



Annual Review
for the year ended 31 July 2019

Our Vision

We deliver impact for society.
As a truly global university, rooted
in the heart of the UK, we make a
significant, sustainable and socially
responsible contribution to the world.

Table of contents

Overview

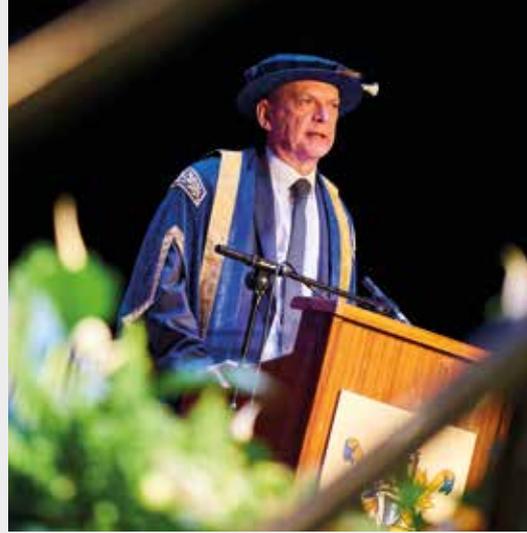
- 01 Highlights as above
 - 04 Delivering Excellence
 - 06 Strategic Plan 2016-2021
-

Annual Review

- 08 News in Review 2018-2019
- 11 Students First



Professor Geoff Layer
Vice-Chancellor



Delivering Excellence

The University of Wolverhampton holds a distinctive place within the higher education sector. Having begun life nearly 200 years ago to enhance the education and skill base of the workforce in what is today a major industrial conurbation, the University is now an integral part of economic growth and social change within the West Midlands and beyond.

Throughout this time, we have been consistently committed to offering students from all backgrounds an excellent learning experience and delivering skills to strengthen the economy. Our advanced facilities, staff expertise, strong research profile, business engagement and international outlook are all contributing factors to our position as a significant strategic force in the educational, cultural and economic development of the West Midlands.

Our Strategic Plan outlines an ambitious set of goals to drive us to make a significant impact in our key areas of activity and build on our considerable achievements so far. At its heart is the University's core mission: to maximise opportunity through generating knowledge, innovation and enterprise.

This annual review highlights key successes, achievements and developments aligned with our Strategic Plan's three core pillars, while the reports and financial statements included herein detail our financial position. All of this information, activity and expenditure paints a picture of how, together, we have been working to realise our plan's overarching mission.

The last 12 months have seen ongoing investment in buildings, facilities, teaching, research and skills training across our three main campuses and beyond. As this continues to transform the educational environment for students and drive growth in Wolverhampton and the local community, our focus will be on championing diversity, advancing teaching and learning, and creating life chances for all.

Of course, there is also always room for improvement and, over the next 12 months, we are committed to seeking out even more opportunities and generating further investment to position our University as a sector-leading, global institution putting students first, revitalising the economy and demonstrating significant influence and impact.

Looking forward

Looking forward, we have a number of exciting challenges and developments over the coming year.

One of the key matters will be the development of a new University strategic plan covering our approach over the next 10 years. Strategy 2030 will be a vital piece of work that will seek to produce a road map for how we want to operate and what we want and need to deliver for the decade ahead.

We have a clear vision and strategy for the University and part of that is the continuation of investing for growth. In 2020, we will see a number of large developments come to fruition which will help us further grow our student numbers, expand our course offerings and work even closer with industry.

This is very much in line with our strategy of expanding our healthcare provision, and in particular Nursing, across our geographical area in a bid to meet the demand from the NHS for trained Nurses due to a nationwide shortage.

In May 2020, we are due to have our new School of Architecture and Built Environment at the £100 million Springfield Campus handed over. It will contain specialist teaching and social learning spaces, design studios, specialist labs, multi-disciplinary workshops, lecture theatre, café, offices, meeting rooms, ICT rooms and a top floor super studio with double height ceilings.

When completed, it will provide space for nearly 1,100 existing students and 65 staff, with the number of students projected to grow over time to 1,600. This will be the final piece in the first six acres of the 12 acre site which will be a national centre of excellence for the built environment, construction and high value manufacturing to be delivered by the University and its partners.

