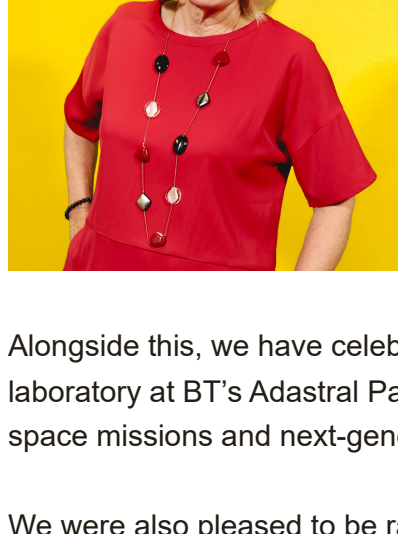


Introduction from Vice-Chancellor Professor Jenny Higham



Welcome to the Spring edition of *Universally Suffolk*. Firstly, I'd like to congratulate everyone at the University following our hat-trick of awards at the *Whatuni Student Choice Awards 2026*. We picked up gold for Lecturers and Teaching Quality category for the second year in a row, as well as the International and Postgraduate awards. These accolades are testament to the continued hard work put in by all across the University and are voted for by our own students.

Alongside this, we have celebrated the launch of our Quantum Optics Discovery laboratory at BT's Adastral Park, which will play a key role in supporting future space missions and next-generation secure communications.

We were also pleased to be ranked in the top five university apprenticeships providers in England for our achievement rate. The University had a 90.8% achievement rate, well above the national rate of 65.4%.

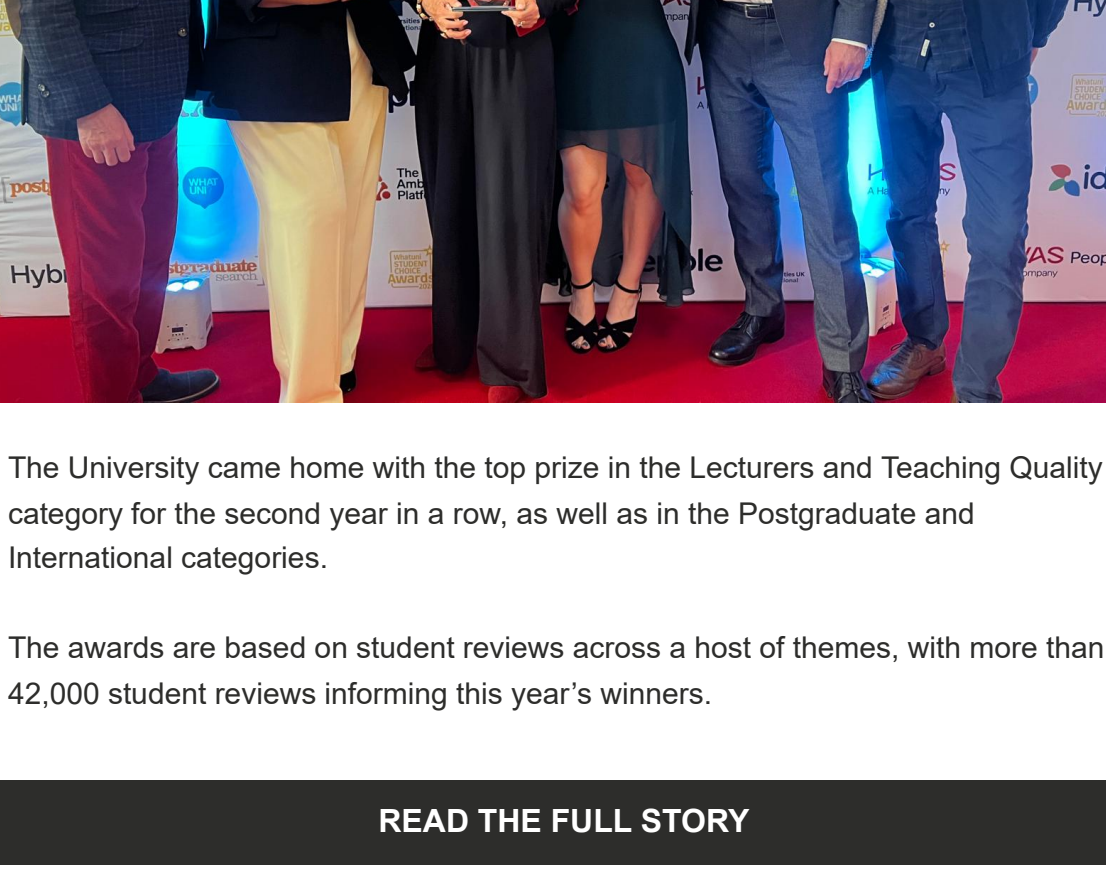
The first stage of our campus development has been completed with the opening of our brand-new student library. It's a fantastic addition and it's great to see so many students using the facilities. We now look forward to stage two which will see the creation of a Student Hub, providing spaces and facilities our students want.

