) student numbers show an increase of 32.5% in Autumn 2021 from 2020. Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) student numbers improved by 44%. Postgraduate research student numbers show an increase of 30% in Autumn 2021 from 2020.

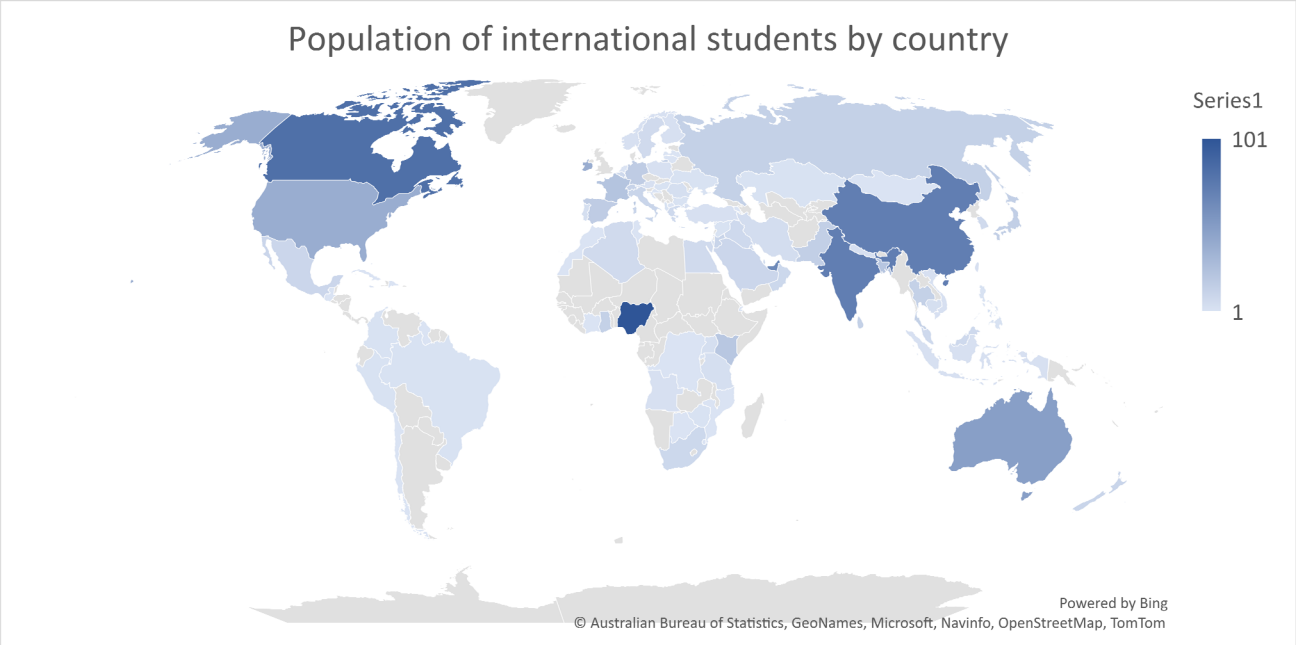
Note there are two main intakes of new students every year. The terminology "Home" within the graphs below refers to UK students only.



The University's student body is diverse, with substantial differentiation across all five standard demographic criteria as shown below:



TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)



The student body comprises 106 nationalities with the largest number coming from the UK (77%).

Whilst most of our on-site teaching and student activities were affected due to COVID lockdowns which started in March 2020, the University continued with its teaching and daily operations through effective remote working, online lectures, webinars and e-networking with our collaborators, using wide-scale deployment of latest technology applications.

Collaborative Partners

The University validates and in some cases franchises academic programmes and/or the learning and teaching of selected institutions within the UK and overseas. Whilst such activities are increasing, such collaborations create payment and reputational risks for us. Therefore, we apply suitable due diligence and contractual arrangements with prospective new academic partners.

Research

Like other British universities, an important part of our intellectual mission is for our academics and graduate students to contribute to research and scholarship. Areas of growth and investment in Buckingham include Artificial Intelligence, Educational Research, Entrepreneurship, Diabetes Research, Medical Education, Modern History, Public Understanding of Economics and Entrepreneurship and Quantum Biosciences. As an independent university, Buckingham is not required to participate in the Government's Research Excellence Framework. The University's plans include regaining Independent Research Organisation (IRO) status, to allow the University to bid for UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) grants. In principle, we expect research income to cover its related direct costs because we do not receive "core" research funding from UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) or other national research funding bodies.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

Scholarships and Bursaries

The University's Scholarships and Bursaries programme is an important part of assisting students to benefit from a university education. Our bursary awards are available to all undergraduates and postgraduates who meet the general entry requirements. Awards are made based on need or to relieve hardship.

In making means-tested awards we consider several factors including family income, investments and savings, assets and family circumstances. Students or their sponsors must meet any maintenance costs. However, living near Buckingham and the degree programme being completed in two years rather than three elsewhere, makes studying much more financially viable.

The University of Buckingham Foundation has total assets less liabilities of £4.7m at 31 December 2021 (2020: £4.6m), the vast majority of which are only available for the benefit of the University and are subject to the terms of the Foundation's trust deed. At 31 December 2021, £4.6m (2020: £3.8m) of these funds are available for scholarships and bursaries, grants and other projects.

In the year, the University awarded total scholarships, bursaries, and prizes of £0.6m (2020: £0.9 m). These scholarships and bursaries include funded, named scholarships from the Foundation of £0.3m (2020: £0.4m). These are recorded within Curriculum costs, itself within Other operating expenses.

The University is keen to increase participation within higher education in Buckingham and the local area, especially for those potential students who may find that going away to study is too expensive. Two specific methods of student support are offered to potential students: the Buckingham Bursary, aimed at students in receipt of a maintenance loan, and the High Achievers Scholarship, aimed at UK students achieving AAB or above at A-level and who make Buckingham their first choice. A Buckingham Bursary can be combined with a High Achiever Scholarship.

Financial Review

Income

Total income for the Group at £43.5m in 2021 increased by 7% (2020: £40.7m).

Tuition fees remain the principal income source for the Group, and financially support the majority of our day-to-day teaching and research activities. Tuition fees represent 86% of total income in 2021(2020: 84%).

Residences and catering income on the Buckingham campus totalled £1.8m, £0.3m less than 2020 primarily due to the impact of COVID.

At Group level, donation income in 2021 was £0.6m (2020: £0.3m).

The University of Buckingham Bursary Fund has remained to be the University's fundraising priority during 2021, and the University continued to actively invite our generous alumni and friends to make a gift to support students in need and to help build momentum behind this important initiative. £0.4m was received by the University during 2021 from new and existing donors.

The Group's income was supplemented by a £1.9m gain on the disposal of properties, as well as a £0.8m gain on investments.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

Expenditure

Group expenditure decreased in 2021 by £2.4m to £40.4m; down 6% compared with the 6% underlying increase in income before endowments and donations. Particular reasons for these movements are:

- Staff costs (excluding additional USS pension provision costs) decreased by £2.3m being 11% lower than 2020. 2021 includes £0.1m of severance and loss of office costs (2020: £1.2m) arising from restructuring to improve the efficiency of departments and Schools as part of the Change Management Plan.

- Other operating expenses increased by £1.3m, largely driven by higher medical student placement fees.

- The University continues to use scholarships and bursaries to improve its student recruitment, and to support students who would otherwise struggle financially to join Buckingham. The University spent £0.6m on this support, (2020: £0.9m).

There were no impairments judged to be necessary in 2021.

Key performance indicators

The University uses key performance indicators (KPIs) to monitor its performance.

KPIs covering academic performance of The University of Buckingham	**2021**	2020
Student satisfaction: National Student Survey data	82%	88%
Quality of teaching: National Student Survey data	84%	87%

These KPIs have remained relatively static between the two years above.

KPIs covering financial strength of The University of Buckingham group	**2021**	2020
Cash and cash equivalents	£10.3m	£21.4m
External borrowing as a percentage of total income	11%	44%
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	£5.8	(£2.4m)

The University of Buckingham Foundation

Scholarships and other disbursements made in 2021 by the Foundation, in support of the University's activities, were £0.3m (2020: £0.4m). These funded scholarships and the development of BSc Business Enterprise and Innovation courses. The cost of development of these courses was supported partly by the Klatten fund.

The stock market performance in 2021 resulted in gains in the Foundation's investment valuations of £0.3m, (2020: gains of £0.2m). These gains combined with the lower scholarships and disbursements value noted above, plus higher income from donations and investment at £0.4m contributed to net income of £0.1m (2020 net outgoing resources to £0.2m).

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

University Investments

The University's investments are guided by the University's Financial Regulations, and the University's Finance, Estates and Resource Committee is responsible for approving the Treasury Management Policy statement, which sets out the strategy and policies for cash management, long term investments and borrowings. This requires compliance with the regulatory body's rules for approval for any secured or unsecured loans that go beyond the consent levels set out in regulations.

No investments may be made without the approval of the Finance, Estates and Resource Committee. The priorities for investment are identified by the Vice-Chancellor and University senior management, through business, social and environmental considerations.

Statement of Financial Position

Net assets, when considered at the University level, increased from £11.2m to £17m during the year driven by the operational surplus.

During the year, the Group made additions to tangible assets of £2.6m, which meant that after depreciation in the year of £2.2m and the sale of some outlying properties with a book value of £3.0m, the net book value of tangible fixed assets decreased by £2.6m to £35.2m.

Reserves

The Group aims to maintain an appropriate level of unrestricted reserves and cash resources for the following reasons:

- Market fluctuations may significantly impact the number of students attending University courses, as well as the mix of courses and students. The University gains most of its income from academic programmes and may rely on reserves if there is a reduction in student numbers, whether permanent or temporary.

- The University has substantial ongoing commitments relating to the welfare and education of the students and needs to maintain a level of reserves sufficient to continue to meet these commitments.

- The University has commitments to its lenders to repay capital and interest on its borrowings.

The Group's unrestricted reserves increased to £10m in 2021, (2020: £5.0m) driven by the financial performance in the year as discussed throughout these Financial statements.

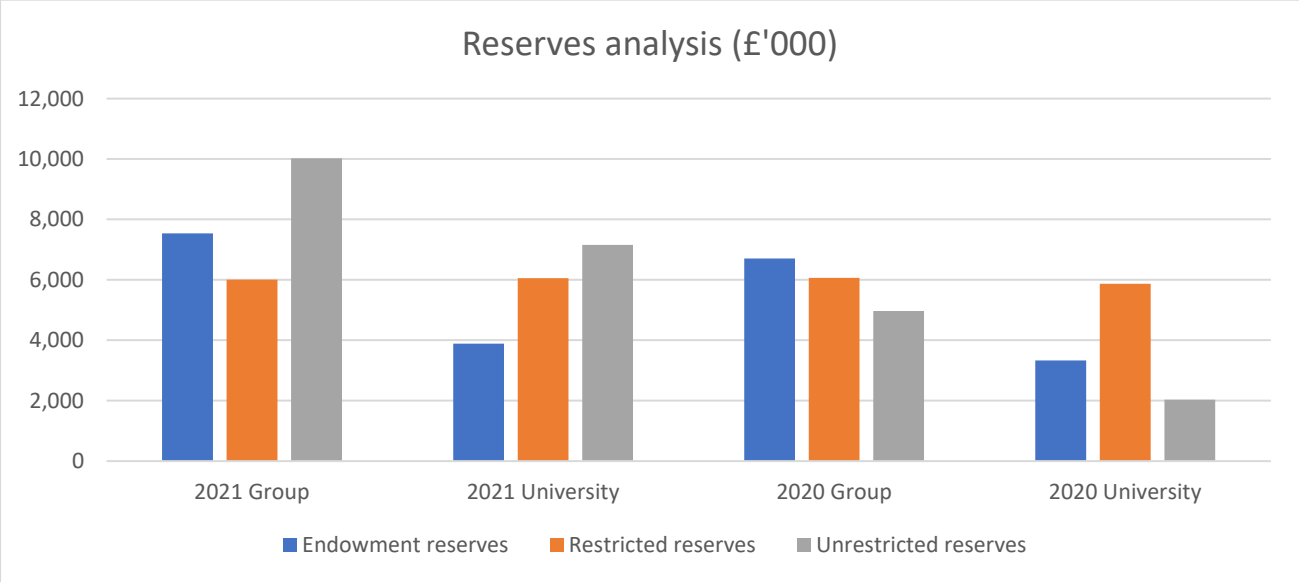
The Group's restricted reserves reduced to £5.8m in 2021 (2020: £6.1m). The Group's total endowment reserves increased to £7.8m (2020: £6.7m) due to investment income and increase in market value of investments.

The timing of expenditure of restricted funds is based on when the costs required to complete the specific purposes of the funds arise, as well as the award of bursaries and scholarships to students in certain degree courses, which are sponsored by specific trust funds.

The Trustees consider the level of reserves at the balance sheet date to be adequate for the purposes outlined above and anticipate that over the course of the next five years unrestricted reserves will increase following pursuit of income growth and cost efficiency.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

At the date of the signing of these accounts the Trustees were performing but had not yet completed a review of the University's Endowment, Restricted and Unrestricted funds, and the presentation of income and expenditure associated with the University endowment funds.



Cash Flow and Financing

Group cash balances were £10.3m (2020: £21.4m).

The University held liquid cash balances of £7.8m at the year-end (2020: £19.6m), a decrease of £11.8m.

During the year, £17.8m of loans were repaid and a new loan of £5.0m drawn with NatWest. As at the balance sheet data the loan of £5m remained repayable within 5 years, with no capital repayment due within the next 12 months. The University also has a £7m revolving credit facility available to it from NatWest which was not used during 2021.

The University continues to take steps to ensure further improvement in the cash position, which will ensure further funds for future investment to provide high-quality teaching and student experience.

Principal risks

The University considers its principal risks (which include external factors outside of its control) lie in the eight key areas below and has taken active steps to identify and mitigate these as well as other detailed operational risks.

1. **Financial**
   The University has taken steps to contain costs. There was a restructuring in 2020 that also impacted 2021. Also, as the University continues to emerge from the COVID pandemic, there is active promotion of student recruitment and it is encouraging that students have returned to face-to-face tuition. However, there are many higher education providers competing for students and if there were a significant shortfall in our student recruitment, this would create serious financial pressure. The unique proposition the University offers – especially as a private university with its pioneering two-year degrees, four and a half year medical degrees, and one year post graduate courses in Education – will continue to help attract students. The Vice-Chancellor is actively driving advancement and fundraising activities to generate philanthropic donation income.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

Overall, the Trustees are confident in the University's ability to manage through the uncertainties that may arise through the focus on income generation and cost control, as appropriate, whilst managing the provision of academic delivery and student outcomes and experience.