In July 2020, we will also see the opening of the new Cyber Quarter – Midlands Centre for Cyber Security in Hereford. It will be home to the UK's leading centre of excellence in cyber security – a £9 million state-of-the-art hub supporting innovation and industry in the sector, offering tailored security testing, training, R&D and defence and security sector expertise.

It is a joint venture between the University of Wolverhampton and Herefordshire Council and part-funded by the Government's Local Growth Fund, via the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

A handwritten signature of Geoff Layer in black ink, underlined.

“ Students are at the heart of what we do here and the most recent Destination of Leavers from Higher Education survey results show that 96% of the Class of 2017 were in work or further study just six months after graduation, a statistic that supports our Teaching Excellence Framework Silver status. ”



Looking forward

This Annual Review showcases the many successes, achievements, initiatives and projects that make the University of Wolverhampton what it is today. The institution has a long history of transforming the lives of people within its communities by increasing skills and widening aspirations. It plays a key role in the success of the regional economy, acting as a catalyst for growth and innovation. Through strong research and business engagement, the University is leading a number of exciting developments of local, national and international significance. And through its mission as the University of Opportunity, Wolverhampton is transforming life chances for its students, staff and graduates.

Looking forward, there are many opportunities and challenges ahead for the University. Among the exciting developments is the latest phase of the £100m Springfield Campus, which will see the School of Architecture and the Built Environment handed over and open to students. In addition the new Cyber Quarter – Midlands Centre for Cyber Security in Hereford will open in summer 2020. These projects position the University as a centre of excellence in these strategic and growing areas. There is also a clear focus on health and social care provision, ensuring the University is at the forefront of health related education and research.

The University continues to evolve, change and develop, and its partners and stakeholders are a key part of this. By building strong links with industry, business and professionals, the University ensures that courses are relevant, graduates are ready for the world of work and can make a positive impact on the economy. This will continue to be an important area of focus for the University of Wolverhampton moving forward.

Chair of Governors Ben Reid OBE

Strategic Plan 2016-2021

OUR MISSION

Maximising opportunity through generating knowledge, innovation and enterprise.

PILLARS

- Students First
- Skills and Knowledge for Economic and Social Transformation
- Significant Influence and Impact

OUR AMBITION

To be a progressive and influential sector leader, championing diversity, growth, and creating life chances for all while enhancing economic impact and accelerating ambition across the entire University community.

1. Students First By 2021, we will:

- Achieve a sector-leading University experience for all.
- Maximise individual potential for all students.
- Create outstanding learning opportunities informed by world-leading research and professional practice.

2. Skills and Knowledge for Economic and Social Transformation By 2021, we will:

- Provide learning, research and engagement opportunities which target the economic and social needs of the areas in which we operate.
- Maximise individual potential for all our staff.
- Seek to eliminate inequality by narrowing the skills gap within the communities we serve.

3. Significant Influence and Impact By 2021, we will:

- Transform lives through research.
- Be renowned as a University that makes impact regionally, nationally and internationally.
- Foster global knowledge exchange and collaboration.





News in Review

2018-2019

It has been another exciting year for the University of Wolverhampton, marked by many notable developments and the achievements of our students, staff and graduates.

Collaborative makeover for city subway

The University and City of Wolverhampton Council teamed up to give Molineux subway, a main pedestrian link, a facelift in time for Wolves FC's return to the Premier League.



Honorary degrees for esteemed figures

A Man Booker prize-winning novelist, the first female Black Rod and the Chief Executive of Bentley were among those to be honoured by the University in September.



Renowned artists view students' work

As part of the Royal Academy of Arts' 250th anniversary, Turner Prize-winning artists Gilbert & George attended the School of Art's MA Fine Art Exhibition and a Q&A session with students.



Contractor announced for Springfield Campus

ISG was awarded the main build contract for the University's flagship School of Architecture and Built Environment at the new Springfield Campus. A ground-breaking ceremony took place in November.



Learning region milestone for city

The city of Wolverhampton was officially accepted into the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities and was also nominated for a UNESCO Learning City Award.

Science Centre officially opens

The new centre, which offers specialist space for science, technology and engineering businesses, was officially opened in October 2018 at the University of Wolverhampton Science Park.



Academic receives royal award

Dr Opinderjit Kaur Takhar, Senior Lecturer in Religious Studies and Director of the University's Centre for Sikh and Panjabi Studies, received an MBE for her contribution to Sikh community research.

