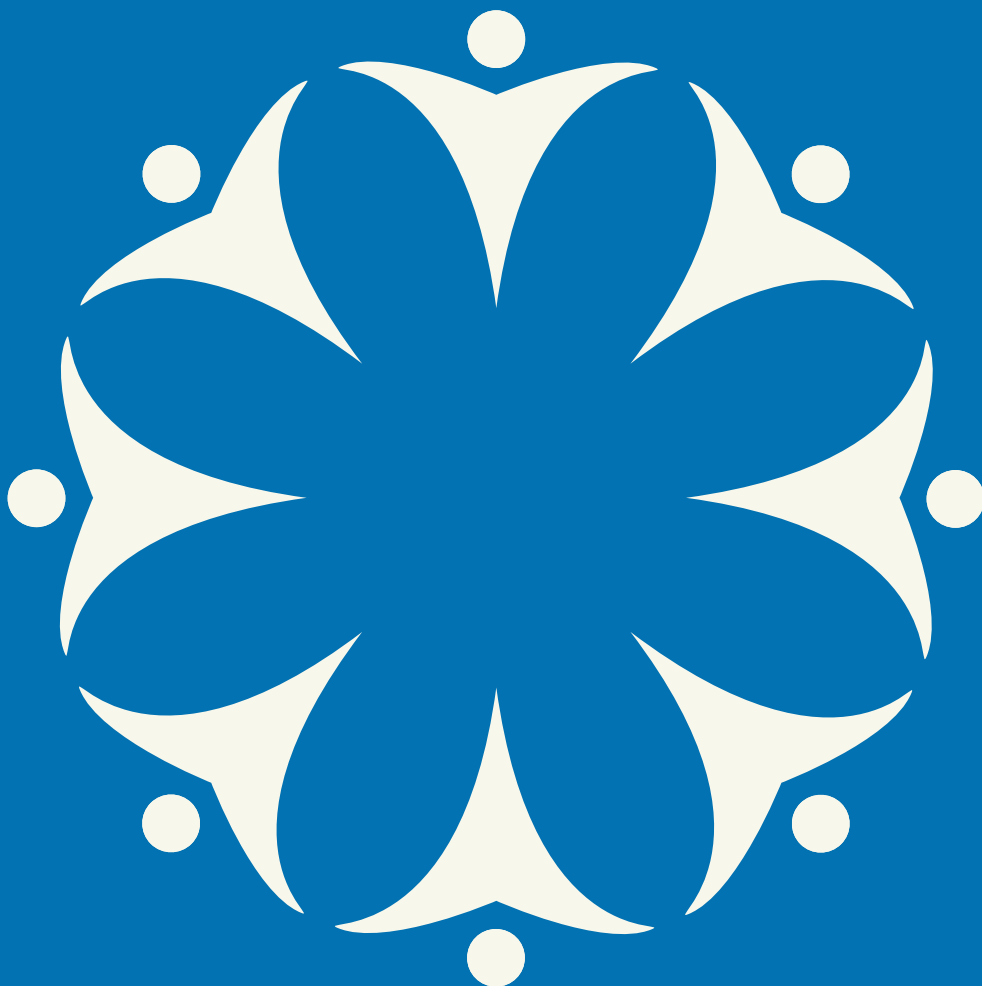


Yorkshire Universities

2020–21 Annual
Report Summary



Since 1987, Yorkshire Universities (YU) has been the regional voice for higher education in Yorkshire. YU represents eleven universities and one specialist higher education institution. The vice-chancellors and principals of these institutions form YU's board of directors.

The twelve members are the universities of Bradford, Huddersfield, Hull, Leeds, Leeds Beckett, Leeds Trinity, Leeds Arts, Sheffield, Sheffield Hallam, York, and York St John, as well as the Leeds Conservatoire. YU thus convenes a diverse eco-system of universities and higher education within and across Yorkshire.

Board of Directors



Professor Simone Wonnacott
Vice-Chancellor
Leeds Arts University



Professor Peter Slee
Vice-Chancellor
Leeds Beckett University



Professor Joe Wilson
Principal
Leeds Conservatoire



Professor Charles Egbu
Vice-Chancellor
Leeds Trinity University



Professor Sir Chris Husbands
Vice-Chancellor
Sheffield Hallam University



Professor Shirley Congdon
Vice-Chancellor
University of Bradford and
Chair of the YU Board



Professor Bob Cryan CBE
Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive
University of Huddersfield



Professor Susan Lea
Vice-Chancellor
University of Hull



Professor Simone Buitendijk
Vice-Chancellor
University of Leeds



Professor Koen Lamberts
President and Vice-Chancellor
University of Sheffield



Professor Charlie Jeffery CBE
Vice-Chancellor and President
University of York



Professor Karen Bryan OBE
Vice-Chancellor
York St John University

Welcome

A portrait of Professor Shirley Congdon, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Bradford. She is a woman with blonde hair, wearing a patterned jacket and a necklace, smiling at the camera. The background is a blurred blue and white architectural structure.