2. COVID

The University was able to respond quickly to the global COVID pandemic and move teaching online. Overall, the University has proved resilient to the impacts of the global pandemic and the Trustees remain confident in the University's collective ability to successfully navigate another pandemic, should one arise. Once lockdowns ended and travel restrictions were lifted the University largely returned to face-to-face teaching and to providing a high-quality student experience.

3. Staffing

Like many organisations there is a risk of not being able to recruit and retain proficient staff – with a resultant adverse impact on the student experience and the quality of administrative services. Management across the University ensure sufficient staff resources are available at crucial times, such as for exam marking and new student registration. Among the mitigation measures, particular care is taken around staff engagement, well-being, and professional development. The Vice-Chancellor holds regular 'town hall' meetings to discuss current and future issues with staff colleagues, plus there are events to promote staff well-being. As a relatively small organisation there is recognition that the University is reliant on several key individuals but our collegiate approach allows information and expertise to be shared so that absences can be cross-covered where needed and, in some cases, interim staffing brought in.

4. Built Estate

Whilst the academic space and student accommodation is sufficient for current needs, it is important to recognise the need to be aware of and respond to changes in these requirements. In 2021, a major internal refit was performed on the Tanlaw Mill building, which houses the Students' Union; this will provide modern and appealing student facilities. The Hunter Street campus is near the River Great Ouse; whilst there have been problems with flooding in some buildings, these did not impact the University's ability to continue operations, which took place in unaffected buildings with little disruption to services. Plans are in place to prepare a new business continuity plan during 2023, addressing estates issues as well as many other operational areas.

5. Information Systems and Data Security

An information security breach could severely impact our operations, reputation, and possibly lead to regulatory fines. Therefore, IT systems and cybersecurity are under constant review and IT security measures and enhancements are deployed proactively. IT staff keep abreast of new technologies in case these disrupt connectivity, functionality, or lifestyles – with consequent impacts on how best to approach the delivery of teaching, learning, and research.

6. Regulatory Compliance

There is regular correspondence with our regulators, so they are aware of measures that are being taking to deliver regulatory compliance, and the senior management team keep abreast of the changing regulatory landscape. The principal regulatory bodies are:

The University of Buckingham	Office for Students
The University of Buckingham Foundation	Charity Commission
Medical Property Management Limited	Companies House

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

As fully disclosed in the previous financial statements, during 2020 and 2021 the University undertook significant investigations after concerns were raised by the Charity Commission. Whilst all the investigative work concluded that there had been no inappropriate loss of cash from the University or its subsidiaries, such matters are taken very seriously by the Trustees and resulted in improvements and updates being made to governance systems. The University continues to fully cooperate with the regulators by updating them on actions and progress.

A resultant impact has been significant delays to the publication of financial statements. These financial statements are being completed and delivered to regulators significantly later than their due date because of the complexities surrounding and late completion and filing of the 2019 financial statements which has impacted 2020 and in turn 2021 financial statement production. We have informed and made representations to regulators of the reasons for the delay. As a result of late submission of the 2019 financial statements, the University received a financial penalty in 2022. The University is committed to getting all financial statements and Associated filing up to date as quickly as possible and anticipates being fully up to date with all outstanding filings with these 2021 Financial Statements. The Trustees are very cognizant of the continued reputational risk created by being non-compliant with regulatory requirements and actions to correct this are matched by actions and focus to prevent the possibility of recurrence in the future.

The University is also mindful of regulatory compliance relating to immigration, employment law and our academic activities more generally (and particularly within healthcare and education).

7. **Joint Venture**
   The Crewe campus joint venture challenges disclosed and provided for in previous financial statements continue to be systematically resolved and the associated risks managed and reduced by working with the joint venture partner and growing the student numbers on the campus post COVID. The Trustees are confident in the University's ability to manage remaining issues within the financial provisions contained within these financial statements.

8. **Pension Scheme Costs**
   Like other institutions, the University faces significant costs relating to staff who are members of defined benefit pension schemes. At the end of 2021 there were 113 members of the USS pension scheme (2020: 113). The USS pension scheme is not available to new staff. Occupational pension provision for new staff is delivered via an Aviva defined contribution scheme. The continued risk regarding future pension cost increases is discussed further at Note 22.

Financial Risk Management Objectives and Policies

The Group's main financial instruments are cash and quoted investments held by the University and the Foundation. In addition, items such as trade debtors and trade creditors arise directly from its operations. The main purpose of these financial instruments is to fund the Group's operations. The existence of these financial instruments exposes the Group to several financial risks, namely market risk, liquidity risk and credit risk. The Trustees review and agree policies for managing each of these risks and they are summarised below.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

a. Market risk

This encompasses:

1. Currency risk: The Group is exposed to some translation and transaction foreign exchange risk in respect of cash, cash equivalents, and investments. This risk is not significant to the Group and accordingly there are no hedging provisions in place.

2. Interest rate risk: At the balance sheet date the University had £5m bank loans outstanding. Details of the loans are in Note 14 and 15. Since the loan interest rate is fixed, there is no interest rate risk.

3. Share price risk: The Group's exposure to share price risk consists mainly of movements in the value of the Group's investments in quoted shares.

The University of Buckingham Foundation has engaged investment managers who work within the cautious risk appetite set by the Trustees. Similarly, the University has engaged Trustees or managers of other funds held by the University, again applying a cautious risk appetite. These guidelines include limits on the total investment in any one particular equity instrument, and in any one sector of the market. The aim is to manage price risk, as far as possible. The Trustees of the Foundation and Trustees of other funds keep these guidelines under review and regularly review the performance of the investments and the performance of the investment managers against the agreed guidelines.

b. Liquidity risk

The University has sufficient liquid cash resources partially arising from funds drawn down from the loan. The University manages its liquidity risk through regular cash flow forecasts and other financial management information tools. Also, the University monitors cash resources as a proportion of operating costs through the year, considering peaks and troughs in cash flows and the projected impacts on banking covenants. In addition the University has a £7m revolving credit facility with NatWest available which has been unused since established in January 2021.

c. Credit risk

The Group's principal financial assets are quoted investments held by the University (and via the Foundation), cash and trade debtors. Quoted investments are managed by independent professional advisers, working with a cautious risk appetite set by the University of Buckingham and The University of Buckingham Foundation. The credit risk associated with the investments and cash is limited, as the counterparties are well-established financial institutions. The principal credit risk arises therefore from the Group's receivables. The nature of the Group's client base, being mainly undergraduate and postgraduate students, is such that it is not significantly exposed to any single individual customer, although there are a number of commercial and institutional clients. For example, the University validates other providers' programmes in the UK and internationally. The Trustees therefore concentrate their efforts on ensuring that the processes around credit approval and debt collection are sufficiently robust.

Fraud and error

As with any business, there are potential risks to the integrity of financial assets and financial information. The primary safeguards are the staffing of the finance office and its financial procedures. In addition, the Risk, Audit and Compliance Committee undertakes rolling reviews of risk management, the Finance, Estates & Resources Committee also regularly receive financial reports and information, as does the full council both of which are engaged in all significant financial decisions.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

Forward outlook and plans for future periods

Like other higher education providers, the University has faced a great deal of challenge and uncertainty in recent years – and will continue to do so in the years to come. During 2020 and 2021, we had to adapt swiftly to the pandemic, in particular by:

- Moving academic delivery online.
- Implementing COVID safety measures on campus, for staff and students (which we continued to keep in place to early 2022).
- Refunding pre-paid accommodation costs for students who were no longer able to attend on campus. This kept their goodwill to ensure their continued studies.

In response to financial challenges, the University set in place a Financial Recovery Plan in mid-2020, the benefits of which have been recognised in these 2021 financial statements:

- The sale of some local residential properties that were not core to the University's activities. The sale of these properties has had no impact on the delivery of teaching and services provided but will improve our financial resilience and provide funds for investment in our estate.
- Renegotiated bank financing arrangements, as explained earlier.
- Renegotiating the agreement with the joint venture partners for our medicine and allied health provision in Crewe. Negotiations are complex but proceeding satisfactorily.

These actions are intended to result in the University maintaining a satisfactory liquidity position, as defined by available cash resources, through to the end of 2024.

As already noted above in regulatory compliance, the University continues to engage proactively with regulators to keep them fully informed on the progress on the filing of these 2021 accounts and other regulatory matters.

Based on the forward forecasts and projections, the University forecasts to be compliant with its debt service covenants for the foreseeable future and able to withstand plausible variations in those forecasts.

Climate change

We recognise climate change as an important matter for the University and the wider community. The University has already taken steps to reduce consumption of energy (such as by installing modern heating and lighting systems, and insulation). Furthermore, we re-use and recycle materials where possible and our vehicles are predominantly electric. The trustees recognise there is more to do over the coming years to assess and respond to climate risks.

Some buildings on the Hunter Street campus are only about 200 feet away from the River Great Ouse, and we have had instances of the basements of some older Hunter Street buildings being flooded due to abnormally high river levels. Some damage has been incurred in such instances, but we were able to continue business operations without significant disruption. Whilst these were acute one-off instances, climate change may result in flooding at Hunter Street becoming a more frequent physical risk.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

The University, like other organisations, needs to transition to more environmentally friendly means of delivering its objectives. There is desire for this from within the University and our students and we will see increasing demands to make changes to our working practices and our built estate because of societal changes and new legislation.

Risk exposure to Ukraine and Russia

Occasionally, a handful of students from these countries enroll, and the tragic conflict that exists currently in Ukraine is noted. Otherwise, the University does not have business operations connected to these countries, so there is minimal and immaterial risk exposure.

Post balance sheet events

These are detailed in Note 26 to the financial statements.

Perspectives on future direction

The various challenges which have arisen over recent years have been taken as learning experiences and are driving determination to further enhance the University's controls and systems, and improve efficiency over the coming years.

Key plans and actions include the development a robust future strategy for the University plus actions to improve cost efficiency and control, such as the review of end-to-end Finance processes and the IT review, both of which commenced in late 2022 with a view to improvement in automation, control and resilience. Further operational plans will be developed during 2023 as the new strategy evolves.

Going concern

The Group and University's financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis, based on Trustees' assessment of the financial position, operating model, and forecast cash flows. This assumes the Group and University will continue in operation for the foreseeable future including meeting its future obligations as they fall due.

The University experienced financial challenges and a decline in financial operating performance in recent years. As noted above, responses included measures to reduce costs, such as a necessary programme of staff redundancies to help ensure long-term financial sustainability, in addition to negotiations to reduce the costs of the Crewe campus lease. The University will continue to drive improved cost efficiency and control in the future to further improve resilience and enable investment in growth and infrastructure to enhance the student experience.

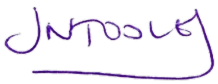
The University continues to engage proactively with its regulators and work to bring all filings up to date as fast as possible and anticipates being fully up to date within the next few months.

At the balance sheet date the Group is reporting net current liabilities of £1.1m (University: £2.5m), which is a decline of £6.3m (University decline of £6.3m). This is wholly a result of the net repayment of £12m of non-current loan balances, from the restructuring of the loan financing, and an overall improvement in financial position.

The University forecasts to meet all its banking covenant and debt servicing requirements for the foreseeable future.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

After considering significant potential risks to future plans and forecasts and the potential actions, which could include the sale of additional capital assets and a programme of cost restructuring, the Trustees are satisfied that it remains appropriate to prepare the Group and University financial statements on a going concern basis.



Professor James Tooley
Vice-Chancellor



Mark St John Qualter
Chair of Council



David Cole
Chief Financial Officer

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

The composition of the Council
Pursuant to Statute 15, the Council shall comprise ex-officio members, independent members and elected members. We acknowledge occasional gaps between resignations and appointments provided potential gaps in governance oversight.

(a) Ex officio members

The Chancellor	Dame Mary Archer
The Chair of Council	Mr Rory Tapner (resigned 30 November 2021) Mr Mark Rawlinson (appointed 1 December 2021 – resigned 4 July 2022) Professor Joe Harrison (an existing appointed Council member, who was appointed as Vice-Chair 22 February 2021, appointed acting Chair 1 March 2022, resigned 10 October 2022) Mrs Camilla Soames (appointed acting Vice-Chair 7 July 2022, appointed acting Chair 10 October 2022, resigned as acting Chair 12 December 2022) Mr Mark St John Qualter (appointed 12 December 2022)
The Vice-Chair of Council	Ms Rachael Shimmin (appointed 19 April 2021, appointed acting Vice-Chair 10 October 2022, resigned 29 November 2022) Mrs Camilla Soames (reappointed 1 January 2023, appointed Vice-Chair 27 February 2023)
The Treasurer	Mr Mohammad Syed (resigned 31 December 2022)
The Vice-Chancellor	Professor James Tooley
Pro Vice-Chancellor	Dr Jane Tapsell (resigned 9 September 2022)
The President of the Students' Union:	
Mr Toby Corbett	(appointed 1 January 2023)
Ms Caitlin Botha	(appointed 1 January 2022, resigned 31 December 2022)
Mr Kristoffer Sheard	(appointed 1 January 2021, resigned 31 December 2021)

(b) Independent members

There shall be independent members who shall be appointed by the Council in accordance with the Ordinances:

Mr Nick Hillman	
Mr Mark Rushton	
Professor Alan Smithers	
Ms Penny Jones	(resigned 10 October 2022)
Mr Stephen Rubin KC	(term ended 23 September 2022)
Dr Keith Bothongo	(appointed 27 April 2021)
Mr Christopher Hollis	(appointed 26 July 2021)
Sir Francis Habgood	(appointed 7 November 2022)
Ms Karen Mitchell	(appointed 7 November 2022)
Professor Timothy Evans	(appointed 21 November 2022)
Lord Peter Lilley	(appointed 21 November 2022)

(c) Elected members

There shall be members of the Senate elected by that body from among its elected members:

Dr Jacqueline O'Dowd	
Professor Adolfo Paolini	
Mr Hongbo Du	(reappointed 21 November 2022)

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL (continued)

(c) Elected members (continued)

There shall be a member of the administrative and support services staff to be elected from among their own number:

Mr Callum Roberts

There shall be an alumnus nominated by Convocation, in accordance with its procedures:

Ms Josephine Mbuya (appointed 10 March 2022)

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE UNIVERSITY'S COUNCIL IN RELATION TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Responsibilities and activities of the Council in relation to the financial statements

The Council is responsible for preparing the Annual Report and financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards, comprising FRS 102 "Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland", and applicable law). In accordance with its regulatory responsibilities under section 18 of Schedule 7 of the Education Reform Act 1988, the University's Council presents audited financial statements for each financial year.

The financial statements have also been prepared in accordance with:

- The Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)"; and
- The Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have also been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting for Further and Higher Education 2019 and meet the requirements of the Office for Students accounts direction dated 25 October 2019. During 2020, the University developed the framework for, and commissioned a sub-committee of Council to oversee, an extensive governance review including: reforms to the Charter and Statutes; development of Ordinances and a Scheme of Delegation; reforms to Terms of Reference; development of due diligence frameworks, including both legal and financial services and a raft of related policies and control mechanisms (including but not limited to the Financial Regulations and Conflicts of Interest, Anti-Bribery and Fraud, Expenses, Donations, Reserves and Whistleblowing policies).The review concluded in 2021 with changes made live from 1 July 2021.