Looking ahead, we're excited for our Arts Degree Show which shines a light on the creative development of our graduating students.

Headline News

Success at the Whatuni Student Choice Awards 2026

The University of Suffolk scooped a trio of awards at the prestigious Whatuni Student Choice Awards 2026.



The University came home with the top prize in the Lecturers and Teaching Quality category for the second year in a row, as well as in the Postgraduate and International categories.

The awards are based on student reviews across a host of themes, with more than 42,000 student reviews informing this year's winners.

[READ THE FULL STORY](#)



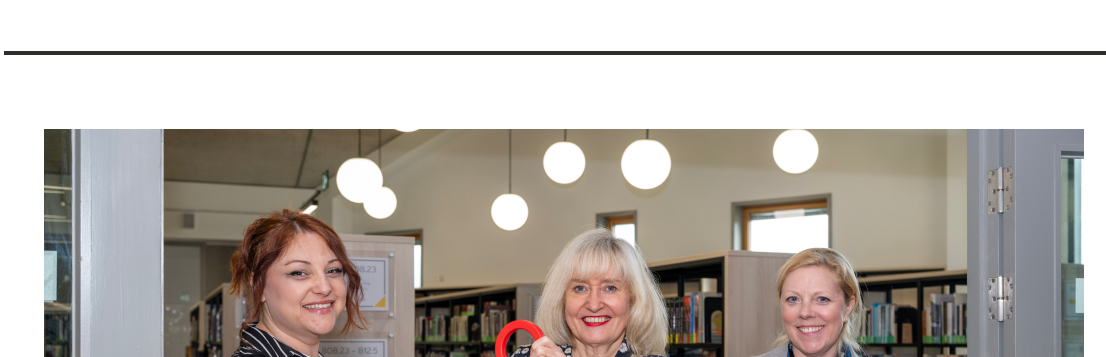
Nationally-significant facility testing laser communications to space is opened

The UK's largest indoor optical research facility has been officially opened at the University of Suffolk's DigTech Centre.

The laboratory is set to play a key role in supporting future space missions and next-generation secure quantum communications.

The Quantum Optics Discovery (QOD) Lab, based at BT Adastral Park, is part of the Space East cluster, and will enable testing of laser communication systems known as free space optics, through turbulent atmospheric conditions such as rain, fog and wind.

[READ THE FULL STORY](#)



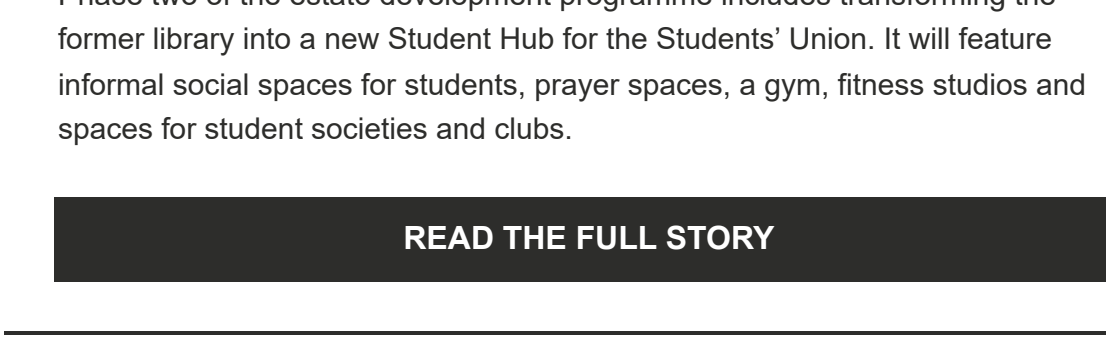
New student library is officially opened

