



Brunel
University
London

Brunel Education Strategy 2017–2020

FOREWORD

I am delighted to introduce our new Education Strategy for Brunel University London which has been developed to align to the wider goals and ambitions of our Brunel 2030 vision. The Education Strategy, which is the result of a collaborative process involving staff and students, provides Colleges, Professional Services and the Union of Brunel Students with the framework through which they will deliver the University's commitment to education up until 2020.

Our Education Strategy lays out an ambitious vision, which will build on one of our great strengths at Brunel – giving our students what they need to achieve their potential, regardless of their background. We have much to be proud of, but this Education Strategy also highlights the significant work and strategic focus needed to achieve even greater success. It has a wide scope, therefore it also sets out how education will be prioritised (Top Priorities) over the next three years and considers the areas in which we will collectively focus our efforts. Additionally, it presents the associated core pillars that need to be developed/implemented to support the work (Strategic Enablers).

For its successful delivery, the Education Strategy needs to be interpreted locally. Therefore, individual areas of the University will be asked to translate it into plans that work for them, adopting strategies to drive up educational excellence and making a real difference to our students. We all have a responsibility to be responsive and agile to the changing educational landscape and to work together to push boundaries and embrace new opportunities. I am looking forward to working with you all to deliver a high-quality education and student experience at Brunel.

Professor Andrew George MBE

Deputy Vice Chancellor
(Education and International)



ALIGNMENT TO BRUNEL 2030

Brunel 2030 sets out five distinct goals which underpin the University's vision:

1. Education and student experience
2. Research
3. Our university community
4. Our campus and local community
5. Global impact

The first of these goals specifically targets education, and within it identifying four areas of focus:

- Our undergraduate and postgraduate programmes will offer an inspirational education experience which instils academic knowledge, independent learning skills and the soft skills sought by employers. We will attract talented students from across the globe who aspire to learn and apply their knowledge to fulfil their lives and contribute to society.
- Our students will be taken to the cutting edge of their subject through research-led teaching and experiential work-based learning and encouraged to embrace innovation and entrepreneurship. They will also be developed as individuals and global citizens and equipped to apply their knowledge, understanding and skills in the workplace.
- Our staff will be renowned for excellence in teaching and for creating an outstanding learning environment which inspires curiosity and creativity and recognises the needs of the individual. They will work in partnership with our students to enhance their academic experience and opportunities to engage in a broad range of extracurricular activities.
- The University will be recognised across the world as an engine of social mobility, attracting talented students from diverse backgrounds and enabling them to realise their potential irrespective of their social or cultural background.

To achieve these ambitions and to make a difference to education at Brunel, the above areas have been used to create the foundations of the Education Strategy. Furthermore, these areas have been translated into the following four strategic themes which Colleges, Professional Services and the Union of Brunel Students will use as a framework and direction of travel to underpin their activities over the next 3 years. Each theme is discussed in turn, along with their associated 'Strategic Actions':





**WHAT
& HOW
WE TEACH**

WHAT & HOW WE TEACH

LINK TO BRUNEL 2030

Our undergraduate and postgraduate programmes will offer an inspirational education experience which instils academic knowledge, independent learning skills and the soft skills sought by employers. We will attract talented students from across the globe who aspire to learn and apply their knowledge to fulfil their lives and contribute to society.

TOP PRIORITIES

- Departments will enhance and expand their curriculum portfolio (including interdisciplinary approaches) and work in partnership with our students in the design and delivery of the programmes.
- Departments will focus on innovative and inclusive teaching practices, and provide a range of modes of learning to their students.

STRATEGIC ACTIONS

- We will teach students a dynamic and relevant curriculum by academics who are leaders in their field, whether through research, scholarship or by being experts in their business or profession.
- We will meet the changing needs of our students, employers and professional bodies, while extending our reach by reviewing how and what we teach.
- We will continue our commitment to ensure business engagement is part of the design, development and refresh of our curriculum.
- We will promote the creative use of learning spaces (both physical and virtual) to provide a flexible and inspiring learning experience which will enable our students to achieve their full academic potential.
- We will give every student the opportunity to develop the necessary skills to work in a range of environments, so they can be adaptable as their career progresses.
- We will explore alternative modes of delivery (such as apprenticeships, distance learning and transnational education) which will enable more students to access our education, including those outside the UK.
- We will grow our student numbers, nationally and internationally both by increasing recruitment and by expanding our portfolio of programmes.