University football hub for women

The University was one of 19 universities to be successfully selected as a BUCS Women's Football and Futsal Specialist Hub, run in partnership with BUCS and The FA.

New Teaching Apprenticeships launched

New Apprenticeships to enable staff working in schools to enhance their skills and work toward Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) were launched by the University in November 2018.



Cutting-edge Cyber Centre collaboration

Work has started on the University and Herefordshire Council's trail-blazing project, the Cyber Quarter – Midlands Centre for Cyber Security, which will lead the UK fight against cyber crime.



Walsall hosts Commonwealth Judo Championships

The University was announced as host for the championships, utilising Walsall Campus's British Judo Centre of Excellence for the event taking place in September 2019.



University scoops Business Award accolade

The University was named Midlands University of the Year in the Midlands Business Awards 2019, in recognition of its innovation, investment, excellence in business and graduate success.

Chancellor renames Telford building

The University's Chancellor, Lord Swraj Paul, renamed Telford Campus's main building as The Angad Paul Building, in honour of his late son who passed away in 2015.



National Brownfield Institute plans revealed

Concept designs were unveiled for the University's new institute at Springfield Campus, which will be home to a state-of-the-art research and innovation centre and will feature commercial testing facilities.

Graduate shoots for FA Cup success

Psychology graduate Jamille Matt used his skills to prepare for a big game as Newport County AFC striker, in his League Two team's FA Cup fourth round tie against Middlesbrough.

Four stars in QS Stars scheme

The University was awarded four stars in the QS Stars scheme, a global rating system which assesses the strengths and weaknesses of universities worldwide.



Football manager honoured on pitch

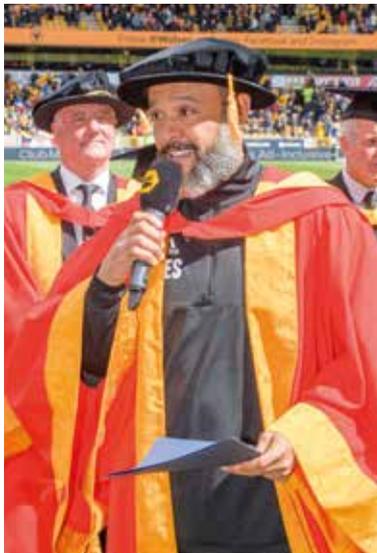
Wolverhampton Wanderers FC manager Nuno Espirito Santo was presented with an Honorary Doctor of Sport by the University at the last home game of the season in May.

Expanded offer in Telford

The University pledged its commitment to develop Telford's regional economy and reduce skills gaps, by offering healthcare courses at Telford Campus for the first time and investing in new facilities.

Graduate becomes City Mayor

University alumna, Councillor Claire Darke, was named the 161st Mayor of the City of Wolverhampton, and selected the University's Alumni Mayoral Scholarship Fund among chosen good causes.



New health facilities at Walsall Campus

In summer 2019, work started on state-of-the-art health lab facilities in the Sister Dora Building at Walsall Campus, including a two-storey extension featuring new simulation labs and mock hospital rooms.



First full year for Legal Degree Apprenticeship

The Chartered Legal Degree Apprenticeship, developed in collaboration with the Chartered Institute of Legal Executives, celebrated a successful first year of raising the bar for legal professionals.

Proposals for education institute unveiled

A proposed new venture between Telford & Wrekin Council and the University, to create a new education institute in the heart of the town, was revealed in March 2019.





Students First

▶ Our Goals

- Achieve a sector-leading University experience for all.
- Maximise individual potential for all students.
- Create outstanding learning opportunities informed by world-leading research and professional practice.

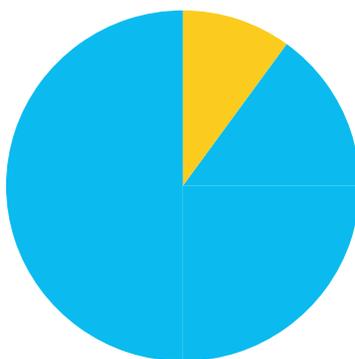
The first pillar of the University's Strategic Plan 2016-2021 acknowledged the increased importance of the student experience:

Our aim to continue offering an improved student experience for all is central to everything we do. Every member of our diverse student community deserves to have the best experience we can provide, suited to their individual requirements. We must deliver a University experience that is more than average – we must be sector-leading.