The University's brand-new library and study areas have been opened.

The new facilities in the Waterfront Building also include a refreshed book collection, an extensive digital library and a sensory space which was developed in response to student feedback.

Phase two of the estate development programme includes transforming the former library into a new Student Hub for the Students' Union. It will feature informal social spaces for students, prayer spaces, a gym, fitness studios and spaces for student societies and clubs.

[READ THE FULL STORY](#)

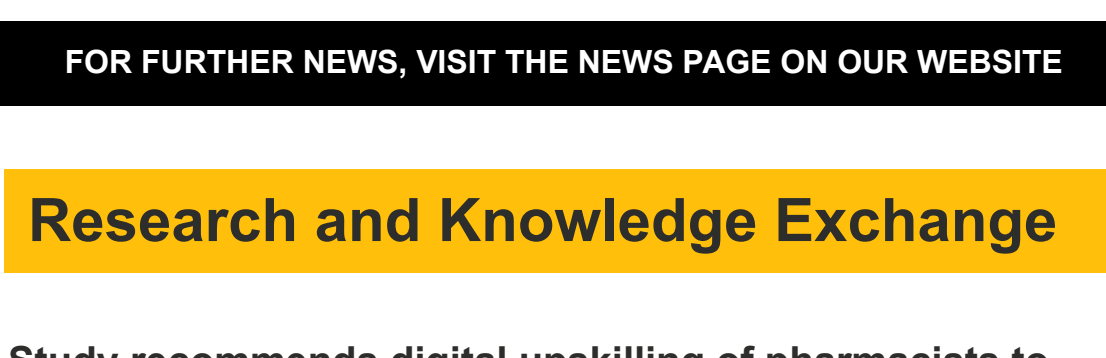


Student research showcased in newly-published volume

Research by University students is being highlighted in a new journal volume to give promising students their first experience of academic publishing.

Volume Two of the *Journal of Suffolk Student Research* was published in April and includes a broad range of studies, from the experience of Suffolk school children of evacuation during the Second World War to the impact of disordered sleeping and the quality of sleep on everyday memory problems.

[READ THE FULL STORY](#)



FOR FURTHER NEWS, VISIT THE NEWS PAGE ON OUR WEBSITE

Research and Knowledge Exchange

Study recommends digital upskilling of pharmacists to boost use of NHS app

Researchers from the University of Suffolk have recommended a wider digital upskilling programme for community pharmacists in the region.

It comes after a pilot project last year increased usage of the NHS app among patients.

The Health Education England-funded pilot across the Suffolk and North East Essex Integrated Care System area aimed to boost take-up of patients using the NHS app and increase the use of the expanding range of functions within the app, by training community pharmacists to support patients and use patient participation groups.

[READ THE FULL STORY](#)

University and Icen create pilot project supporting women experiencing substance misuse