The Council is required to keep proper accounting records which: disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Group and University; which enable it to ensure that the annual financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Group and University and of the income and expenditure for that year; and comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the provisions of its Royal Charter. In causing the financial statements to be prepared, Council has ensured that:

- Judgements and estimates are made that are reasonable and prudent;
- Financial statements are prepared on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Group and University will continue in operation.

Council is responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Group and University and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Council is also responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the information, charity and financial, included on the University's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE UNIVERSITY'S COUNCIL IN RELATION TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

Operations of Council

Council's powers are exercised through a number of sub-committees, whose terms of reference were approved by Council:

- Finance, Estates and Resources Committee
- Risk, Audit and Compliance Committee
- Nomination, Performance and Remuneration Committee
- Diversity & Inclusion Committee (re-named Inclusion Committee in 2021 following the governance review)*
- Grievance Committee (abolished in 2021 as part of the governance review)*
- Honorary Appointments and Awards Committee (created in 2021 following the governance review)*

(* Joint Committee of Council and Senate)

Operations of Senate

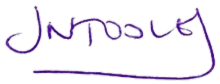
Senate's powers are exercised through a number of sub-committees, whose terms of reference were approved by Senate:

- University Research Committee
- University Learning & Teaching Committee
- University Collaborations Committee
- Diversity & Inclusion Committee (re-named Inclusion Committee in 2021 following the governance review)*
- Grievance Committee (abolished in 2021 as part of the governance review)*
- Honorary Appointments and Awards Committee (created in 2021 following the governance review)*

(* Joint Committee of Council and Senate)



Mark St John Qualter
Chair of Council



Professor James Tooley
Vice-Chancellor

STATEMENT OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND INTERNAL CONTROL

Introduction

This statement of corporate governance and internal control covers the period from 1 January 2021 to the date of approval of these financial statements.

Corporate governance structure

The University of Buckingham was established in 1976 and was incorporated by Royal Charter (number RC000730) on 11 February 1983. The conduct of the University's affairs is governed by the Royal Charter and accompanying Schedule (Statutes), approved by the Privy Council.

The University is registered as an Approved Provider with the Office for Students (UKPRN: 10007787) and is a registered charity (number 1141691). It is authorised by its Royal Charter to award taught and research degrees in perpetuity. The University is a member of Universities UK.

The University has a bicameral constitution comprising the Council and the Senate. Whereas the Council is the governing body and its members are Trustees of the University, the Senate is the governing academic authority, responsible for the setting and maintenance of threshold academic standards and for assuring and enhancing the quality of students' learning opportunities.

The Council of the University has responsibility for the stewardship of the University's assets; its members focus on strategic decision making and ensuring adherence to its charitable objectives whilst delegating day-to-day operational responsibilities to the Vice-Chancellor, the Executive and senior management team. It receives assurances that the University meets all legal and regulatory requirements imposed on it as a corporate body.

The Senate of the University is its governing academic authority. Senate's responsibilities include: the regulation and control of all academic awards as well as the programming and teaching that facilitates students' admission to said academic awards, the management of the formalities associated with making academic awards and the regulation of University discipline. The Senate is responsible for overseeing the development of the University's academic portfolio (including all associated research, learning and teaching and assessment activities), for the admission of students and for all areas pertaining to academic delivery and support.

The principal academic and administrative officer of the Universily is the Vice-Chancellor, who has a general responsibility to the Council for maintaining and promoting the efficiency and good order of the University and who is the Chair of the Senate. The Vice-Chancellor also chairs the Executive Group, comprising the members of the University's senior management.

The University performed and concluded a detailed review of its governance structures, including the amendment of the charter and statutes, in 2021.

STATEMENT OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND INTERNAL CONTROL (continued)

Oversight of Corporate Governance, Risk Management, Statutory and Regulatory Responsibilities

The Risk, Audit and Compliance Committee of the Council (RACC) provides much of the oversight of the University's corporate governance and risk management. This is through reports to RACC from senior management, the University's auditors, and from the University's risk management lead from whom a report is received at every meeting of RACC. The Council, in turn, considers the minutes of RACC as a standing item. The Council receives updates on matters relating to Corporate Governance from the Vice-Chancellor and approves the Terms of Reference of its Committees on an annual basis.

The Council and its Committees ensure that the University complies with its statutory and regulatory responsibilities. The RACC, together with Senate, provide much of the oversight of compliance with OfS' ongoing conditions of registration. The Finance, Estates and Resources Committee (FERC) oversees compliance with the University's statutory obligations in relation to health and safety.

The University's management accounts are considered by the Council, FERC and RACC on at least a quarterly basis.

Scope of responsibility

The Council has ultimate responsibility for the University's system of internal control and for reviewing its effectiveness. The Council has delegated to RACC and the Vice-Chancellor the day-to-day responsibility for maintaining sound systems of internal control that support the policies, aims and objectives of the University whilst safeguarding the public funds and assets, in accordance with responsibilities set out in the Office for Students' conditions of registration. The Vice-Chancellor is also responsible for reporting to the Council any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

The purpose of the system of internal control

The system of internal control is an on-going process designed to identify the principal risks to the achievement of the University's plans, policies and objectives; to evaluate the extent of those risks; and to manage them efficiently, effectively, and economically. Such a system is designed to manage and mitigate rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve business objectives and can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss.

The risk and control framework

The Council has taken reasonable steps to ensure:

- There are appropriate financial and management controls in place to safeguard the assets of the Group and University and prevent and detect fraud, with any concerns investigated thoroughly before the financial statements are signed off.
- The economical, efficient and effective management of the Group and University's resources and expenditure.
- Funds from whatever sources and administered by the University for designated purposes have been applied properly for those purposes and managed in accordance with applicable legislation.
- It is in receipt of regular reports and additional meetings are scheduled, where required, to discuss the issues arising from significant matters such as Crewe, financial statements, OfS and regulatory compliance and the Change Management Plan.

STATEMENT OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND INTERNAL CONTROL (continued)

The risk and control framework (continued)

A process is in place for identifying, evaluating, and managing the significant risks facing the University, and ensuring the associated procedures have been in place and operational throughout the year, notably through the regular review and updating of the University's Risk Register. The Risk Register details strategic and recurrent risks and covers governance, management, quality of service, reputational, operational, compliance as well as financial risks together with the range of mitigating controls in place and the early warning indicators for each risk. The Risk Register is under continuous review by senior management and RACC. This enables the University to ensure that it is able to monitor and manage risks in an ever-changing environment. The Registrar oversaw a full consultation exercise in 2021 to ensure management inputs were captured at all levels of the organisation and mapped together such that local level risks feed into the University's overall risk profile. Training in risk profiling and management was also given.

The key elements of the University's system of risk assessment and internal control, which is designed to discharge the responsibilities set out above, include the following:

- Risk Management, which is led by the Registrar and Director of Professional Services supported by senior managers and reports into RACC;
- A medium and short-term financial planning process, supplemented by detailed annual income, expenditure, capital and cash flow budgets;
- Regular reviews of academic performance and monthly reviews of financial results involving variance reporting and updated of forecast outturns; and
- Clearly defined requirements for approval and control of expendit–re - with investment decisions involving capital or revenue expenditure being subject to review according to approval levels set by FERC.

Review of effectiveness

The Council receives periodic reports from RACC (including copies of minutes of their meetings) and arrangements are in place to ensure regular reports from University management on their actions to manage risks in their areas of responsibility. Reviews by Council of the effectiveness of the system of internal control are informed by the reports of Council, committees and Officers of the University.

Nominations, Performance and Remuneration Committee

The Nominations, Performance and Remuneration Committee (NPRC) normally meets bi-annually to monitor the performance of Officers of the University (including the Vice-Chancellor) and members of the University's Executive Committee and to determine their remuneration and conditions of service. The Vice-Chancellor attends all meetings other than those involving consideration of his own salary.

In 2021 NPRC considered a range of matters concerning remuneration, including the Promotions Policy for Academic and Professional Services staff, the Gender Pay gap report and action plan, a report on the Organisational Change programme and a reviewed relevant policies. In addition, NPRC approved a pay and grading framework to review the salaries of all officers and staff of the University (including the Vice-Chancellor).

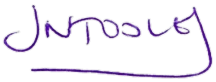
STATEMENT OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND INTERNAL CONTROL (continued)

Nominations, Performance and Remuneration Committee (continued)

NPRC sets the salary of the Vice-Chancellor taking account of the nature of the role, the institution, performance, and in accordance with the Committee of University Chairs' Higher Education Senior Staff Remuneration Code (2018). The Chair of Council undertakes an annual appraisal of the Vice-Chancellor's performance in the previous year, agreeing objectives for the next 12-month period. This takes place at the end of each calendar year.



Mark St John Qualter
Chair of Council



Professor James Tooley
Vice-Chancellor



David Cole
Chief Financial Officer

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE COUNCIL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BUCKINGHAM

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The University of Buckingham (the 'University') and its subsidiaries ('the Group') for the year ended 31 December 2021 which comprise the Group and University Statements of Comprehensive Income, Group and University Statements of Changes in Reserves, Group and University Statements of Financial Position, Group Statement of Cashflows and the related notes, including a Statement of Principal 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).

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting for Further and Higher Education 2019 in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations, The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, but has been withdrawn.

This has been done in order for the accounts to provide a true and fair view in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015. In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the University's affairs as at 31 December 2021 and of its incoming resources and application of resources 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 Charities Act 2011.

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 United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council'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 Council's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, including consideration of financial forecasts and cashflows and compliance with bank covenants, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Group's and University'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 Council with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE COUNCIL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BUCKINGHAM (continued)

Other information
The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our Auditors' Report thereon. The Council are responsible for the other information contained within the Annual 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. 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 course of 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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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.

Responsibilities of the Governing Body
As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities of the University's Council in Relation to the Financial Statements, the Council are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements which give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Council 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 Council are responsible for assessing the Group and University'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 Council either intend to liquidate the Group or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements
We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

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 Auditors' 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:

- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance concerning actual and potential litigation, regulatory actions and claims;
- Enquiry of staff to identify any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness;
- Evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for bias;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE COUNCIL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BUCKINGHAM (continued

- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

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 Auditors Report.

Report on other legal and regulatory
We are required to report on the following matters by the Accounts Direction dated 25 October 2019 issued by the Office for Students ('the Accounts Direction').
In our opinion, in all material respects:

- funds from whatever source administered by the Academy for specific purposes have been properly applied to those purposes and managed in accordance with relevant legislation; and
- the financial statements meet the requirements of the Accounts Direction dated 25 October 2019 issued by the Office for Students.

We are also required by the Accounts Direction to report where the results of our audit work indicate that the University's grant and fee income, as disclosed in the notes to the financial statements, has been materially misstated. We have nothing to report in these respects.

Use of our report
This report is made solely to the Council, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Governing Body 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 Group and University and its Council, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

MHA MacIntyre Hudson

MHA MacIntyre Hudson
Statutory Auditor
London, United Kingdom

Date: 30 March 2023

MHA MacIntyre Hudson is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act

GROUP AND UNIVERSITY STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Note	**Group 2021 £000**	**University 2021 £000**	Group 2020 £000	University 2020 £000
Income					
Tuition fees and education contracts	1	37,510	37,510	34,098	34,098
Research grants and contracts	2	1,189	1,189	819	819
Other income	3	4,069	3,544	5,265	4,738
Investment income	4	114	2	153	45
Total income before donations and endowments		**42,882**	**42,245**	**40,335**	**39,700**
Donations and endowments	5	647	986	325	483
Total income		**43,529**	**43,231**	**40,660**	**40,183**
Expenditure					
Staff costs	6	17,088	17,085	20,306	20,282
Other operating expenses	7	20,884	20,580	19,617	19,403
Depreciation	11	2,184	1,877	2,257	1,927
Interest and other finance costs	8	259	259	637	637
Total expenditure	9	**40,415**	**39,801**	**42,817**	**42,249**
Surplus/(deficit) after exceptional items and other gains/(losses)		**3,114**	**3,430**	**(2,157)**	**(2,066)**
Gain/(loss) on disposal of fixed assets		1,917	1,917	(404)	(404)
Gains/(losses) on investments	12	798	517	132	(58)
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		**5,829**	**5,864**	(2,429)	(2,528)
Total comprehensive income/(expenditure) for the year		**5,829**	**5,864**	(2,429)	(2,528)
Represented by:					
Endowment income/(expenditure) for the year	17	1,059	798	362	(58)
Restricted income/(expenditure) for the year	18	(303)	(60)	(224)	87
Unrestricted income/(expenditure) for the year		5,073	5,126	(2,567)	(2,557)
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		**5,829**	**5,864**	**(2,429)**	**(2,528)**

The Group income is attributable to the University and its subsidiaries. There is no non-controlling interest. All income and expenditure of the University and its subsidiaries relates wholly to continuing operations.