We are the University of Opportunity. We must ensure that all of our students, no matter what their backgrounds, are provided with the opportunities and support necessary for them to achieve within the higher education environment. We must foster partnerships with students to enhance performance and outcomes, including graduate employability, not just by opening the doors to higher education but also providing the means for students to succeed.

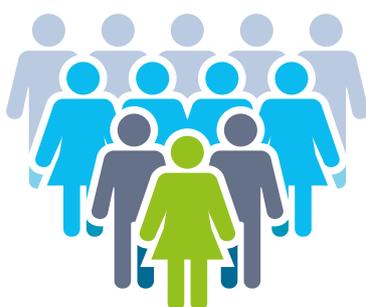
Creating opportunities and improving people's life chances are at the core of our mission. Teaching and learning is fundamental to the success of our students, and to the University as a whole. Our teaching and learning must be innovative, informed by our world-leading research and using the most up-to-date knowledge and practices. We must strive to be at the forefront of developments in learning and teaching practice and technology.

A Sector-Leading Experience



83.44%

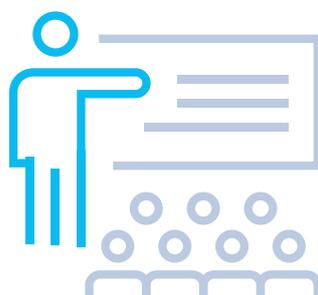
Student satisfaction on the rise



Students at the University of Wolverhampton are more satisfied than they have ever been, according to the latest National Student Survey (NSS) results. Overall satisfaction among students rose again to 83.44% from 82.5% last year. Key areas of satisfaction for students included available learning resources, learning opportunities, and how the University listens to the 'student voice'.



Four stars in international rating system



The University was awarded four stars in the QS Stars scheme, a global rating system which assesses the strengths and weaknesses of universities worldwide to give an insight for prospective international students. The highest five stars were given for the University's teaching, employability, internationalisation and inclusiveness.



Arena Theatre's eclectic offer is expanded

The University's Arena Theatre extended its opening times and launched a new bar to enhance the student experience and provide a greater offer to the people of the city. Film, live music and spoken word nights are now included alongside theatre in the Arena's eclectic programme and students can enjoy discounted entry.



National recognition for suicide prevention programme

Three Minutes to Save a Life, a pioneering University programme dedicated to tackling the issue of suicide and self-harm, was highlighted in the national #MadeAtUni campaign. The programme, a collaboration with Connecting With People and led by Senior Lecturer in Mental Health Clare Dickens, has also influenced changes in the University's delivery of counselling for students.



Big Read for new students



Students enrolled on a Faculty of Science and Engineering course were sent a copy of a Gail Honeyman book ahead of 2018 Welcome Week, as part of the Big Read campaign – an initiative created by Kingston University as a way of making students feel welcome and encouraging conversation between new starters.



▶ Student nurses' celebratory ceremonies

More than 150 nursing students celebrated the end of their studies at the University of Wolverhampton with two special Florence Nightingale-style lamp procession ceremonies, ending in churches in Walsall and Wolverhampton.

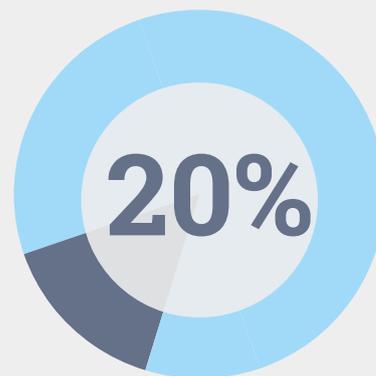
Maximising student potential



96%

Students remain highly employable

Graduate employability remains at a high 96%, following the most recent Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) report, which saw the class of 2017 outperforming the UK average for all universities. The new Graduate Outcomes Survey will replace DLHE in 2019.



New loyalty discount for postgraduate research students

University of Wolverhampton graduates wishing to add to their CVs can now get a discount on postgraduate research courses. On 1 August 2018, the generous 20% loyalty discount was launched for students progressing from a Wolverhampton undergraduate or taught postgraduate programme to a PhD research programme.

£250

Travel Fund for new starters

Eligible new UK full-time undergraduate students were granted £250 each towards the cost of travel in the 2018/19 academic year, helping them get to and from lectures. Students could also choose to use the £250 towards accommodation or printing costs.