Welcome

from the Chair of the Board

I am delighted to introduce the 2020-21 Annual Report Summary for Yorkshire Universities.

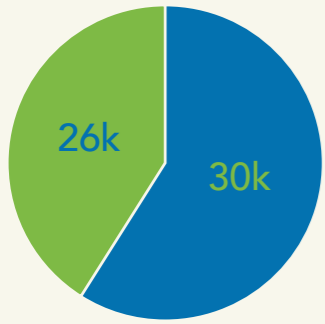
Our 2019-22 Strategy, which focuses upon the strategic priorities of 'Ideas', 'Talent' and 'Communities', aligns closely with the government's levelling up agenda. In the last twelve months, we have expanded our work on climate change, health and well-being, skills and innovation, based on an approach that is underpinned by a commitment to greater social inclusion, equality and fairness. In taking this agenda forward, we are also drawing more upon the region's academic research base to inform and shape our approach, and to influence the policies and strategies of local and regional institutions. The new Research England-funded Capabilities in Academic Policy Engagement (CAPE) Regional Development Fellowship, based within the YU Executive Team, will play a central role in connecting the diverse expertise within Yorkshire's universities.

The move to refocus and strengthen our mission towards the place agenda is paying dividends, with YU seen increasingly as an influential and impactful stakeholder in the region, and at a national level. The Memorandum of Understanding we signed in July with Yorkshire & Humber Councils, for example, provides us with a new framework in which to deliver many of the objectives within our Strategy, and to make sure that our voice is heard loud and clear within the region and beyond.

The impact of the last eighteen months on the higher education sector has been noticeable, and we still face a challenging external policy environment. And yet the record numbers of people going to university in England, in 2021-22, is testimony, in part, to the enduring attraction and individual and societal benefits of higher education.

I would like to thank the Executive Director, Dr Peter O'Brien, and his team, for continuing to run a highly effective and efficient operation. We have a strong leadership team in the Board, one that is united in using our diverse, but distinct, assets and strengths to help build a better region. YU enters 2021-22 in excellent shape, and it is ready to deliver an exciting agenda over the next twelve months.

Professor Shirley Congdon
Vice-Chancellor, University of Bradford



56,400 (FTE) jobs

Support over 56,000 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) jobs in the region. Over 30,000 of these FTEs are staff within the universities themselves, with a further 26,000 based in the wider supply chain, underpinned by the expenditure of staff and students.

£3bn

Contribute nearly £3bn each year to the region's economy and play a critical role in generating jobs, creating innovation, talent, and enterprise and driving productivity.

197,000+
Students

Annually have over 197,000 students studying in Yorkshire, a third of whom are originally from the region

—The majority of the students are studying full-time and for their first degree.
—Overall, there are more women enrolled in studying than men.



130+
countries

Attract a large and diverse student population from more than 130 countries.



Collectively the twelve members of Yorkshire Universities:



Invest £300 million in capital assets annually, helping to support local regeneration and capacity building in our region.

Spend **£250m** in the local supply chain



...and a further **£340m** in the rest of the UK.

£32m
£129m
£165m

Provide over £32 million worth of research consultancy.
Generate nearly £129 million in contract research.
Obtain over £165 million in collaborative research.



Play a vital role in the region's civic, social and cultural life through community outreach and volunteering, creating accessible and vibrant public places through libraries, arts and sports facilities.

67,770

Develop highly-skilled people by producing over 67,770 graduates each year and creating opportunities for the region's workforce.



Our Mission

Through our strategy, we will work collectively and collaboratively with partners to create more prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economies and communities in Yorkshire.

As a regional partnership of higher education institutions, we have a shared commitment to place and to supporting aspiration and opportunity.

Our Vision



A place-based approach

By adopting a place-based approach to the three priorities of: Ideas, Talent, Communities – the expected outcomes are:

- Strengthening higher education contributions towards increased research and innovation activity in the region.
- Extend partnerships across sectors to improve higher level skills pathways into continuous development and learning.
- Ensure our members are recognised as influential anchor institutions.

1. Ideas

2. Talent

3. Communities

We adopt a place-based approach to our activities, outcomes and priorities

What do we mean by a place-based approach?

A place-based approach reflects the distinct needs of people, businesses and communities in Yorkshire. It is driven by the principle of collaboration.