GROUP AND UNIVERSITY STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN RESERVES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Group	Endowment £000	Restricted £000	Unrestricted £000	Total £000
Balance at 1 January 2020	**6,342**	**6,287**	**7,535**	**20,164**
Surplus/ (deficit) for the year	362	(311)	(2,498)	(2,447)
Release of restricted funds spent in year	-	(97)	(69)	(166)
New Donations and reclassifications	-	184	-	184
Surplus (deficit) for the year ended 31 December 2020	**362**	**(224)**	**(2,567)**	**(2,429)**
Balance at 1 January 2021	**6,704**	**6,063**	**4,968**	**17,735**
Surplus / (deficit) for the year ended 31 December 2021	261	(243)	5,811	5,829
Release of restricted funds spent in year	-	(31)	(355)	(386)
Transfer of expenditure between reserves	552	(169)	(383)	-
New Donations and reclassifications	246	140	-	386
Surplus/ (deficit) for the year ended 31 December 2021	**1,059**	**(303)**	**5,073**	**5,829**
Balance at 31 December 2021	**7,763**	**5,760**	**10,041**	**23,564**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

University	Endowment £000	Restricted £000	Unrestricted £000	Total £000
Balance at 1 January 2020	**3,389**	**5,779**	**4,585**	**13,753**
(Deficit) for the year	(58)	-	(2,488)	(2,546)
Release of restricted funds spent in year	-	(97)	(69)	(166)
New donations and reclassifications	-	184	-	184
(Deficit) / surplus for the year ended 31 December 2020	**(58)**	**87**	**(2,557)**	**(2,528)**
Balance at 1 January 2021	**3,331**	**5,866**	**2,028**	**11,225**
Surplus for the year ended 31 December 2021	-	-	5,864	**5,864**
Release of restricted funds spent in year	-	(31)	(355)	**(386)**
Transfer of expenditure between reserves	552	(169)	(383)	**-**
New Donations and reclassifications	246	140	-	**386**
Surplus for the year ended 31 December 2021	**798**	**(60)**	**5,126**	**5,864**
Balance at 31 December 2021	**4,129**	**5,806**	**7,154**	**17,089**

GROUP AND UNIVERSITY STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

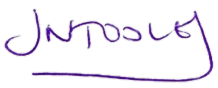
AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Note	Group 2021 £000	University 2021 £000	Group 2020 £000	University 2020 £000
Fixed assets					
Intangible assets	10	-	-	-	-
Tangible assets	11	35,151	27,733	37,751	30,015
Investments	12	6,581	8,064	5,797	7,547
		41,732	**35,797**	**43,548**	**37,562**
Current assets					
Investments	12	84	-	334	-
Trade and other receivables	13	11,777	12,717	9,228	9,780
Cash and cash equivalents		10,289	7,800	21,417	19,585
		22,150	**20,517**	**30,979**	**29,365**
Less Creditors amounts falling due within one year	14	(23,283)	(22,998)	(25,832)	(25,550)
Net current (liabilities)/assets		**(1,133)**	**(2,481)**	**5,147**	**3,815**
Total assets less current liabilities		**40,599**	**33,316**	**48,695**	**41,377**
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	15	**(5,000)**	**(5,000)**	**(17,000)**	**(17,000)**
Pension provisions	16	(2,056)	(2,056)	(3,139)	(3,139)
Other provisions	16	(9,979)	(9,171)	(10,821)	(10,013)
Total net assets		**23,564**	**17,089**	**17,735**	**11,225**
Restricted reserves					
Income and expenditure reserve – Endowment	17	7,763	4,129	6,704	3,331
Income and expenditure reserve – Restricted	18	5,760	5,806	6,063	5,866
Unrestricted reserves					
Income and expenditure reserve – Unrestricted		10,041	7,154	4,968	2,028
Total reserves	19	**23,564**	**17,089**	**17,735**	**11,225**

The financial statements on pages 31 to 71 were approved by Council on 27 March 2023 and were signed on its behalf by:



Mark St John Qualter
Chair of Council



Professor James Tooley
Vice-Chancellor



David Cole
Chief Financial Officer

GROUP STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Group 2021 £000	Group 2020 £000
Cash flow from operating activities		
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	**5,829**	(2,429)
Adjustments for non-cash items		
Depreciation	**2,184**	2,257
Release of restricted donations	**(386)**	(166)
Decrease in current investments	**250**	699
(Increase) in student receivables	**(1,554)**	(3,856)
(Increase)/decrease in other debtors, prepayments, and accrued income	**(995)**	1,523
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	**(1,761)**	6,393
(Decrease)/increase in other provisions	**(842)**	973
(Decrease) in pension provision, excluding interest of £23,000 (2020: £49,000)	**(1,106)**	(135)
Adjustments for investing or financial activities		
Interest payable	**259**	637
Investment gain	**(114)**	(153)
(Gain)/loss on disposal of assets	**(1,917)**	404
(Loss)/gain on investments	**(798)**	(132)
Net cash (outflow)/inflow from operating activities	**(951)**	6,015
Cash flows from investing activities		
Investment Income	**114**	153
Gain of investments	**798**	132
(Purchase) of investments	**(784)**	(118)
(Payments) to acquire tangible assets	**(2,610)**	(945)
Proceeds of fixed asset disposals	**4,943**	-
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from investing activities	**2,461**	(778)
Cash flows from financing activities		
Interest paid	**(274)**	(591)
New donations – restricted and endowment	**386**	184
New secured loans	**5,000**	-
Repayments of amounts borrowed	**(17,750)**	(250)
Net cash (outflow) from financing activities	**(12,638)**	(657)
(Decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents in the year	**(11,128)**	4,580
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	**21,417**	16,837
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	**10,289**	21,417

Details of the analysis of changes in net debt can be found in Note 20.

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1 Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP 2019): Accounting for Further and Higher Education and in accordance with United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102, "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland' (FRS 102)", and the Charities Act 2011.

The University is a public benefit entity and therefore has applied the relevant public benefit requirement of FRS 102. The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis, under the historical cost convention as modified by the recognition of certain financial assets and liabilities measured at fair value. The accounting policies have been applied consistently over the period.

The financial statements reflect the requirements of the accounts direction dated 25 October 2019 issued by the Office for Students.

The functional currency of the group is UK sterling and all financial statements have been prepared to the nearest thousand pounds.

The financial statements have been prepared and give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair' view. This departure is required following Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting for further and higher education issued on 1 October 2018, since this statement of recommended practice is most relevant to the University, rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 January 2019.

The University has taken advantage of exemptions in FRS 102 from:

a. Preparing a statement of cash flows for the University, on the basis that it is a qualifying entity and the consolidated statement of cash flows included in these financial statements includes the University's cash flows.

b. The financial instrument disclosures, required under FRS 102 paragraphs 11.39 to 11.48A and paragraphs 12.26 to 12.29, as the information is provided in the consolidated financial statement disclosures.

Basis of preparation - Going concern

The Group and University's financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis, based on Trustees' assessment of the financial position, operating model, and forecast cash flows. This assumes the Group and University will continue in operation for the foreseeable future including meeting its future obligations as they fall due.

The University experienced financial challenges and a decline in financial operating performance in recent years. As noted above, responses included measures to reduce costs, such as a necessary programme of staff redundancies to help ensure long-term financial sustainability, in addition to negotiations to reduce the costs of the Crewe campus lease. The University will continue to drive improved cost efficiency and control in the future to further improve resilience and enable investment in growth and infrastructure to enhance the student experience.

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Basis of preparation - Going concern (continued)

The University continues to engage proactively with its regulators and work to bring all filings up to date as fast as possible and anticipates being fully up to date within the next few months.

At the balance sheet date the Group is reporting net current liabilities of £1.1m (University: £2.5m), which is a decline of £6.3m (University decline of £6.3m). This is wholly a result of the net repayment of £12m of non-current loan balances, from the restructuring of the loan financing, and an overall improvement in financial position.

The University forecasts to meet all its banking covenant and debt servicing requirements for the foreseeable future.

After considering significant potential risks to future plans and forecasts and the potential actions, which could include the sale of additional capital assets and a programme of cost restructuring, the Trustees are satisfied that it remains appropriate to prepare the Group and University financial statements on a going concern basis.

2 Basis of Consolidation

The financial statements for the Group are the consolidation of the financial statements of the University of Buckingham (the "University"), the University of Buckingham Foundation ('the Foundation') and Medical Property Management Ltd. The University has not consolidated its other subsidiaries, being:

a. Buckingham Business Enterprises Ltd, whose net assets and financial performance are immaterial for the purpose of giving a true and fair view.
b. University of Buckingham Medical Sciences North Ltd, a dormant company whose net assets and financial performance are immaterial for the purpose of giving a true and fair view.

The consolidated financial statements do not include the income and expenditure of the Students' Union as the University does not exert control or dominant influence over policy decisions.

The close relationship between the University and the Foundation is a determining factor in the University exercising effective control. The Trustee board, including the Chair of Trustees, agree that the primary intent of the Foundation is to support the University and are guided by the University in decisions relating to the distribution of funds.

The makeup of the Foundation board is an important, but not the only, factor. Trustees are appointed by the trustee board and the University has a specified minimum number set out in the Foundation trust deed. At the financial year end the Foundation Board comprises four Trustees appointed by the University and three independent of the University.

Membership of the Board fluctuates over time, but the Trustees are clear that their intent is to manage and invest endowments and thereby provide funds for the University in support of its students and staff. They are strongly guided by the University in where funds should be directed, such guidance contributing to the decision to consolidate the results of the Foundation.

Associated companies are accounted for using the equity method. Investment in an associate is held at cost less accumulated impairment losses.

An investment in a subsidiary company is held at cost less accumulated impairment losses in the University's financial statements.

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

3 Income Recognition

This accounting policy covers: Tuition fees and education contracts, Research grants and contracts, Other income, Investment income, and Donations and endowments.

In general, income from the sale of goods or services (including student accommodation and catering) is recognised and credited to the Group Statement of Comprehensive Income when they are supplied to the external customers or the terms of the contract have been satisfied fully in the view of the University.

Tuition fee income is stated gross of any expenditure which is not a discount. Tuition fee income is credited to the Group Statement of Comprehensive Income over the period in which students are studying.

Bursaries and scholarships are accounted for as expenditure and not deducted from income, unless a restricted donation has been received for the scholarship. This reflects these are a cost to the University, as part of its delivery of student support.

Validation fee income is recognised when the University is satisfied that its contractual services including academic due diligence have been delivered/satisfied and the collection of the fees will occur with reasonable certainty. (Validation involves the University reviewing the educational offerings of third-party providers of being a suitable standard for those providers' students to receive University of Buckingham degrees.)

Franchise fee income is recognised when the associated student fee income has been billed to students and the collection of these fees will occur with reasonable certainty in the periods in which the students are studying. (Franchising involves a third-party provider delivering the University of Buckingham's curriculum to students, who are students of The University of Buckingham, at an external location.)

Both Validation and Franchise fee income are shown within Other income at Note 3.

Investment income is credited to the Group Statement of Comprehensive Income on a receivable basis.

Income received in advance of performance related conditions being met is recognised as deferred income within Creditors on the Statement of Financial Position and released to income as or when any conditions are met.

Grant Funding:
Grant funding from government sources including the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and grants (including research grants) from non-government sources are recognised in income when the University is entitled to the income and performance related conditions have been met.

Donations and Endowments
Non-exchangeable transactions without performance related conditions are donations and endowments. Donations and endowments with donor-imposed restrictions are recognised as income when the University is entitled to the funds. Income is retained within the restricted reserve until such time that it is utilised in line with such restrictions at which point the income is released to general reserves through a reserve transfer. Donations with no restrictions are recognised as income once the University is entitled to the funds.

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

3 Income Recognition (continued)

Investment income and appreciation of endowments is recorded in income in the year in which it arises and as either restricted or unrestricted income according to the terms applied to the individual endowment fund.

There are five main types of donations and endowments identified within reserves:

1. Restricted donations – the donor has specified that the donation must be used for a particular objective.
2. Unrestricted donations – the donor has not specified the use of the donation and so it is to be used for the general benefit of the University.
3. Unrestricted permanent endowments – the donor has specified that the fund is to be permanently invested to generate an income stream for the general benefit of the University.
4. Restricted expendable endowments – the donor has specified a particular objective other than the purchase or construction of tangible fixed assets, and the University has the power to use the capital.
5. Restricted permanent endowments – the donor has specified that the fund is to be permanently invested to generate an income stream to be applied to a particular objective.

4 Pension Schemes

The Aviva Group Personal Pension Plan (GPP) is a defined contribution scheme, established by contract. The employer's contributions payable for each accounting period are accounted for as expenditure in the period in which they are incurred.

The NEST Auto Enrolment Scheme (NEST-AES) is a defined contribution scheme, established by contract. The employer's contributions payable for each accounting period are accounted for as expenditure in the period in which they are incurred.

The Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) is a defined benefit scheme, established by trust deed with assets held in a separate fund. The employer's contributions payable for each accounting period are accounted for as expenditure in the period in which they are incurred. In addition, the University is required to provide for the future liability of the deficit recovery plan implemented by the USS.

The University of Buckingham Employee Benefits Plan (EBP), established as a defined contribution scheme by trust deed was closed to further contributions on 31 December 2007. However, the scheme provides a Guaranteed Minimum Pension in respect of periods of membership prior to 6 April 1997. The University accounts for any funding deficit, based on the actuary's reports to the scheme's Trustees on the funding of the scheme at the schemes most recent valuation date, April 2020.

5 Taxation and Charitable status

The University is a Registered Charity within the meaning of Part 3 of the Charities Act 2011. It is a charity within the meaning of Paragraph 1 of Schedule 6 to the Finance Act 2010. The University is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by section 478 – 488 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied to exclusively charitable purposes.

Charitable status provides no similar exemption from VAT, but the University is defined as an Eligible Body by Schedule 9 Group 6 of the VAT Act 1994. This means that the education provided is exempt from VAT but that VAT cannot be recovered on education related purchases. Irrecoverable VAT is therefore included in both revenue and capital expenditure.

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

6 Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at historic purchase cost less accumulated depreciation. Cost includes the original purchase price of the asset and the costs attributable to bringing the asset to its working condition for its intended use.

Equipment and property costing more than £3,000 per item or project is capitalised. Other equipment is written off in the year of purchase. Land is not depreciated. Depreciation is provided on a straight-line basis on other assets at the following annual rates so as to write off the cost/valuation:

Buildings:		2%
Equipment:	Furniture, furnishings, equipment	10% - 20%
	Office equipment	10% - 20%
	Science laboratory equipment	20% - 25%
	Motor vehicles	20%
	Computing equipment & software	25%
	Specialist laboratory equipment	33%

On the grounds of materiality, the above six categories have been aggregated as equipment.

The carrying amount of fixed assets is tested for impairment in accordance with the policy described below.

7 Intangible Assets

Intangible assets are stated at cost less accumulated amortisation and any impairment losses. Cost includes the original purchase price of the asset and costs attributable to bringing the asset to its working condition for intended use.

Amortisation is provided on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful life of the asset.

The carrying amount of intangible assets is tested for impairment in accordance with the policy described below.

8 Investments and joint ventures

Investments
Investments in listed shares are re-measured to fair value at each year-end date. Gains and losses on re-measurement are recognised in surplus or loss for the period. Gains or losses on disposal are recognised within Gains / (losses) on investments within the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

Investments in subsidiaries are carried as cost less impairment.

Joint ventures
Interests in joint ventures are accounted for using the equity method, after being recognised initially at cost in the consolidated Statement of Financial Position.

Under the equity method of accounting, the investments are initially recognised at cost and adjusted thereafter to recognise the Group's share of the post-acquisition profits or losses of the investee in the Group Statement of Comprehensive Income. Dividends received or receivable from associates and joint ventures are recognised as a reduction in the carrying amount of the investment.

8 Investments and joint ventures (continued)

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Where the Group's share of losses in an equity-accounted investment equals or exceeds its interest in the entity, including any other unsecured long-term receivables, the Group does not recognise further losses, unless it has incurred obligations or made payments on behalf of the other entity.

Unrealised gains on transactions between the Group and its associates and joint ventures are eliminated to the extent of the Group's interest in these entities. Unrealised losses are also eliminated unless the transaction provides evidence of an impairment of the asset transferred. Accounting policies of equity-accounted investees have been changed where necessary to ensure consistency with the policies adopted by the group.

The carrying amount of equity-accounted investments is tested for impairment in accordance with the policy described below.