£1,000

New funding supports international students

The Vice-Chancellor's International Scholarship was established to offer eligible international students £1,000 in their first year, while four Commonwealth Shared Scholarships were granted to candidates from Nigeria, Ghana and Pakistan.



National and international success for Judo stars

Students built on the University's reputation for Judo, as home of the British Judo Centre of Excellence, with strong showings at championships at home and abroad. Four students headed out to Portugal as part of the GB Judo team for the IBSA World Judo Championships, while three students scooped gold medals at the British Senior Judo Championships in 2018. Meanwhile, the women's team won gold at the British Universities and Colleges Sport Nationals 2019.



Olympian Kristian proves he's First Class

Olympic medallist, gymnast Kristian Thomas, added a First Class degree in BSc (Hons) Strength and Conditioning from the University of Wolverhampton to his long list of accolades.



Student benefits from Richardson bursary

A second year Business Studies student with roots in the Black Country was chosen to benefit from a £5,000 bursary courtesy of the Richardson family, who also offered a month's internship split between their London and Oldbury offices.

Second prize for design students



Six students from the University secured second prize for their high quality work, in a national British Institute of Interior Design competition pitting them against seven other universities.



Student marketer makes trailblazer list

MSc Marketing Management student, Elliot Rushton, was named as one of 50 young trailblazers for the marketing industry in the Founding 50 list.



Award-winning student's designs on success

Talented student Rasha Shrourou was awarded at the annual Midlands Women in Property Student Awards, which celebrates the achievements of women in construction.



Inspirational nursing students recognised

Adult Nursing student Aimie Morgan was named Student Information Officer of the Year at the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) Awards. Meanwhile, three trainee nurses – Rachel Ashworth, Andrew Rogers and Ian Unitt – all reached the finals of the prestigious Student Nursing Times Awards 2019.

Footballer selected for England squad

Talented University footballer, student Lowri Walker, was selected to play for the English Universities squad. The 21 year-old Sports Scholar is captain of the BUCS Conference Cup-winning WLV Women's team.

Music student lights up streaming

Keira Carter, Popular Music student, released her first single on Spotify and iTunes. Her composition, 'You Light Me Up', was played at all University graduation ceremonies, accompanied by a video to celebrate the success of the 2018 graduates.

50 years of creativity

The Degree Show offered arts students a platform to showcase their work, and this year marked 50 years of the annual event. Award-winning graphic designer and Visual Communications graduate Ryan Jones designed the '50 years' brand and spoke to students about his career to date.

Film places first in Disability Forum awards

Two University of Wolverhampton students, Samuel Ash and William Horsefield, won the Business Disability Forum's Film Festival Challenge 2019 with their film 'Same Difference', based on their own experience of deafness.