STRATEGIC ENABLERS

- Optimise the quality and variety of all teaching spaces and environments.
- Improve, modernise and simplify our ICT infrastructure.
- Enhance our Library provision by providing greater access to digital collections, while continuing to improve access to collections in a variety of different formats.

THE STUDENT JOURNEY

LINK TO BRUNEL 2030

Our students will be taken to the cutting edge of their subject through research-led teaching and experiential work-based learning and encouraged to embrace innovation and entrepreneurship. They will also be developed as individuals and global citizens and equipped to apply their knowledge, understanding and skills in the workplace.

TOP PRIORITIES

- All undergraduate students will be given the opportunity to undertake experiential work-based learning as part of their programmes (an activity which will be developed and extended to postgraduate taught and research students) and be given the necessary skills development as part of that programme.
- We will give students the skills and knowledge to make the transition into the workplace and prepare them for the rapidly changing world of work.

STRATEGIC ACTIONS

- We will provide a student-centred education which will equip our students with the attributes they need to develop successful, long-term careers.
- We will provide an education which will stretch and inspire our students, helping them to achieve their academic ambitions.
- From first contact to alumni, we will recognise and provide the necessary, personalised support all our students need to be successful.
- We will encourage and support our students to develop entrepreneurial skills during their time at University.
- We will develop our programmes to have an international outlook, and we will encourage students to spend time overseas to develop their global knowledge.

STRATEGIC ENABLERS

- Develop a stronger sense of alliance, transparency and communication across the University community.
- Maintain current, and establish new, links with industry and businesses.





**AN OUTSTANDING
& SUPPORTED
WORKFORCE**

AN OUTSTANDING & SUPPORTED WORKFORCE

LINK TO BRUNEL 2030

Our staff will be renowned for excellence in teaching and for creating an outstanding learning environment which inspires curiosity and creativity and recognises the needs of the individual. They will work in partnership with our students to enhance their academic experience and opportunities to engage in a broad range of extracurricular activities.

TOP PRIORITIES

- Departments will assess and strengthen their teaching, learning and assessment methods; and staff will be part of a culture which supports teaching excellence.
- Staff will work closely with the Union of Brunel Students to develop the quality of the student experience, both academic and extracurricular.

STRATEGIC ACTIONS

- Staff will be provided with effective training, development and support opportunities to cultivate innovation and improve our education.
- The University will be committed to continually improving the student experience and adapting to the changing needs and expectations of our students.
- Students will work in partnership with staff to appropriately and pedagogically shape and co-create their educational and extra-curricular activities.
- The University will engage with the wider external debate around education, informing our own provision while showcasing our activities.

STRATEGIC ENABLERS

- Ensure access to user-friendly and up-to-date student data to support learning and teaching.
- Provide the necessary support to staff to enable them to enhance, and innovate in, learning and teaching.
- Recognise and reward excellence in teaching.

THE IMPACT WE HAVE ON THE WORLD

LINK TO BRUNEL 2030

The University will be recognised across the world as an engine of social mobility, attracting talented students from diverse backgrounds and enabling them to realise their full potential irrespective of their social or cultural background.

TOP PRIORITIES

- We will increase the number of students going on to further study or graduate level employment.
- We will continue to welcome students from diverse backgrounds, while ensuring all students are supported as individuals and have an equal opportunity to succeed, irrespective of background.

STRATEGIC ACTIONS

- We will develop student success action plans to improve student retention.
- The University will actively work to encourage students to undertake STEM subjects and activities, especially those from under-represented groups.
- We will listen to our students to ensure we understand their needs and ambitions.
- We will continue to develop closer and more interactive relationships with our alumni to build a global network and expand our reach.
- The University will continue to build on our effective outreach efforts.

STRATEGIC ENABLERS

- Create a more joined-up approach to student support, with particular focus on specific student groups (e.g. Widening Participation, international).



THE IMPACT
WE HAVE ON
THE WORLD



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