9 Impairment of assets

Assets are tested for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount might not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount. The recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less costs of disposal and value in use. For the purposes of assessing impairment, assets are grouped at the lowest levels for which there are separately identifiable cash inflows which are largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets (cash-generating units). Non-financial assets other than goodwill that suffered an impairment are reviewed for possible reversal of the impairment at the end of each reporting period.

10 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash includes cash in hand, deposits repayable on demand and overdrafts. Deposits are repayable on demand if they are in practice available within 24 hours without penalty.

Cash equivalents are short term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value.

11 Provisions

Provisions are recognised in the financial statements when:

(a) The University has a present obligation (legal or constructive) as a result of a past event;
(b) It is probable that an outflow of economic benefit will be required to settle the obligation; and
(c) A reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

12 Reserves

Reserves are classified as restricted or unrestricted. There are two types of restricted reserves:

a. The first type of restricted reserve, "Endowment reserves", include balances which, through endowment to the University, are held as a permanently restricted fund which the University must hold in perpetuity.

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

12 Reserves (continued)

b. The second type of restricted reserve, called “Restricted reserves”, includes balances where the donor has designated a specific purpose and therefore the University is restricted in the use of these funds, and unspent balances of restricted donations in line with the British Universities Finance Directors Group (BUFDG) Implementation Guidance to the SORP. Reserve transfers are made between Restricted and Unrestricted reserves for the depreciation on assets that were funded by grants or donations with restrictions on those underlying assets.

13 Leases

The Group and the University are lessees of property and whether an arrangement is or contains a lease depends on the substance of that arrangement. Leases in which substantially all the risk and rewards incidental to the ownership of an asset are transferred to the lessee by the lessor are classed as finance leases. Leases which are not finance leases are classified as operating leases. Gross rental expenditure in respect of operating leases is recognised on a straight-line basis over the term of the leases, unless another systemic basis is representative of the time pattern of the lessee’s benefit from the use of the leased asset. Rent free periods are accounted for within the Statement of Financial Position as Accruals and deferred income.

14 Financial instruments

The group has chosen to adopt Sections 11 and 12 of FRS 102 in respect of financial instruments.

i) Financial assets

Basic financial assets, including trade and other receivables, cash and bank balances and investments in commercial paper, are initially recognised at transaction price, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest.

Such assets are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

At the end of each reporting period financial assets measured at amortised cost are assessed for objective evidence of impairment. If an asset is impaired the impairment loss is the difference between the carrying amount and the present value of the estimated cash flows discounted at the asset’s original effective interest rate. The impairment loss is recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

If there is a decrease in the impairment loss arising from an event occurring after the impairment was recognised, the impairment is reversed. The reversal is such that the current carrying amount does not exceed what the carrying amount would have been had the impairment not previously been recognised. The impairment reversal is recognised in profit or loss.

Other financial assets, including investments in equity instruments which are not subsidiaries, associates or joint ventures, are initially measured at fair value, which is normally the transaction price.

Such assets are subsequently carried at fair value and the changes in fair value are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income, except that investments in equity instruments that are not publicly traded and whose fair values cannot be measured reliably are measured at cost less impairment.

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

14 Financial instruments (continued)

Financial assets are derecognised when:

(a) the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire or are settled; or

substantially all the risks and rewards of the ownership of the asset are transferred to another party;

(b) or

despite having retained some significant risks and rewards of ownership, control of the asset has been transferred to another party who has the practical ability to unilaterally sell the asset to an unrelated third party without imposing additional restrictions.

ii) Financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including trade and other payables, bank loans, and loans from fellow group entities are initially recognised at transaction price, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Fees paid on the establishment of loan facilities are recognised as transaction costs of the loan to the extent that it is probable that some or all of the facility will be drawn down. In this case, the fee is deferred until the draw-down occurs. To the extent there is no evidence that it is probable that some or all of the facility will be drawn down, the fee is capitalised as a pre-payment for liquidity services and amortised over the period of the facility to which it relates.

Trade payables are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers.

Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Trade payables are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the liability is extinguished, that is when the contractual obligation is discharged, cancelled or expires.

iii) Offsetting

Financial assets and liabilities are offset and the net amounts presented in the financial statements when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

iv) Financial guarantee contracts

A financial guarantee contract is a contract that requires the issuer to make specified payments to reimburse the holder for a loss it incurs because a specified debtor fails to make payments when due in accordance with the original or modified terms of a debt instrument. These are accounted for under Section 21 of FRS 102. Where appropriate, a provision has been made and/or a contingent liability disclosed.

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

15 Critical Accounting Judgements and Estimates

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make judgements and adopt estimates that affect the financial statements during the reporting period. These estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

a) Critical judgements in applying the Group and University's accounting policies

(i) Evaluation of the Universities Superannuation Scheme as a multi-employer scheme

The University has judged that the USS meets the definition of a multi-employer scheme for the reasons set out in Note 22.

The scheme is a hybrid pension scheme, providing defined benefits for all members as well as defined contribution benefits. The assets of the scheme are held in a separate trustee-administered fund. Because of the mutual nature of the scheme, the assets are not attributed to individual institutions and a scheme-wide contribution rate is set. The University is therefore exposed to actuarial risks associated with other institutions' employees and is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the scheme on a consistent and reasonable basis. Therefore, as required by Section 28 of FRS 102 "Employee benefits", the University accounts for the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme.

(ii) Effective control of the University of Buckingham Foundation

The University has judged that it is in a position of effective control arising from a number of factors, notwithstanding that the Foundation is a distinct charitable trust, therefore the results of the Foundation have been consolidated in the Group financial statements.

The trust deed for the Foundation declares that its primary purpose is to advance the education of the public by, in particular, supporting and promoting the education of students attending the University and by benefiting the wider academic community and purposes of the University as a whole.

The close relationship between the University and the Foundation is a determining factor in the University exercising effective control. The Trustee board, a number of whom are officers of the University, agree that the primary intent of the Foundation is to support the University and are guided by the University in decisions relating the distribution of funds.

(iii) The extent of control over a joint venture, Apollo Buckingham Health Sciences Campus Ltd (ABHSC)

The University has a 40% shareholding in ABHSC during 2021. It has judged that this should be accounted for as a joint venture and as a jointly controlled entity. ABHSC is governed by a joint venture agreement (JVA) between the University and the other two parties holding the remaining shareholding, with no single party having majority control. The JVA sets out the contractual terms governing the joint venture and as such the University has judged that it will account for its shareholding and the results of ABHSC in accordance with the equity method.

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

15 Critical Accounting Judgements and Estimates (continued)

a) Critical judgements in applying the Group and University's accounting policies (continued)

(iv) Estimate of financial guarantee contract

The University has provided a commitment to make good up to 50% of any lease payment shortfall for the Booth Hall student residences in Crewe. The lease of Booth Hall was taken out by the JV (ABHSC) from Manchester Metropolitan University. The full value of the guarantee is maintained in a separate Escrow bank account in favour of Manchester Metropolitan University. The Council of the University of Buckingham considers that due to the level of uncertainty of the level of student accommodation income in the JV the full amount of the financial guarantee may need to be invoked, and have maintained appropriate provision for this.

b) Critical estimates in applying the Group and University's accounting policies

In the preparation of the Group financial statements, management (in conjunction with third-party independent experts regarding property valuations) has made estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported for assets and liabilities as at the Statement of Financial Position date and the amounts reported for income and expenses during the year. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

(i) Depreciation and impairment of fixed assets

Assets are depreciated as set out in Note 6, Principal Accounting Policies, which are judged to be an appropriate assessment of the useful life of assets, and assuming that the University is operating as a going concern on the Buckingham campus for the foreseeable future.

The University's material fixed assets are reviewed annually to determine whether their book value should be reduced due to their value being impaired. Estimates are made of the extent of any impairment on individual assets or related groups of assets.

(ii) Onerous contract provisions

The University has a liability under non-cancellable operating lease for its Crewe campus. The lease is effective for 10 years from 2019, with a rent review from 1 January 2025 and an option to renew beyond 10 years. More details are set out in Note 27.

The financial viability of the Crewe campus is dependent on income from Medical and Allied Health students, generated through their teaching and learning at Crewe and on the Joint venture agreement with the Crewe partners

The Crewe campus operating lease is considered to be an onerous lease as the expected net revenues to the University from all relevant activities at Crewe is materially less than the operating lease costs over the lease period, both on a net present value basis. The University uses internal assumptions on forecast student numbers and income and discount rates, and assesses the net revenue due to the University in accordance with the profit share arrangements set out in the Crewe joint venture agreement. Whilst negotiations are ongoing to make new arrangements including a new replacement lease, council considers it prudent to maintain the full provision for the onerous lease made in previous financial statements until the outcome is more certain.

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

15 Critical Accounting Judgements and Estimates (continued)

b) Critical estimates in applying the Group and University's accounting policies (continued)

(iii) Impairment of receivables

Student and commercial/trade receivables are reviewed at least annually to determine the extent to which a provision is required against debts that have a reasonable risk of non-payment. The risk reflects the length of time for which the debt has been unpaid and the reason for non-payment.

The University assesses such debts on an individual student or customer basis and does not include general provisions. The University continues to seek payment of such debts until all reasonable efforts have been exhausted.

(iv) USS provision

Management, aided by external third-party advisers, has made estimates, as set out in Note 23, on economic and mortality assumptions, including pay awards, as well as estimates of changes to the future membership of the scheme as the scheme is closed to new entrants to the University, unless new staff are transferring benefits.

A key assumption is that future contribution rates will not change, apart from the unwinding of the deficit recovery plan.

16 Related party transactions

The Group and University discloses transactions with related parties which are not wholly owned within the same group. Where appropriate, transactions of a similar nature, such as regular payments, are aggregated unless, in the opinion of the Council, separate disclosure is necessary to understand the effect of the transactions on the Group financial statements.

17 Termination benefits

Termination benefits of any kind relating to staff are based upon the relevant employment contracts, length of service, discretionary awards, and any statutory requirements.

18 Exceptional items

Exceptional items are disclosed separately in the financial statements where it is necessary to do so to provide further understanding of the financial performance of the company. They are items that are material either because of their size or their nature, or that are non-recurring and are considered as exceptional items.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1 Tuition fees and education contract

	Group 2021 £000	University 2021 £000	Group 2020 £000	University 2020 £000
Full-time undergraduates – Home & EU	**14,616**	**14,616**	14,489	14,489
Full-time undergraduates – International	**14,411**	**14,411**	12,034	12,034
Part-time undergraduates	**167**	**167**	302	302
Postgraduates – Home & EU	**5,238**	**5,238**	4,462	4,462
Postgraduates – International	**2,048**	**2,048**	1,648	1,648
Pre and non-degree courses	**1,030**	**1,030**	1,163	1,163
	37,510	**37,510**	34,098	34,098

2 Research grants and contracts

	Group 2021 £000	University 2021 £000	Group 2020 £000	University 2020 £000
Research charities	**292**	**292**	819	819
Industry and commerce	**897**	**897**	-	-
	1,189	**1,189**	819	819

3 Other income

	Group 2021 £000	University 2021 £000	Group 2020 £000	University 2020 £000
Residences	**1,766**	**1,766**	1,960	1,960
Catering and bar	**76**	**76**	141	141
Validation and franchise fees	**1,196**	**1,196**	1,304	1,304
Other income *	**999**	**474**	906	379
Government **	**32**	**32**	954	954
	4,069	**3,544**	5,265	4,738

* Other income comprises, in particular: registration fees, medical school materials, credit card commissions earned, and (at the Group level) rental income from parties outside The University of Buckingham.

**Figure comprised entirely of the payments received from the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme. Amounts are recognised in the period to which claims under the CJRS relate, having met all the conditions of the scheme.

4 Investment income

	Group 2021 £000	University 2021 £000	Group 2020 £000	University 2020 £000
Investment income on endowments	112	-	104	-
Other investment income	2	2	49	45
	114	**2**	153	45

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

5 Donations and endowments

	Group 2021 £000	**University 2021 £000**	Group 2020 £000	University 2020 £000
Donations with restrictions	647	647	303	145
University of Buckingham Foundation donations with restrictions	-	339	16	332
Unrestricted donations	-	-	6	6
	647	**986**	325	483

Details of endowment funds held by the group are provided at Note 18.

6 Staff costs

	Group 2021 £000	**University 2021 £000**	Group 2020 £000	University 2020 £000
Salaries *	**14,963**	**14,960**	16,772	16,748
Social security costs	**1,493**	**1,493**	1,613	1,613
Pension costs, excluding USS	**1,678**	**1,678**	1,997	1,997
USS exceptional provisions	**(1,106)**	**(1,106)**	(140)	(140)
Apprenticeship Levy	**60**	**60**	64	64
Total	**17,088**	**17,085**	20,306	20,282

* Within salaries, compensation for loss of office (including voluntary severance) of £120,335 was paid in 2021 (2020: £1,239,803) which relates to 5 employees (2020: 38 employees). Within these figures, no payments were made in 2021 in respect of compensation for loss of office to members of the key management personnel (2020: £362,495 for 5 individuals).

Average number of equivalent full time members of staff	**Group 2021 Number**	**University 2021 Number**	Group 2020 Number	University 2020 Number
Academic	**132**	**132**	127	127
Research	**9**	**9**	8	8
Support	**208**	**207**	211	206
Manual	**34**	**34**	42	42
	383	**382**	388	383

Average headcount of members of staff	**Group 2021 Number**	**University 2021 Number**	Group 2020 Number	University 2020 Number
Academic	**140**	**140**	146	146
Research	**10**	**10**	9	9
Support	**220**	**219**	242	238
Manual	**36**	**36**	49	49
	406	**405**	446	442

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

6 Staff costs (continued)

Remuneration of the Vice-Chancellor

Emoluments of the Vice-Chancellor:	**2021**	2020
James Tooley	**£**	£
Basic salary	**170,638**	42,500
Non-taxable benefits – living accommodation	**18,000**	4,500
Bonus	**37,735**	-
Pension contribution to USS	**36,134**	8,968
	262,507	55,968

No other forms of remuneration were provided to the Vice-Chancellor.

Emoluments of the Vice-Chancellor:	**2021**	2020
Sir Anthony Seldon	**£**	£
Basic Salary	**-**	133,219
Non-taxable Benefits – living accommodation	**-**	13,500
	-	146,719

Sir Anthony Seldon held the office of Vice-Chancellor until September 2020. James Tooley was appointed Vice-Chancellor effective from 1 October 2020.