Sports teams score most successful year

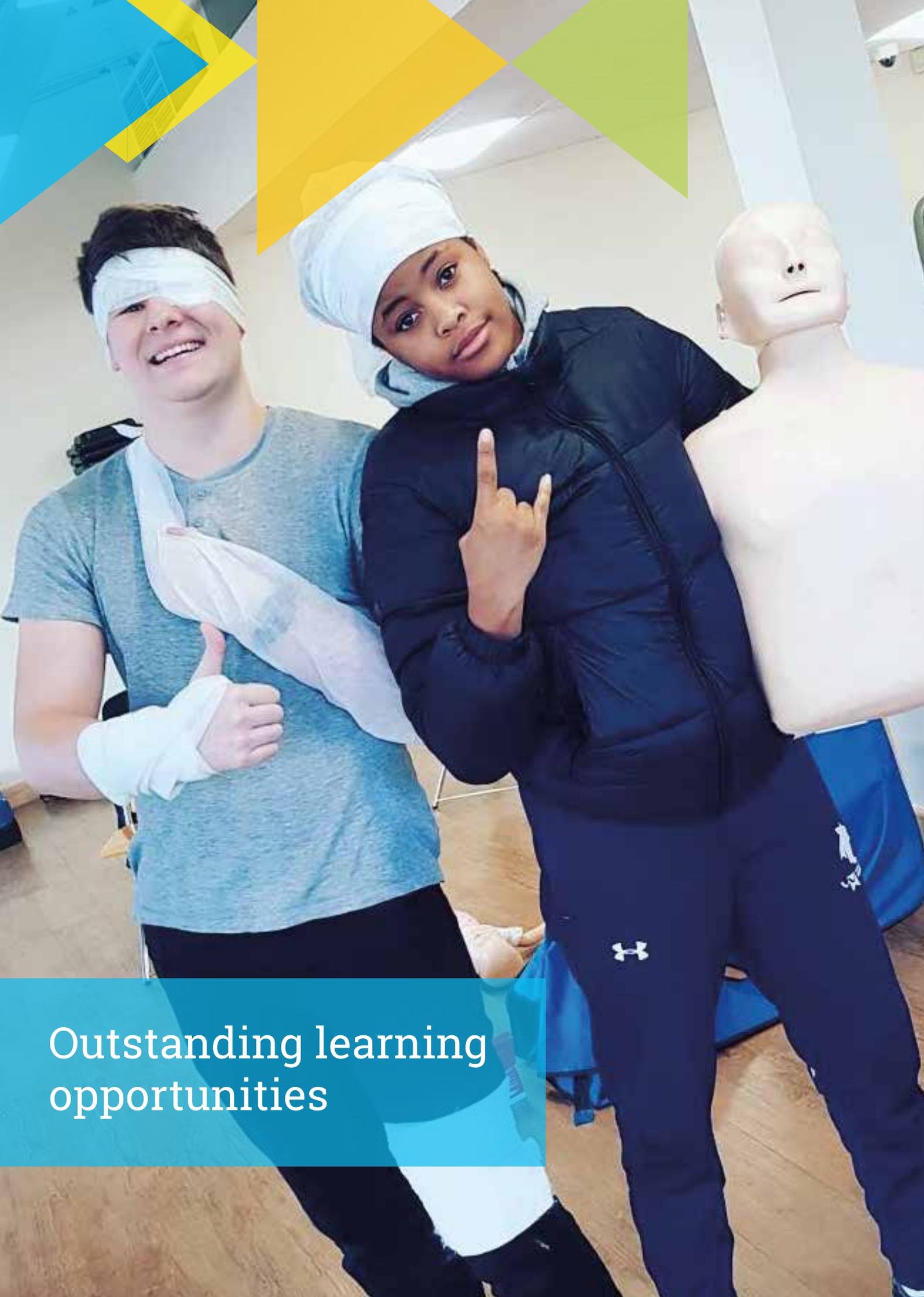
University sports teams enjoyed their most successful year to date with a raft of cup wins and league promotions in the British Universities and Colleges Sport leagues, including promotions to Tier 1 for the WLV Women's Football and Men's Futsal teams.



Model student selected for final

Acting student Selina Nedrick made it to the finals of Top Model 2019, a leading UK and worldwide model competition which sponsors the charity Children with Cancer UK.





Outstanding learning opportunities

Career Development Week returns

February 2019 saw the return of Career Development Week which offers students a dedicated programme of CV-building, skills-enhancing events and activities.

University develops nursing workforce in Shropshire

The University has invested in new facilities – including a £180,000 new skills labs – to train the next generation of nurses at its Telford Campus, in order to meet local healthcare demand.



500

 Students

300

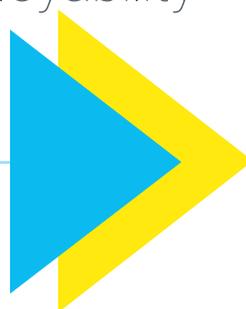
 Challenges

30

 Local Businesses

Students meet Challenge to boost employability

An increasing number of students are boosting their employment skills by working on live projects with local businesses, through the University's Challenge Academy programme. Since September 2018, over 500 students from a range of courses completed challenges involving over 30 local businesses.



£11,000


 Raised by 35 student groups for local charities

Students raise money for local charities

Entrepreneurial students from the University have raised more than £11,000 for local charities as part of a business module. More than 35 groups of students joined forces to organise events and activities for four local charities.

F3 Cup third place for engineering team services

The University of Wolverhampton Racing (UWR) team narrowly missed out on the top place position in this year's national MSV F3 Cup Championship title – coming third in the competition. The team was the only University competing, with engineering students working on the car using industry-standard development and testing facilities at Telford Campus.