1. Ideas

We have strengthened higher education contributions towards increased research and innovation activity in the region by:

- Promoting higher education research and innovation (R&I) assets and strengths within Yorkshire.
- Persuading government, UK Research & Innovation (UKRI), Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) and others to create more place-sensitive R&I systems.
- Encouraging members to connect R&I capabilities across institutions and disciplines.
- Advocating for stronger integration of R&I with economic development policies (including skills' policies), strategies and funding.

We achieved these by:

Supporting the development of R&I frameworks in the region by being an active member of the West Yorkshire (WY) Innovation Network leading to the creation of a new WY Innovation Framework.

Hosting a highly collaborative session with the universities of Bradford, York, Leeds, Leeds Beckett, Leeds Trinity and Huddersfield focussed on opportunities for business and universities to work together at the inaugural WY Innovation Festival. And encouraging stronger research collaborations and closer place-based innovation with business and others as part of a wider eco-system.

Successfully leveraging grant funding from the Capabilities in Academic Policy Engagement (CAPE project) for a new Regional Development Fellowship to lead an innovative project tasked with strengthening the use and application of university research to inform public policy in WY.

Strengthening our relationships with other regional university networks, such as the N8 Research Partnership, Midlands Innovation, London Higher and G4W, in an effort to increase our influence over the proposals and actions planned by government and its agencies in relation to place-based research and development.

Please note that the above is only a snapshot of YU activity, for in-depth details please refer to the 2020-21 Annual Report and Accounts.

2. Talent

We have extended and deepened our partnership to improve higher level skills pathways into continuous development and learning by:

- Strengthening the knowledge of the supply and demand for higher level skills in the region.
- Working with members and partners to improve graduate retention and job accessibility in the region.
- Aligning technical and vocational training, skills and learning to key sector and industry needs.
- Increasing knowledge exchange and diffusion to support high growth, innovation and scaled-up firms.

We achieved these by:

Commissioning Dr Charlie Ball (JiSC) to undertake a bespoke piece of analysis on the current state of the graduate labour market in Yorkshire and the Humber, and future prospects for graduates. To analyse and discuss the findings, we convened a WY and a Yorkshire-wide roundtable discussion. With the approval of YU's Board, a task and finish group will be established in 2021-22 to identify actions that universities and regional institutions could take in partnership to support graduates entering the labour market.

Our analysis of the Further Education White Paper served as basis for in-depth conversations with the West Yorkshire Consortium of Colleges, West Yorkshire and Harrogate Health and Care Partnership and for further strengthening relationships with colleagues and the Board of GoHigher West Yorkshire.

YU has been invited to the core group tasked with rebooting the LCR Skills Network as the new West Yorkshire Skills Partnership. The Chair of the YU Board was invited to speak at the annual skills conference. These have all helped build and strengthen the strategic dialogue with the further education sector at a regional level.

We have also convened a region-wide network with the four sub-regional Widening Participation/ Uni Connect teams in Yorkshire to share knowledge and information between the teams and with YU and to feed the levelling up discussions.

We have actively supported a new project, funded by Health Education England, which is seeing the University of Bradford lead on the development of a pilot workforce observatory for the health and care sector for the West Yorkshire and Harrogate Health and Care Partnership footprint.

3. Communities

We have been ensuring universities and higher education institutions are recognised as influential anchor institutions by:

- Supporting members to address the issues arising from climate change.
- Stimulating and sharing learning on civic universities and anchor institution strategies and activities.
- Promoting the public value of higher education in and for the region.
- Strengthening partnerships between higher education, health and other sectors to drive more inclusive growth and well-being.

We achieved these by:

Providing direct support to the Yorkshire & Humber Climate Commission and servicing the Commission's Research & Evidence Panel to help coordinate contributions from YU members. Together with the Panel we are undertaking a regional audit of climate change research within YU members and actively contributing to the development of the Regional Climate Action Plan.

Celebrating the anniversary of the YHealth4Growth conference with a One Year On webinar organised by YU, Yorkshire and Humber Academic Health Science Network (YHAHSN) & the NHS Confederation exploring the role of health in driving economic renewal and social inclusion within the context of Covid-19.

Supporting the Health and Social Care Recovery Task Force Steering Group that had two workstreams linked to it: Skills, Training and Workforce and Research and Innovation.

Working together with Public Health England to co-organise a good practice sharing event for universities in Yorkshire focussing on supporting positive student mental health during COVID-19. Together we established a regional community of practice and will look to develop a Mental Health and Wellbeing Framework for the region.