As a requirement of the contract of employment, the Vice-Chancellor is required to reside at Ondaatje Hall in order to discharge their duties fully. There is considerable value to the University in the Vice-Chancellor residing on the University campus. The University, and not the Vice-Chancellor, has first call on the use of the ground floor and garden of Ondaatje Hall, which is used for hosting University seminars and events during the working week plus evenings and weekends. The annual rental value of Ondaatje Hall, a two-storey house, has been assessed by a local estate agent to be £36,000 per annum. The Vice-Chancellor has exclusive use of the first floor only, so £18,000 per annum is considered an appropriate value of the benefit to the Vice-Chancellor. In these financial statements this has been treated as a non-taxable benefit in kind.

The benefit is considered exempt from tax as it is provided for the better performance of the employee's duties and the employment is one of the kinds for which it's customary for employers to provide accommodation for the employee.

Performance-related payments are not contractually a part of the Vice-Chancellor's salary package. During 2021 an ex-gratia bonus of £37,735 was made to the Vice-Chancellor in recognition of the work achieved in difficult circumstances (2020: nil).

The Vice-Chancellor's salary is 5 times the median salary of staff (2020: 5), where the median pay is calculated on a full-time equivalent basis for the salaries paid by the University to its staff. The Vice-Chancellor's remuneration is 7.5 times (2020: 5.7) the median total remuneration of staff where the median total remuneration is calculated on a full-time equivalent basis for the total remuneration by the University of its staff.

The Vice-Chancellor has the overall responsibility for ensuring the effective and efficient management of the University. The Vice-Chancellor is the Accountable Officer as per OfS Regulatory Advice 10 and as such, bears the responsibility of effective governance and financial stewardship of the University.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

6 Staff costs (continued)

Remuneration of the Vice-Chancellor (continued)

The University undertakes collaborations with other institutions around the world and its undergraduate and postgraduate students come from various parts of the world. The Vice-Chancellor is responsible for promoting the University's interests at home and overseas, as well as developing good business relationships between the University and its Collaboration Partners and all other stakeholders including Government representatives, the Office for Students and the Charity Commission.

The Vice-Chancellor works closely with both Council and Senate bodies and leads the Executive Board of the University in all matters relating to governing and running the operations of the University and to ensure appropriate strategic development to deliver the University's academic and financial sustainability.

Assessment of the Vice-Chancellor's performance is conducted on an annual basis.

The Chair of Council conducts an appraisal of the Vice-Chancellor's performance, in consultation with the Remuneration Committee which is based on achievements against the set objectives and the overall performance of the University including student recruitment and completion, student satisfaction, staff satisfaction and overall financial performance.

The Remuneration Committee is responsible for ensuring the right remuneration is set for the Vice-Chancellor to reflect the strategic workload, achievement of performance targets and the general remuneration for Higher Education Heads in the United Kingdom.

Remuneration of higher paid staff excluding employer pension contributions

£	**31 Dec 2021 Number**	31 Dec 2020 Number
100,–00 - 104,999	**-**	1
105,–00 - 109,999	**-**	-
110,–00 - 114,999	**-**	-
115,–00 - 119,999	**-**	-
120,–00 - 124,999	**1**	-
125,–00 - 129,999	**1**	-
130,–00 - 134,999	**1**	1
135,–00 - 139,999	**2**	2
140,–00 - 144,999	**-**	2
145,–00 - 149,999	**-**	1
150,–00 - 154,999	**-**	-
155,–00 - 159,999	**-**	-
160,–00 - 164,999	**-**	-
165,–00 - 169,999	**-**	-
225,000 – 229,999	**1**	-
	6	7

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

6 Staff costs (continued)

Key management personnel

Key management personnel are those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the University and are represented at the University's Executive Committee. Staff costs include salaries paid to key management personnel, plus employer's pension contributions.

	Group / University 2021 £000	Group / University 2020 £000
Key management personnel compensation	**1,170**	2,208
	1,170	2,208

	Group / University 2021 £000	Group / University 2020 £000
Key management personnel numbers	**11**	17
	11	17

The reduction in the number and cost of key management personnel is a result of the cost management programme implemented in 2020.

Council members

Council members are the Trustees for charitable law purposes.

A list of Council members who served at any time during the financial year and until the date these financial statements were formally approved is contained in the "Members of Council" section on page 20.

Due to the nature of the University's operations and the composition of the Council, drawn from local public and private sector organisations, it is inevitable that transactions may take place with organisations in which a member of Council may have an interest. All transactions involving organisations in which a member of Council have an interest, including those identified below, are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the University's Financial Regulations and usual procurement procedures. Note 23 contains details of related party transactions in the year.

No members of Council received honoraria from the University during the year (2020: Nil).

The total expenses paid to or on behalf of the Council members in the year was £1,980 (2020: £1,462 restated), representing travel and subsistence expenses incurred in attending Council, Committee meetings and Charity events including fundraising in their official capacity.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

7 Other operating expenses

Other operating expenses include:	Group 2021 £000	University 2021 £000	Group 2020 £000	University 2020 £000
External auditors' remuneration in respect of audit services	148	138	131	125
Accountancy services from firms other than the external auditor	32	32	-	-
Other costs (see below for further analysis)	20,704	20,410	19,486	19,278
	20,884	**20,580**	19,617	19,403

Further analysis of other costs

Significant cost categories included within other costs:	Group 2021 £000	University 2021 £000	Group 2020 £000	University 2020 £000
Curriculum costs	3,377	3,377	2,677	2,677
Medical student placement fees	6,385	6,385	4,923	4,923
Staff and student travel	730	730	777	777
Premises costs	2,232	2,084	3,230	3,044
Residence costs	479	479	1,098	1,098
General administrative expenses *	7,362	7,216	6,702	6,680
Catering and merchandising costs	139	139	79	79
	20,704	**20,410**	19,486	19,278

***** General administrative expenses include the movements in provisions disclosed in Note 16, plus an increase in the bad debt provision by £1m and other general accruals increases.

8 Interest and other finance costs

	Group 2021 £000	University 2021 £000	Group 2020 £000	University 2020 £000
Bank loans	**236**	**236**	588	588
Pension finance interest	**23**	**23**	49	49
	259	**259**	637	637

The Pension finance interest relates to interest charges, incurred by the University of Buckingham, relating to the USS scheme.

9 Total expenditure

	Group 2021 £000	University 2021 £000	Group 2020 £000	University 2020 £000
Academic and related expenditure	**19,713**	**19,713**	19,740	19,740
Administration and central services	**15,424**	**14,810**	18,200	17,818
Premises	**3,062**	**3,062**	1,730	1,544
Residences	**1,148**	**1,148**	2,598	2,598
Catering and bar	**148**	**148**	79	79
Research grants and contracts	**920**	**920**	470	470
	40,415	**39,801**	42,817	42,249

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

9 Total expenditure (continued)

The University has two classes of business being the provision of education and the delivery of research. The provision of residences, catering, bar plus administration and central services are ancillary activities.

Group Academic and central services expenditure does not include (primarily) £525,000 (2020: £525,000) of rent charged by MPML to the University, as this is eliminated upon consolidation.

10 Intangible assets

The Group holds one written down intangible asset, relating to a podiatry programme curriculum, acquired by MPML in 2019 at a cost of £246k (2020: £246k), fully amortised and therefore carrying a net book value of £nil (2020: £nil).

11 Tangible assets

GROUP	Freehold land	Freehold buildings	Equipment	Assets in course of construction	**Total**
	£000	£000	£000	£000	**£000**
Cost:					
At 1 January 2021	5,345	38,584	17,192	-	61,121
Additions	-	-	2,356	230	2,586
Disposal	(1,123)	(2,405)	(38)	-	(3,566)
At 31 December 2021	**4,222**	**36,179**	19,510	**230**	**60,141**
Accumulated depreciation:					
At 1 January 2021	403	11,464	11,503	-	**23,370**
Charge for the year	-	762	1,422	-	2,184
Disposal	-	(511)	(53)	-	(564)
At 31 December 2021	**403**	**11,715**	**12,872**	**-**	**24,990**
Net book amount:					
At 31 December 2021	**3,819**	**24,464**	**6,638**	**230**	**35,151**
At 31 December 2020	4,942	27,120	5,689	-	**37,751**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

11 Tangible assets (continued)

UNIVERSITY Cost:	Freehold land £000	Freehold Buildings £000	Equipment £000	Assets in course of construction £000	**Total** **£000**
At 1 January 2021	5,345	31,670	15,445	-	**52,460**
Additions	**-**	**-**	2,356	230	2,586
Disposal	(1,123)	(2,405)	(27)	-	**(3,555)**
Transfer					
At 31 December 2021	**4,222**	**29,265**	**17,774**	**230**	**51,491**
Accumulated depreciation:					
At 1 January 2021	403	10,973	11,069	-	**22,445**
Charge for the year	-	641	1,236	-	1,877
Disposal	-	(511)	(53)	-	(564)
At 31 December 2021	**403**	**11,103**	**12,252**	**-**	**23,758**
Net book amount:					
At 31 December 2021	**3,819**	**18,162**	**5,522**	**230**	**27,733**
At 31 December 2020	4,942	20,697	4,376	-	**30,015**

The market value of land and buildings is considered to be in excess of the carrying value. Neither the Group nor University held assets under finance leases during or at the year-end.

12 Investments

Group	Note	**Group 2021 £000**	**University 2021 £000**	Group 2020 £000	University 2020 £000
Investments in subsidiary undertaking		**(53)**	**3,946**	-	4,001
Shares in ABHSC (a joint venture)	24	**-**	**-**	-	-
Shares in CVCP Properties Plc		**23**	**23**	23	23
Other listed investments		**6,496**	**3,980**	5,659	3,408
Cash investment deposits: Non-current		**115**	**115**	115	115
Cash investment deposits: Current		**84**	-	334	-
		6,665	**8,064**	**6,131**	7,547

The University owns 0.54% of the issued ordinary share capital in CVCP Properties plc, the company that owns the offices of Universities UK.

The University owns a non-controlling interest of 40% (80 x £1 ordinary shares) in a joint venture, Apollo Buckingham Health Sciences Campus Ltd (ABHSC), being the company that acquired the Crewe campus from Manchester Metropolitan University.

Other listed investments represent equity shares, principally UK equities, managed by external independent professional fund managers. These are recognised as non-current asset investments, as they are held with a long-term intention to earn recurring income that pays for expenditure connected with Restricted and Endowment Funds.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

12 Investments (continued)

	Group	University
	£000	£000
At 1 January 2021	6,131	7,547
Net movement within the year *	534	517
At 31 December 2021	**6,665**	8,064

* The net movement in the year consists of:

	Group 2021 £000
Gains on investments as per University	517
Gains on investment as per Foundation	281
	798
Net disposal of investments	(264)
	534

	University 2021 £000
Gains on investments as per University	517
	517
	517

The University has an immaterial dormant subsidiary as detailed in Note 24.

13 Trade and other receivables

	Group 2021 £000	University 2021 £000	Group 2020 £000	University 2020 £000
Amounts falling due within one year:				
Escrow funds	**2,507**	**2,507**	2,507	2,507
Student receivables	**7,224**	**7,224**	5,670	5,670
Other trade receivables	**291**	**6**	47	4
Prepayments and accrued income	**1,337**	**1,333**	710	710
Amounts due from subsidiary undertakings	**-**	**1,229**	-	595
Other debtors	**418**	**418**	294	294
	11,777	**12,717**	9,228	9,780

The amounts due from subsidiary undertakings are unsecured interest free loans and repayable on demand.

The Group holds £2,507k of funds in an escrow account relating to the financial guarantee contract connected with Booth Hall student accommodation. The funds were placed in escrow to cover a financial guarantee contract, the liability, £2,126k as at 31 December 2021 (2020: £2,461k) is held within Provisions in these financial statements. The University was required to place these funds in escrow as part of the arrangement made by ABHSC to lease the Booth Hall student accommodation.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

13 Trade and other receivables (continued)

The University has judged that this should be treated in the financial statements as a receivable rather than cash and cash equivalents. The restricted cash is contained in a bank account held jointly in escrow with Manchester Metropolitan University and, whilst this does represent cash funds, it is freely available only to the extent released by both parties following payment of rents due.

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Group 2021 £000	**University 2021 £000**	Restated Group 2020 £000	Restated University 2020 £000
Bank loans	**-**	**-**	750	750
Student fees received in advance	**12,156**	**12,156**	12,302	12,302
Trade payables	**3,362**	**3,103**	3,522	3,400
Social security and other taxation payable	**300**	**299**	493	493
Other payables	**1,464**	**1,464**	1,791	1,797
Accruals and deferred income	**6,001**	**5,976**	6,974	6,808
	23,283	**22,998**	25,832	25,550

Any amounts owing to group companies are unsecured, interest free and repayable on demand.

15 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	Group 2021 £000	**University 2021 £000**	Group 2020 £000	University 2020 £000
Bank loans	**5,000**	**5,000**	17,000	17,000
	5,000	**5,000**	17,000	17,000

Analysis of loan repayments

	University / Group 2021 £000	University / Group 2020 £000
Due within one year, as shown at Note 14	**-**	750
Due between two and five years, as shown above	**5,000**	12,000
Due after five years, as shown above	**-**	5,000
	5,000	17,750

Two separate loans outstanding at 31st December 2010 were refinanced by agreement with NatWest at the beginning of 2021. Both the original loans totalling £17.8m were repaid in full and a new unsecured loan of £5m was drawn. The new £5m term loan is repayable in 5 years and bears fixed rate interest at 2.15%. The terms include financial covenants similar to the old loan arrangements. In 2022 the University further agreed with NatWest that the covenants would not be measured until the full year to December 2022 draft numbers are available. Concurrently with the loan refinancing, a £7.0m revolving credit facility for five years, reducing to £5m after 2 years was also put in place. As of the date these financial statements are signed this facility has remained unused.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

16 Provisions

Group	Financial guarantee contract provision £000	Pension: Employee Benefit Plan £000	Pension: USS £000	VAT provision £000	Crewe Lease £000	**Total £000**
At 1 January 2021	2,461	134	3,005	808	7,552	**13,960**
Utilised in the year	(335)	-	(1,083)	-	(507)	**(1,925)**
At 31 December 2021	**2,126**	**134**	**1,922**	**808**	**7,045**	**12,035**

Financial guarantee contract provision
The Group holds £2,507k of funds in escrow relating to the financial guarantee contract on behalf of ABHSC connected with Booth Hall student accommodation. The funds are placed in escrow to cover a financial guarantee contract. The guarantee value as at 31 December 2021 is £2,126k and as such the provision has been reduced to that value.

Employee Benefit Plan
The Employee Benefit Plan is an in-house pension scheme that is in the process of being wound up. Provisions relate to guaranteed minimum payment equalisation and legal and professional costs relating to the wind-up.

USS
Figures recorded in the tables above for the USS pension represent the University's share of the scheme's liabilities and past deficits. USS will adjust its scheme contribution rates from time-to-time, in order to address the deficit in this multi-employer pension scheme. Note 22 provides further details of pensions.