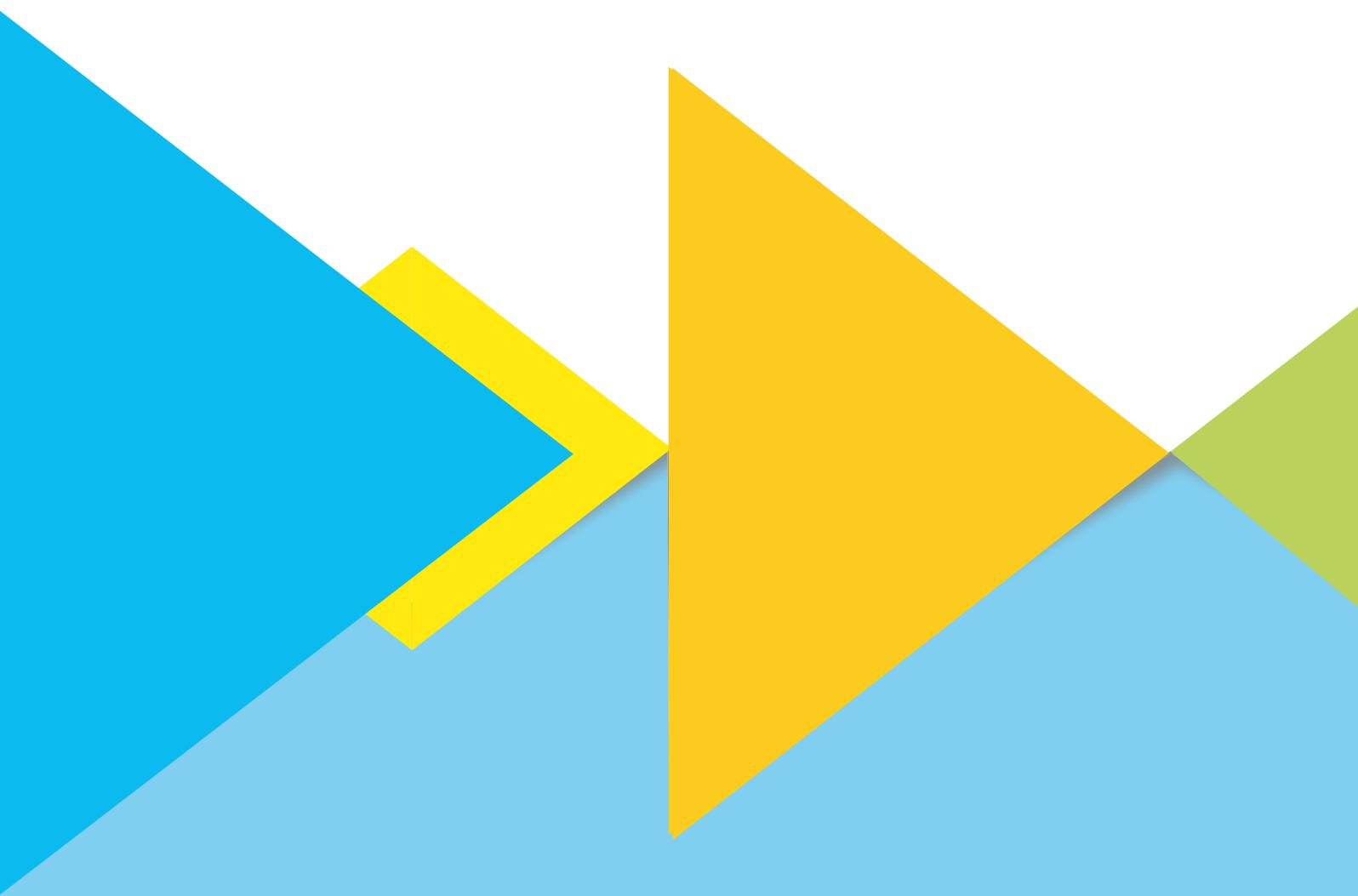
Graduate's placement experience secures dream career

BA (Hons) Business and Marketing Management graduate, Emily Ridgway has secured a position at Mazda Motors UK after making the most of an industrial placement year at automotive company ZF Lemforder, which led to a permanent position.



Four brothers graduate from University

The Salim Kazi brothers studying at an international partner college, Westford University College in the United Arab Emirates, have celebrated graduating from the University of Wolverhampton.



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