4. Enabling Mechanisms

We have extended and deepened our partnership to improve higher level skills pathways into continuous development and learning by:

- Strengthening our relationships with national, regional and local partners to influence policy and strategy.
- Operating as an outstanding membership-based organisation.
- Embracing continuous learning and development.
- Using innovative methods to communicate our messages to members and external audiences.
- Acting as a 'knowledge hub' of information, intelligence and new ideas, drawing upon high-quality research and examples of successful practical action.
- Monitoring and evaluate performance to ensure key indicators and measures of success are met.

We achieved these by:

Convening a series of meetings between the YU Board and the Yorkshire and the Humber Local Authority Chief Executive Group, to discuss how best to define levelling up and what it means in practice for Yorkshire, higher education and local government. Both parties agreed a number of shared priorities and signed a new Memorandum of Understanding that will provide a framework for a long-term, strategic partnership between local government and higher education in Yorkshire and the Humber.

Convening the Leeds City Region Vice-Chancellors' meeting with Sir Roger Marsh and Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe.

Scheduling a series of 1-2-1 meetings between the YU Chair, Executive Director and Board members in order ensure that member priorities, in what has been an uncertain and evolving environment, continued to be recognised and reflected by YU.

Completing the independent examination, produced the 2019-20 Annual Report and accompanying Summary and submitted them to statutory bodies, respecting deadlines.

In 2020-21 we also:

Produced 45 issues of the weekly digest and 2 seasonal newsletters.

Were invited to speak at 8 events, two of which was streamed live.

Tweeted over 100 tweets and retweeted over 200 of your tweets.

Published 39 posts on the YU website.

Participated in over 20 established groups and panels where we continued to collaborate and make the case for higher education and our members.

Co-authored 4 publications.

Organised and took part in about 800 instances of virtual discussions in the form of webinars, workshops, roundtables, working groups, task and finish groups, planning, admin and catch-up meetings.

Responded to 5 national consultations.



In looking ahead to 2021-22 we will:

Continue to deliver the objectives set out in the 2019-22 YU Strategy, but we are mindful of the context that members and the wider economy and society face as a result of COVID19 and the economic crisis. Therefore, we will remain flexible and agile to anticipate and respond to opportunities and challenges as they arise.



YU will continue to

Promote university research and innovation capabilities in Yorkshire; support the development of 'place sensitive' innovation systems; and encourage greater connectivity between YU members' different capabilities to harness the potential of multi-institution and multi-disciplinary research and innovation.

Strengthen member and partner knowledge of the supply and demand for higher level skills within Yorkshire's labour markets; work with members and partners to improve graduate retention, employability and employment in the region; and work with partners, especially business and further education, to ensure technical and vocational training, skills and learning reflect the social and economic priorities of the region.

Promote and disseminate the social, economic and public value of higher education within Yorkshire; provide a strategic framework for YU members to identify and share learning and good practice to encourage civic university and anchor institution activity within different places in the region; facilitate place-based leadership and public engagement actions between YU members and other anchor institutions (such as those operating in the health sector) and work with partners to address the challenges (and realise the opportunities) facing Yorkshire presented by climate change.



Financial Report

These financial statements, from which the information, has been extracted, have been examined by YU's Independent Examiner, Mark Heaton FCCA FCIE, who identified no concerns. Statements in more detail can be found in the 2020-21 Annual Report and Accounts on the YU website: yorkshireuniversities.ac.uk/category/annual-reports

YU's income is derived exclusively from member subscriptions.

In 2019–20, the expenditure of YU was £226,000, comprising:

Staff related costs: £142,000*
Contractor costs: £63,000
Non-staff costs: £21,000

*£9,000 of this is the increase to Pension liability provision

In 2020–21, the expenditure of YU was £209,000, comprising:

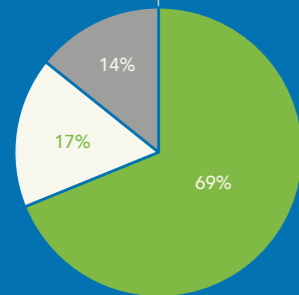
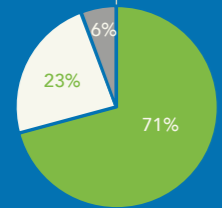
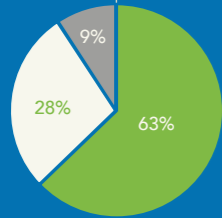
Staff related costs: £148,000**
Contractor costs: £49,000
Non-staff costs: £12,000

**£0 of this is the increase to Pension liability provision

In 2021–22, YU's planned operational budget is £273,000, comprising:

Staff related costs: £188,000
Contractor costs: £46,000
Non-staff costs: £39,000***

***£23,000 of this is the West Yorkshire CAPE fund



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Registered Charity no. 1109200.