Adjustment for VAT repayable by the MPML subsidiary
The VAT provision relates to the Medical Property Management Ltd (MPML) subsidiary which is expected to repay £808,000 to HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) relating to the correction of an over-claim of VAT in previous years.

MPML has contacted HM Revenue and Customs to make disclosure that there has been a material error with its previous VAT reclaims and has been working with independent professional taxation advisers to finalise the quantum of monies repayable and the chronology for repayment. The company expects the repayment may need to be made in calendar year 2023 and is awaiting a response from HMRC.

Regarding penalties, the taxation advisers considered the most likely outcome is that any penalties in relation to the VAT error will be suspended. Therefore, no specific provision for penalties has been included within the £808,000 provision. However, should HMRC impose penalties, these could range between 0 – 70% of VAT due. At worst case, this would result in an additional liability of £522,000.

Crewe campus lease
Where anticipated costs in relation to a leasehold property exceed anticipated income, a provision is made for the future shortfall to the end of the lease. This provision relates to the Crewe campus lease. Discussions on new arrangements with lower cost are ongoing at the current time and it is therefore considered prudent to maintain a provision until the results of those discussions are more certain. Movement in provision in the year is the result of the review and update of the discounted cashflow model assumptions.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

16 Provisions (continued)

University	Financial guarantee contract provision £000	Pension: Employee Benefit Plan £000	Pension: USS £000	Crewe Lease £000	**Total £000**
At 1 January 2021	2,461	134	3,005	7,552	**13,152**
Utilised in the year	(335)	-	(1,083)	(507)	**(1,925)**
At 31 December 2021	**2,126**	**134**	**1,922**	7,045	**11,227**

17 Endowment reserves

2021	Group Restricted Permanent £000	Group Restricted Expendable £000	**Group Total £000**	University Restricted Permanent	University Restricted Expendable	**University Total £000**
Capital						
As at 1 January 2021	4,579	841	**5,420**	**2,658**	**22**	**2,650**
New Donations	246	-	**246**	**246**	**-**	**246**
Increase in market value of investments	784	69	**853**	**573**	**-**	**573**
Capital expenditure	(19)	-	**(19)**	**-**	**-**	**-**
As at 31 December 2021	**5,590**	**910**	**6,500**	**3,447**	**22**	**3,469**
Accumulated Income						
As at 1 January 2021	1,149	135	1,284	681	-	681
Investment income	40	-	40	40	-	40
Expenditure	(61)	-	(61)	(61)	-	(61)
As at 31 December 2021	**1,128**	**135**	**1,263**	**660**	**-**	**660**
Total Funds						
As at 1 January 2021	**5,728**	**976**	**6,704**	**3,309**	**22**	**3,331**
As at 31 December 2021	**6,718**	**1,045**	**7,763**	**4,107**	**22**	**4,129**
Analysis by Fund Type						
Scholarships and bursaries	2,311	1,023	3,334	-	-	-
Development funds	4,407	22	4,429	4,107	22	4,129
As at 31 December 2021	**6,718**	**1,045**	**7,763**	**4,107**	**22**	**4,129**

Analysis by Asset Type	**Group Total £000**	**University Total £000**
Fixed assets	**888**	**-**
Investments	**6,611**	**4,095**
Other current assets	**264**	**34**
As at 31 December 2021	**7,763**	**4,129**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

17 Endowment reserves (continued)

2020	Group Restricted Permanent £000	Group Restricted Expendable £000	**Group Total £000**	University Restricted Permanent	University Restricted Expendable	**University Total £000**
Capital						
As at 1 January 2020	4,256	733	**4,989**	2,570	22	**2,592**
New Donations	202	-	**202**	-	-	**-**
Increase in market value of investments	140	108	**248**	58	-	**58**
Capital expenditure	(19)	-	**(19)**	-	-	**-**
As at 31 December 2020	**4,579**	**841**	**5,420**	**2,628**	**22**	**2,650**
Accumulated Income						
As at 1 January 2020	1,157	196	1,353	797	-	797
Investment income	152	11	163	77	-	77
Expenditure	(160)	(72)	(232)	(193)	-	(193)
As at 31 December 2020	**1,149**	**135**	**1,284**	**681**	**-**	**681**
Total Funds						
As at 1 January 2020	**5,413**	**929**	**6,342**	**3,367**	**22**	**3,389**
As at 31 December 2020	**5,728**	**976**	**6,704**	**3,309**	**22**	**3,331**
Analysis by Fund Type						
Scholarships and bursaries	2,121	954	3,075	-	-	-
Development funds	3,607	22	3,629	3,309	22	3,331
As at 31 December 2020	**5,728**	**976**	**6,704**	**3,309**	**22**	**3,331**

Analysis by Asset Type	**Group Total £000**	**University Total £000**
Fixed assets	**907**	**-**
Investments	**6,108**	**3,523**
Other current liabilities	**(311)**	**(192)**
As at 31 December 2020	**6,704**	**3,331**

Details of the material funds (balances over £500,000) are as follows:

Fund Name	Type	Purpose	As at 1st January 2021 £000	Income & New Donations £000	Expenditure £000	Gains £000	As at 31st December 2021 £000
Vinson	Permanent	Economics & Entrepreneurship	3,309	-	-	572	3,881
Gregory	Permanent	Scholarships & Bursaries	1,685	84	(42)	125	1,852
Desborough	Expendable	Scholarships & Bursaries	607	8	(3)	45	657

Each of the individually material endowment funds detailed above represent other listed investments and cash investment deposits only, and each are of sufficient value and liquidity to enable them to be applied in accordance with their associated restrictions.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

18 Restricted reserves

Reserves with restrictions are as follows:

2021	Donations / Grants		**Total**	
	Group £000	University £000	**Group £000**	**University £000**
At 1 January 2021	6,063	5,866	**6,063**	**5,866**
Other restricted income	112	-	**112**	**-**
New donations and reclassifications	140	140	**140**	**140**
Expenditure	(386)	(31)	**(386)**	**(31)**
Transfer to unrestricted reserves	(169)	(169)	**(169)**	**(169)**
Total restricted reserve comprehensive (expenditure) for the year	(303)	(60)	**(303)**	**(60)**
At 31 December 2021	**5,760**	**5,806**	**5,760**	**5,806**

2020	Donations / Grants		**Total**	
	Group £000	University £000	**Group £000**	**University £000**
At 1 January 2020	6,287	5,779	**6,287**	**5,779**
Other restricted income	5	-	**5**	**-**
New donations and reclassifications	184	184	**184**	**184**
Expenditure	(413)	(97)	**(413)**	**(97)**
Total restricted reserve comprehensive (expenditure) for the year	**(224)**	**87**	**(224)**	**87**
At 31 December 2020	**6,063**	**5,866**	**6,063**	**5,866**

19 Total reserves

	Group 2021 £000	**University 2021 £000**	Group 2020 £000	University 2020 £000
At 1 January	**17,735**	**11,225**	20,164	13,753
Surplus/ (deficit) for the year	**5,829**	**5,864**	(2,447)	(2,546)
Release of restricted funds spent in year	**(386)**	**(386)**	(166)	(166)
New Donations and reclassifications	**386**	**386**	184	184
At 31 December	**23,564**	**17,089**	17,735	11,225

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

19 Total reserves (continued)

Analysis of donations and new grants in the year by type of purpose:

	Group 2021 £000	University 2021 £000	Group 2020 £000	University 2020 £000
Scholarships and bursaries	**647**	**647**	302	145
Research support	**-**	**339**	17	332
Unrestricted donations	**-**	**-**	6	6
	647	**986**	325	483

	Group 2021 £000	University 2021 £000	Group 2020 £000	University 2020 £000
Restricted donations	**647**	**986**	319	477
Unrestricted donations	**-**	**-**	6	6
	647	**986**	325	483

At the date of the signing of these accounts the Trustees were performing but had not yet completed a review of the University's Endowment, Restricted and Unrestricted funds, and the presentation of income and expenditure associated with the University endowment funds.

20 Consolidated reconciliation of net debt

	2021 £'000
Net debt 1 January	**(3,667)**
Movement in cash and cash equivalents	(11,128)
Other non-cash changes	9,506
Net debt 31 December	**(5,289)**
Change in net debt	**(1,622)**

Analysis of net debt:	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Cash and cash equivalents	**10,289**	**21,417**
Borrowings: amounts falling due within one year		
Unsecured loans	-	(750)
Borrowings: amounts falling due after more than one year		
Unsecured loans	(5,000)	(17,000)
Net debt	**5,289**	**3,667**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

21 Capital commitments

At the year-end there were no capital commitments outstanding in respect of contracts for future capital expenditure entered into by the Group and the University (2020: £nil).

Capital expenditure authorised but not committed for both the Group and the University was £nil (2020: £nil).

22 Pension commitments

The University participates in the following pension schemes:

- The Aviva Group Personal Pension Plan (GPP) and the NEST Auto Enrolment Scheme (NEST-AES) are defined contribution schemes, so no commitment exists beyond the employer's contractual contributions for each accounting period. The NEST-AES is a money purchase scheme contracted into the State Second Pension (S2P), which covers a small number of staff under auto enrolment.

- The University of Buckingham Employee Benefits Plan (EBP) has defined benefits for those members with Guaranteed Minimum Pension rights and the University accounts for the deficit of EBP's liabilities over assets.

- The Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) provides defined benefits, which entail long term liabilities, for which the University is ultimately responsible and accounts for its share of USS's deficit. The fund is valued every three years by professionally qualified independent actuaries. Membership of the fund is closed to new members of staff unless they are already members of the scheme through previous employments.

The Universities Superannuation Scheme

Basis of the scheme

USS is the main scheme covering academic and academic-related staff which provides pensions based in part on defined benefit career average and part defined contribution. The scheme is a hybrid pension scheme, providing defined benefits for all members as well as defined contribution benefits. The assets of the scheme are held in a separate trustee-administered fund. Because of the mutual nature of the scheme, the assets are not attributed to individual institutions and a scheme-wide contribution rate is set. The University is therefore exposed to actuarial risks associated with other institutions' employees and is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the scheme on a consistent and reasonable basis.

As required by Section 28 of FRS 102 "Employee benefits", the University accounts for the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. As a result, the amount charged to the Statement of Income represents the contributions payable to the scheme. Since the University has entered into an agreement (the Recovery Plan) that determines how each employer within the scheme will fund the overall deficit, the University recognises a liability for the contributions payable that arise from the agreement (to the extent that they relate to the deficit) and an expense is recognised.

FRS 102 makes the distinction between a group plan and a multi-employer scheme. A group plan consists of a collection of entities under common control typically with a sponsoring employer. A multi-employer scheme is a scheme for entities not under common control and represents (typically) an industry-wide scheme such as USS.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

22 Pension commitments (continued)

The Universities Superannuation Scheme (continued)

In a multi-employer scheme, where the employer has entered into an agreement with the scheme that determines how the employer will fund a deficit, this results in the recognition of a liability for the contributions payable, (to the extent that they relate to the deficit) and the resulting expense is reflected in profit or loss in accordance with section 28 of FRS 102. The University is satisfied that the USS meets the definition of a multi-employer scheme and has therefore recognised the discounted fair value of the contractual contributions under the latest available recovery plan at the year end.

Financial impact of the scheme valuation

A schedule of contributions based on the 31 March 2018 valuation has been agreed as:

	Employer	Employee
1 January 2019 to 31 March 2019	18.0%	8.0%
1 April 2019 to 30 September 2019	19.5%	8.8%
1 October 2019 to 30 September 2021	21.1%	9.6%
1 October 2021 onwards	23.7%	11.0%

These contributions include a provision for the costs of future accrual of defined benefits and contributions towards the correction of the deficit in the defined benefit section.

The University's provision for future liabilities decreased by £1.08 during the year to £1.92m at 31 December 2021 (2020: £3.01 m).

Actuarial information and assumptions

Since the University cannot identify its share of USS Retirement Income Builder assets and liabilities, the following disclosures reflect those relevant for the scheme's assets and liabilities as a whole.

The University has 113 active members as at 31 December 2021 (2020: 113 active members).

Discount rate: 0.73% at 31 December 2020, based on the discount rate provided by the British Universities Finance Directors Group (BUFDG) as at 31 July 2020.

Discount rate (forward rates)
Years 1-10: CPI + 0.14% reducing linearly to CPI – 0.73%
Years 11-20: CPI + 2.52% reducing linearly to CPI + 1.55%
Years 21+: CPI + 1.55%

Pension increases (CPI): term dependent rates in line with the difference between the fixed interest and index linked yield curves less 1.3%

Pay increases: Future salaries increase rate 2%, no change in staff membership.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

22 Pension commitments (continued)

The Universities Superannuation Scheme (continued)

Mortality base table

The main demographic assumption relates to the mortality assumptions. These assumptions are based on analysis of the scheme's experience carried out as part of the 31 March 2018 actuarial valuation.

The current life expectancies on retirement at age 65 are:

	2021	**2020**
Males currently aged 65 years	24.4 years	24.4 years
Females currently aged 65 years	25.9 years	25.9 years
Males currently aged 45 years	26.3 years	26.3 years
Females currently aged 45 years	27.7 years	27.7 years

Figures in the table above are identical for 2020 and 2021; they are taken from the scheme valuation dated 31 March 2018 and there was no scheme valuation performed between 2020 or 2021.

Cost to the University	**Group / University 2021 £000**	Group / University 2020 £000
Contributions to USS	**1,081**	1,369
Contributions to GPP	**589**	621
Contributions to AES	**7**	8
(Decrease) / increase in provision for USS liabilities	**(1,106)**	(140)
Total pension cost for the year (Note 6)	**571**	1,858

Contributions outstanding at 31 December	**Group / University 2021 £000**	Group / University 2020 £000
To USS	**117**	-
To GPP	**80**	35
To AES	**2**	3
Total outstanding	**199**	38

Most recent actuarial valuations

A triennial actuarial valuation of the USS Retirement Income Builder was carried out at 31 March 2020 (the valuation date), using the projected unit method. This was performed for USS 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 of 31 March 2020, 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 deficit of £14.1 billion and a funding ratio of 82.5%.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

22 Pension commitments (continued)

The Universities Superannuation Scheme (continued)

Following a consultation with Universities UK, University & College Union (UCU), and the Chair of the Joint Negotiating Committee (JNCC), it was agreed that employer and employee contributions of 21.4% and 9.8%, respectively, would be fixed until 30 September 2021. The USS Trustees issued an actuarial recovery plan in September 2019, alongside a revised schedule of contributions.

In accordance with the requirements of FRS 102, the University currently recognises a provision for its obligation to fund past deficits arising within USS. The recovery plan in the 2018 actuarial valuation required employers to contribute 2.0% of salaries over the period 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2021, at which point the rate would increase to 6.0%. If the deficit contributions are made at this level and experiences follow the assumptions made in the recovery plan, the deficit is expected to be resolved by 31 March 2028.

