

UNIVERSALLY SUFFOLK

Autumn 2025

Introduction from Vice-Chancellor, Jenny Higham



Welcome to the second edition of our newsletter, and what a busy start to the academic year it's been.

We've celebrated the graduation of more than 4,000 students, including our first cohort of Physiotherapy graduates, awarded an honorary doctorate to former Olympic swimmer Karen Pickering MBE and welcomed our new Chancellor, broadcaster Zeb Soanes, who takes over from Dr Helen Pankhurst.

Of course, our thanks go to Dr Pankhurst for being a passionate advocate of the University and its work, and for her outstanding dedication during her seven-year tenure as our first Chancellor.

One of my current priorities is to refresh our University Strategy which has reached its midpoint. Much has changed since it was written in 2020, and it is vital that we remain attractive to students and move forward as a civic university.

Headline News

Joy as thousands celebrate graduation from University of Suffolk

More than 4,000 students have celebrated their graduation from the University with ceremonies held at Ipswich's Waterfront campus and at Great Yarmouth Minster for East Coast College.



Among the key milestones of the ceremonies was the graduation of the University's first-ever cohort of Physiotherapy students. The 20-strong group, who started their course in September 2022, were joined by honorary graduate, Karen Pickering MBE, the four-time World gold medallist swimmer.

The ceremonies also marked the final graduation for Chancellor Helen Pankhurst, who has handed over the robes after seven years to 2023 honorary graduate, Zeb Soanes.

Journalist, author, actor and broadcaster Zeb, who was raised in Suffolk, has been a key campaigner for a statue of Benjamin Britten in Lowestoft, and hosts Classic FM's weekday *Relaxing Evenings* programme.

[READ ABOUT PHYSIOTHERAPY GRADUATES](#)

[READ ABOUT HONORARY GRADUATE KAREN PICKERING](#)

[READ ABOUT OUR NEW CHANCELLOR](#)

THE  TIMES
THE SUNDAY TIMES

**GOOD
UNIVERSITY
GUIDE
2026**

**UNIVERSITY OF
THE YEAR FOR
TEACHING QUALITY
RUNNER UP**

Recognition for University's teaching and student experience

The University has been recognised by The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2026, where it has been named runner-up for both Teaching and Student Experience and climbed the overall rankings.

The guide, which reviews universities in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, compiles the results using data such as graduate prospects, entry requirements and student results, as well as student feedback from the annual National Student Survey.

[**READ THE FULL STORY**](#)

Celebrating alumni excellence – Suffolk Salutes Awards

Six former students were honoured at this year's Suffolk Salutes Alumni Awards, a special event marking the achievements of the University's alumni community.



This year's Suffolk Salutes recipients are John Ferguson, Holly Le Winton, Jack Shaw, Sammi Wong, Rose Hazell-Evans and Chris Filip. They were all awarded for outstanding contributions in their various fields of work and impact on the community.

If you are interested in supporting Suffolk Salutes, please contact us on giving@uos.ac.uk

[READ THE FULL STORY](#)

Shaping the University's future

A refresh of the University's Strategy and Vision is underway to ensure Suffolk remains competitive and distinctive in home and international markets, meets regional needs and continues to develop as a civic university.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Jenny Higham is leading the refresh, which recognises the significant changes in the economy and higher education sector since the current strategy was developed five years ago.

The first phase is to gather views and insights from staff, students and external partners. The consultation will be led by Provost, Professor Rachel Allen, over the next three months.

Research and Knowledge Exchange

Study reveals impact of Long Covid service in Suffolk

A study by researchers at the University has reported that Suffolk and North-East Essex's Long Covid Assessment Service (SNELCAS) has proved effective at improving patients' quality of life.

The service was established in 2021 to meet the emerging healthcare demands during the coronavirus pandemic, which included ensuring continuity of care for those suffering from Long Covid, even if they never tested positive or were admitted to hospital.

[READ THE FULL STORY](#)

Research reports better patient outcomes from North East Essex Diabetes Service

New research from the University has reported that a community-based diabetes service in north-east Essex has delivered better patient outcomes than other primary care services across England while reducing red tape for workers over the last decade.

Researchers from the University's Institute of Health and Wellbeing carried out an evaluation of the North-East Essex Diabetes Service, a community-based care model designed to provide a single point of access with clear continuity of care for people with diabetes.

[READ THE FULL STORY](#)

[READ MORE RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE UPDATES](#)

Academic News

New course: MPharm Pharmacy

The University is launching a new Master of Pharmacy degree from September 2026, as part

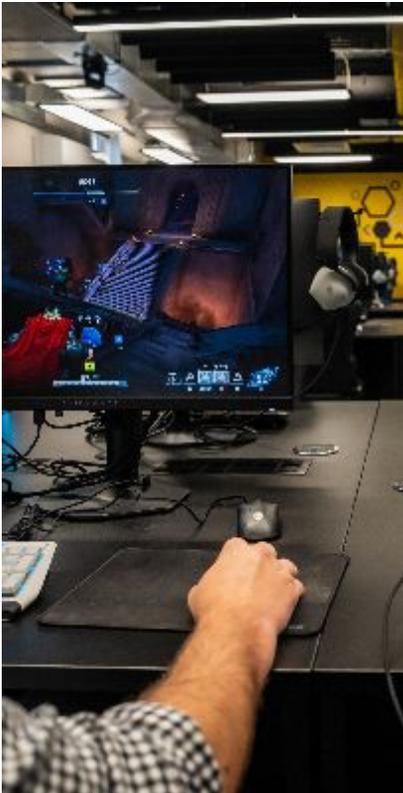


of efforts to address the skills shortage in the industry.