It was agreed that by 30 September 2021 either an updated schedule of contributions from the 2020 valuation or a combined contribution rate of a minimum of 34.7% would be introduced. This option includes three main conditions imposed by the USS Trustee, in that universities will be subject to debt monitoring, a moratorium on leaving the scheme until completion of the 2020 valuation and that the USS Trustee would request *pari passu* security for Section 75 debt should an institution look to raise secured debt. The work of the USS Joint Expert Panel continues, and Universities have asked that USS consider their recommendations whilst carrying out the 2020 valuation.

A new Schedule of Contributions has been signed and filed with The Pensions Regulator based on the 2020 Valuation with an effective date of 1 October 2021. This represents a significant deterioration compared with the 2018 valuation that was used in these financial statements. As the effective date occurred after 31 December 2020 but before the financial statements are signed this constitutes a non-adjusting balance sheet event.

The USS Trustee board has agreed the future contribution rates effective from 1 October 2021, with employer contributions at 21.4% and member contributions at 9.8%. This replaces the employer and member contributions in place to 30 September 2021 of 21.1% and 9.6% respectively. In February 2022 the board confirmed they will pursue their initial proposal to instigate a small increase in contribution rates from the 2018 valuation but extend the deficit recovery period as a result of the decision to proceed with benefit change by the Joint Negotiating Committee (JNC).

Management are assessing the impact of this revised schedule of contributions on the reported deficit provision.

The University of Buckingham Employee Benefits Plan (EBP)

The EBP is a defined contribution (money purchase) scheme which includes guaranteed minimum pension (GMP) benefits. The scheme started to wind up on 31 January 2008 when it operated on a contracted in basis. The scheme was contracted out on a GMP basis prior to 6 April 1997.

Those members with GMP benefits in respect of contracted out service prior to April 1997 have pensions payable from the scheme which must not be less than the GMPs specified in legislation. The GMP rights mean the scheme provides a defined benefit. On retirement the full proceeds of each member's individual account with Royal London are used to secure benefits in terms of the rules of the scheme, via the purchase of an annuity policy.

The net assets of the fund as at 5 April 2020 (the plan's financial year-end) were £65,000 with the value of investments designated to members valued on this date as £65,000. The assets of the plan are invested in units of various funds with Royal London.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

22 Pension commitments (continued)

The University of Buckingham Employee Benefits Plan (EBP) (continued)

The latest actuarial valuation of the scheme in place at the year-end was prepared as at 6 April 2020. The valuation results indicated the scheme was 75% funded with a calculated shortfall of £152,000. It was agreed that no further contributions will be made but UOB will continue to pay the cost of Pensions Protection Fund levies and the cost of any expenses other than those paid by Royal London.

The assumptions underlying the contributions required to address the valuation shortfall allow for changes since the valuation date. The purchase of immediate annuities for 3 members and deferred annuities for the remaining two members match the members' benefits. The assets at the valuation date are slightly in excess of the purchase price of the deferred annuities, leading to no shortfall in the scheme and no recovery plan contributions were required, despite a shortfall being shown at the valuation date.

Most recent valuations and actuarial information and assumptions

There are 5 members of the scheme.

Funding Position	**6 April 2020 Valuation £000**	**6 April 2017 Valuation £000**	**6 April 2014 Valuation £000**
Total GMP member liabilities	**153**	**201**	**164**
Assets			
GMP accounts	-	113	113
Contingency account	7	43	39
Net current assets	(6)	(6)	(1)
Total Assets	**1**	**150**	**151**
(Deficit)	**(152)**	**(51)**	**(13)**
Funding ratio	1%	75%	92%

Discount rate:
Before retirement 0.6% p.a. (10 year gilts -0.95%)
After retirement 0.2% p.a. (10 year gilts -0.55%)

	2021	**2020**
RPI inflation:	3.1% p.a.	3.1% p.a.
CPI inflation:	2.3% p.a.	2.3% p.a.
GMP increases in deferment:	Fixed rates	Fixed rates

Increases in payment:	**2021**	**2020**
GMP earned before 6/4/88 level	0.0% p.a.	0.0% p.a.
GMP earned on or after 6/4/88 (CPI max 3% p.a.)	2.3% p.a.	2.3% p.a.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

22 Pension commitments (continued)

The University of Buckingham Employee Benefits Plan (EBP) (continued)

Mortality base table:
The main demographic assumption relates to the mortality assumptions. These assumptions are based on analysis of the scheme's experience carried out as part of the 6 April 2020 actuarial valuation. The mortality assumptions used in these figures are as follows:

	Male	Female
Current pensioner aged 65 - cohort	87.5	89.1
Current pensioner aged 65 – period	86.1	87.8
Future pensioner aged 65 – 20 year in future	89.2	90.7
Future improvement rate	1.5%	1.25%

The EBP pension provision of £134,000 in the University relates to potential payments to encourage a reduction in Scheme membership by way of transfer values or the purchase of annuities, where possible. The provisions are required for GMP equalisation costs and legal advice, together with wind up costs. If a member, after taking financial advice, decides that he/she wishes to transfer his/her benefits to a new provider, then the employer will need to provide this enhancement. The aim has been for the benefits of the GMP members to be bought and replaced with a deferred annuity. The intention is to wind up the scheme and distribute assets to remaining members.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

23 Related party transactions

Related party transactions for the year ended 31 December 2021 are as follows:

Name	University Role	Related Party and Relationship	Transaction	2021 Receipts	2021 Payments	2021 Debtors	2021 Creditors	2020 Receipts	2020 Payments	2020 Debtors	2020 Creditors
						Outstanding balances				Outstanding balances	
Mr Mark Rushton	Council Member	Trustee of Swanbourne House School Trust Ltd	Fees for training provided to teachers	-	-	-	-	£2,250	-	-	-
Professor Joe Harrison	Council Member	Chief Executive Officer of Milton Keynes University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	Operating Costs of the University	-	£2,932,547 (Payments were made to the NHS Trust and not to Professor Harrison personally)	-	-	-	£2,121,805 (Payments were made to the NHS Trust and not to Professor Harrison personally)	-	-
Mr Paul Jennings	Finance director and Executive Team member	Secretary of Medical Property Management Ltd	Salary from a wholly-owned subsidiary	-	-	-	-	-	£5,000	-	-
Mr Colin Stocker	Estates Bursar and Executive Team member	Director of Medical Property Management Ltd	Salary from a wholly-owned subsidiary	-	-	-	-	-	£13,220	-	-
Ms Misty McCrory	Head of Human Resources and Executive Team member	Director of Medical Property Management Ltd	Salary from a wholly-owned subsidiary	-	£2,629	-	-	-	£5,000	-	-
Caitlin Botha	Council Member	Member of The University of Buckingham Council	Tuition fees for University course	£11,874	-	£2,950	-	£16,869	-	£534	-
Nicholas Hillman	Council Member	Director of HEPI	The University pays an annual membership to HEPI	-	£2,400	-	-	-	£2,400	-	-
Debarpita Bardhan-Corriea	Executive Team Member	Spouse was a visiting lecturer of the University during 2021	The University paid salary to the visiting lecturer	-	£3,000	-	-	-	-	-	-

Related party transactions with the University's two subsidiaries for the year ended 31 December 2021 are as follows:

Medical Property Management Ltd (MPML)

Transaction	2021 Receipts	2021 Payments	2021 Debtors	2021 Creditors	2020 Receipts	2020 Payments	2020 Debtors	2020 Creditors
			Outstanding balances					
Rental payments made by the University to MPML for the former's use of the Milton Keynes Academic Centre	-	£412,500	-	£150,000	-	£262,500	-	£37,500
Payments made by the University on behalf of MPML	-	£83,006	-	-	-	-	-	-
Amounts owed by MPML to the University	-	-	£630,695	-	-	£86,567	£547,689	-

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

23 Related party transactions (continued)

The University of Buckingham Foundation (UoBF)

Transaction	2021 Receipts	2021 Payments	2021 Debtors	2021 Creditors	2020 Receipts	2020 Payments	2020 Debtors	2020 Creditors
			Outstanding balances					
Donations from UoBF to the University	£354,083	-	-	-	£362,292	-	-	-
Rent paid by the University regarding student accommodation properties owned by UoBF	-	£61,200	-	-	-	£61,200	-	-
Donations from UoBF to the University that were due for payment but not received at the year-end date	-	-	£493,207	-	-	-	£139,121	-

Other related party transactions and disclosures are as follows:

- Apollo Buckingham Health Sciences Campus Ltd (ABHSC) is a related party of the University of Buckingham. Two of the four Board of Directors of ABHSC are University employees and the University is not considered to have control.

  The University provides a financial guarantee contract for 50% of the lease payments between ABHSC and Manchester Metropolitan University as per note 13.

  In 2019 the University entered into lease arrangements with ABHSC in respect of the campus at Crewe. The lease is currently being renegotiated, an update on which is provided in Note 26.

- Mr Mohammed Syed, Council member and Chair of the University's Finance, Estates and Resources committee, is a senior executive of a bank which is a member of National Westminster Bank plc (NatWest). NatWest are the University's main bankers and have provided loans to the University, as set out in Note 15.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

24 Subsidiary, joint venture, and associate undertakings

Company	Principal activity	Status	Holding of ordinary shares	Registered office
Medical Property Management Ltd	Property holding and management, acquisition of academic curriculum	Subsidiary	100%	Yeomanry House Hunter Street Buckingham MK18 1EG
Buckingham Business Enterprise Ltd	Used as academic support for business, enterprise, and innovation students	Subsidiary	100%	Yeomanry House Hunter Street Buckingham MK18 1EG
The University of Buckingham Foundation	Receives, holds, and distributes donations, primarily in support of the University	A separately constituted unincorporated charity, under the effective control of the University	Not applicable	Yeomanry House Hunter Street Buckingham MK18 1EG
Apollo Buckingham Health Sciences Campus Ltd	Provides facilities management and student support services for medical and other Allied Health students on the Crewe campus	Joint venture	40%	College House The Campus Crewe Green Road Crewe Cheshire CW1 5DU
University of Buckingham Press Ltd	Publishers	Associate	25%	9 The Fairway Northwood HA6 3DZ
University of Buckingham Medical Sciences North Ltd	Dormant company	Subsidiary	N/A Company limited by guarantee	Yeomanry House Hunter Street Buckingham MK18 1EG

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

24 Subsidiary, joint venture, and associate undertakings (continued)

Medical Property Management Ltd
This wholly owned subsidiary has been consolidated in the University financial statements.

Buckingham Business Enterprise Ltd
The results of this wholly owned subsidiary are deemed to be immaterial to the results of the University so have not been consolidated.

The University of Buckingham Foundation (the Foundation)
The University is in a position of effective control arising from a number of factors, notwithstanding that the Foundation is a distinct charitable trust and therefore the results of the Foundation have been consolidated in the Group financial statements.

The trust deed for the Foundation declares that its purpose is to advance education, in particular supporting and promoting the education of students at the University, and to promote research into academic and scientific fields of learning.

The close relationship between the University and the Foundation is a determining factor in the University exercising effective control. The Foundation's Board of Trustees agrees that the primary intent of the Foundation is to support the University and the Trustees are guided by the University in decisions relating to the distribution of funds.

Apollo Buckingham Health Sciences Campus Ltd (ABHSC)
The University has a 40% shareholding in the company, ABHSC, which started to trade in 2019.

The University has no contractual commitment to cover any losses of ABHSC but is committed to its occupational damages payments reflecting an economic rental for the utilised campus whilst contractual lease arrangements are renegotiated.

The unaudited ABHSC financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 show retained losses of £2,528,000 from incorporation on 24 March 2017 to 31 March 2021. Accordingly, the University's shares in ABHSC are held at 31 December 2021 at a value of £nil (2020: £nil).

University of Buckingham Press Ltd
The results of the University's minority investment in this company are immaterial to the results of the University and have not been consolidated.

University of Buckingham Medical Sciences North Ltd
This subsidiary was registered on 29 January 2020. This company has remained dormant since its incorporation.

25 Lease commitments

The University entered into a joint venture agreement in October 2018 with Apollo Education UK Ltd and Unique Children's Community Interest Company, including a 10 year lease with Apollo Buckingham Heath Sciences Ltd for the University's campus in Crewe, under which the University would be committed to lease payments estimated at £40.1 m in total over 10 years, after the benefit of an initial £4.0 m rent-free amount. Lease payments are fixed amounts payable in accordance with the terms of the operating lease until 31 December 2024, following which there is a rent review option. There is an option to renew the lease after 10 years. These arrangements are all subject to the post balance sheet event per note 26 and as such in the process of being renegotiated. The commitments disclosed here are as per the original lease as at the balance sheet date.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

25 Lease commitments (continued)

Total minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases under the lease for the Crewe campus are as follows, after taking into account the £4 m rent-free amount:

	Land and buildings 2021 £000	Other leases 2021 £000	Total 2021 £000	Land and buildings 2020 £000	Other leases 2020 £000	Total 2020 £000
Group and University						
Not later than one year	3,913	31	3,944	3,334	32	3,366
Later than one year and not later than five years	18,950	73	19,023	17,924	106	18,030
Later than five years	15,384	-	15,384	20,322	-	20,322
	38,247	**104**	**38,351**	**41,580**	**138**	**41,718**

Onerous lease provisions have been disclosed in Note 17.

Lease payments in the year amounted to £1,525k (2020: £6k) for land and buildings leases and £36k (2020: £92k) for other leases.

26 Post balance sheet events

a. Apollo Buckingham Health Sciences Campus Ltd (ABHSC)

In 2021 the University has entered into negotiations with ABHSC, the joint venture company for the Crewe campus. The University wishes to review and revise the commercial arrangements, as set out in the joint venture agreement, plus the University's arrangements to occupy certain buildings on campus. On 24 December 2021, the University and Apollo Education UK Ltd (one of the two other joint venture partners) signed an agreement covering:

a. The intended rescission of the extant joint venture agreement;
b. The intended rescission of the arrangement to occupy certain buildings;
c. The creation of a new memorandum of understanding as a precursor to a new joint venture agreement regarding operations at the Crewe campus.

The 24 December 2021 agreement potentially required the University to pay sums to Apollo Education UK Ltd if the University and Apollo Education UK Ltd did not reach agreement on a new memorandum of understanding by 24 July 2022. In August 2022 £1.3m became payable under that agreement and was duly paid. Discussions are continuing and even though the sum has been paid, the University has a reasonable expectation that its financial commitments overall will be lower than current commitments (per Note 25) as a result of a new agreement.

In addition a settlement agreement signed in October 2022 concluding various issues between all the joint venture partners without cash payments being made between the parties, whereby the share in the joint venture held by Unique CIC were transferred in agreed proportions to the University and Apollo Education UK Ltd," increasing the University's shareholding in the JV to 48%. Since this date there have not been any further changes to the arrangements between the parties concerned.