The four-year programme will benefit from a brand-new, fully-stocked mock dispensary and clinical skills suite in the Health and Wellbeing Building, as well as new labs being developed in the James Hehir Building.

The University is working towards accreditation of the programme with the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC). The programme will be provisionally accredited until the accreditation process is complete, upon the graduation of its first cohort in 2030.

[LEARN ABOUT PHARMACY](#)



Take a look around our brand-new Esports facility

Our state-of-the-art Esports facilities are now open, with our first cohort of students joining last month.

Featuring 40 gaming-spec PCs, a broadcast gallery, commentary set-up and tournament zone, the course covers a diverse range of topics such as game design, esports event management, live streaming, esports marketing and analysis of competitive gameplay.

[WATCH TOUR OF ESPORTS](#)

Business Engagement

Can you offer a short placement to our BA (Hons) English students?

The University's English students are looking for short placement opportunities to complete as part of a module.

The placements will need to be a minimum of 60 hours spread across the academic year. Students are keen to develop their creative and writing skills.

If you have opportunities such as creating or updating content, or other writing-based opportunities, please email connect@uos.ac.uk

February 2026 apprenticeship cohorts

We are offering the following apprenticeship cohorts in February 2026:

- Level 5 Nursing Associate
- Level 5 Assistant Practitioner
- Level 6 Registered Nurse (Adult and Mental Health)
- Level 6 Environmental Health Practitioner
- Level 6 Data Scientist

If you are an employer who would like to offer someone a higher or degree apprenticeship opportunity, please complete the below form to register your interest and a member of our Business Engagement team will follow up to support you with next steps.

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST

Health incentive for employers

NHS England is offering incentives for employers for AHP support worker apprenticeship programmes.

Valid for new cohorts starting between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026, a payment to the employer of £4,287 per apprentice, per year of training (for up to 24 months) is available for new apprenticeship starts in the 2025/26 financial year for:

- Level 3 Senior Healthcare Support Worker
- Level 5 Assistant Practitioner

The funding supports employer costs related to the apprenticeship that are not covered by the employer's apprenticeship service account or government-employer co-investment.

The programme is planned and managed by regional NHS England WT&E teams via the Education and Training Activity Plan (ETAP).

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE INCENTIVE

Join EmpowerUS

EmpowerUS offers local businesses and organisations the chance to become part of a vibrant, inclusive community dedicated to driving innovation, growth and collaboration.

As a pro bono women-led network, EmpowerUS provides a safe and supportive environment where entrepreneurs, business professionals, community groups and students can connect, share knowledge, and access valuable tools and mentorship (from all industries, all sectors and at all levels of expertise). All sessions are free to attend and open to everyone.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT EMPOWERUS

Community Engagement

Leaving a legacy to the University of Suffolk

In September, the University celebrated Remember a Charity Week, a week dedicated to raising awareness of charitable gifts in wills. Donations made to the University through gifts in wills have the power to transform lives.

They could remove financial barriers for talented students, create opportunity, drive world-leading research and ultimately leave a lasting impression on future generations.

During the week, we launched our brand-new legacy video which you can watch below.

For more information about leaving a gift in your will to the University, check out our [Legacy Brochure](#) or email Giving@uos.ac.uk

WATCH OUR LEGACY VIDEO

Supporting local charities this Christmas

Join the University of Suffolk and Suffolk New College on 26 November from 3.00pm to celebrate the incredible work of local charities.

The Gift of Christmas is aiming to bring local charities, businesses and community groups together to celebrate the amazing work happening in Suffolk and build new partnerships that can create impact.

This is a free event, so we're asking businesses who attend to make a pledge of support to one or more of the charities.

Click below for further information, to register to attend and the opportunity to nominate a charity of your choice for their chance to be included at the event.

[REGISTER TO ATTEND](#)

What's on



Open Lecture: From the inside out – leading schools to build a society that cares

20 November | 5.00–8.30pm |
Waterfront Building

In this annual John West-Burnham Memorial Lecture, Malcolm Groves, Director of Schools of Tomorrow, will explore how the core principles and daily practices within schools can foster empathy, engagement and participation, ultimately creating a more caring society.

[BOOK NOW](#)



Open Lecture: Charlie and 'The Dig'

4 December | 5.30–8.00pm | The Hold

In one of Charlie Haylock's last-ever lectures, he will share a behind-the-scenes look at his work as a dialect coach for Netflix film, *The Dig*.

He will also take the audience on a tour of British Isles dialects and explain how he helped prepare Ralph Fiennes for his role.

[BOOK NOW](#)

National Apprenticeship Week 2026

Save the date! The University of Suffolk is planning a National Apprenticeship Week event on Wednesday 11 February 2026. This will be held at the University from 4.00–7.00pm.

More details will follow but please keep an eye out on our social media and if you are interested in attending as either an exhibitor or attendee, please register your interest.

[REGISTER YOUR INTEREST](#)

Feedback

We'd love to hear your feedback about this newsletter

Email.comunications@uos.ac.uk



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