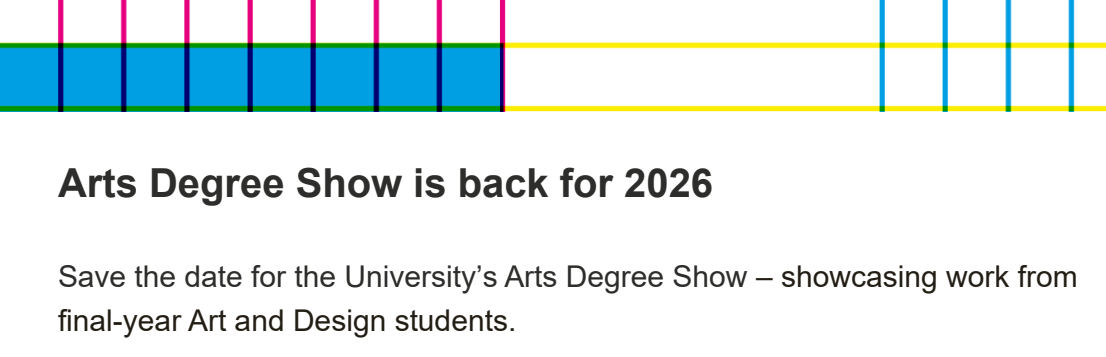
A unique pilot project to support women experiencing alcohol or substance misuse has been formed in Ipswich to help them gain the support they need without fear of stigma or reprisals.

Icen (Ipswich) and the University of Suffolk's Institute for Social Justice and Crime teamed up to create the EmpowerHER project in late 2025.

[READ THE FULL STORY](#)



Academic News



Save the date for the University's Arts Degree Show – showcasing work from final-year Art and Design students.

The exhibition of work from students in the Architecture, Fine Art, Graphic Design, Graphic Design (Illustration) and Photography courses will run from 19–26 June, open from 10.00am–4.00pm on weekdays and 11.00am–3.00pm on Saturday in the Arts Building.

There will also be a screening of films made by our Digital Film Production and Screenwriting students at King Street Cinema on 17 June.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

New bursary launched for Adult Nursing students

People looking to study adult nursing at the University of Suffolk will have the opportunity to benefit from one of 10 bursaries that will support every year of their study.

The Transformation Ten Adult Nursing Bursaries of £3,500 per student, per year, funded by The ALBORADA Trust, have been launched to mark the 10th anniversary of the University in 2026.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Business Engagement

Suffolk apprenticeship achievement rate among top five universities in England

The University of Suffolk is among the top five university apprenticeship providers in England for its achievement rate, according to latest statistics.

The University had a 90.8% achievement rate for the 2024/25 academic year, well above the national achievement rate of 65.4% for all providers.

It comes as Xenia Zimmerman, a graduate of the Digital and Technology Solutions degree apprenticeship, won an Apprentice of the Year award.

[READ ABOUT THE APPRENTICESHIP SUCCESS](#)
[READ ABOUT XENIA ZIMMERMAN](#)

University experts to speak at AI Festival

Two University academics, Nicholas Caldwell and Dr Kasia Chatsiou, will be contributing to the AI Festival.

The pair will talk about how businesses are using AI to rethink services, improve outcomes, unlock creativity and solve problems.

The event will take place on 27 and 28 May, at XR Labs in Bury St Edmunds. As an event sponsor, there is a discount code to book: REVEAL50.

[BOOK HERE](#)

AI and Automation Practitioner apprenticeship coming soon

The AI and Automation Practitioner apprenticeship has been designed to help organisations improve processes.

Apprentices will develop practical skills in workflow improvement, digital systems, data and automation technologies within real workplace contexts.

[EMAIL US TO FIND OUT MORE](#)

Unlock Fresh Thinking with a Student Impact Project

The University of Suffolk's Student Impact Projects connect organisations with talented undergraduate and postgraduate students to tackle real business challenges. Whether you're exploring new markets, improving processes, developing campaigns, building new tech or testing new ideas, students bring fresh thinking, creativity, and the latest academic insight directly into your organisation.

Projects are fully supported by the University, with recruitment, onboarding, payroll, and administration all managed for you. Each project is also guided by an academic supervisor and dedicated university team to ensure quality, structure, and measurable outcomes.

Designed for SMEs and larger organisations alike, projects provide range from 100–240 hours and are tailored to your needs. Organisations provide the brief, feedback, and mentoring, creating a collaborative partnership that combines industry expertise with innovative student perspectives.

Flexible funding options are available, including fully funded opportunities for eligible organisations, alongside part-funded and paid models that provide a cost-effective alternative to consultancy or recruitment.

The result: actionable insights, additional capacity, access to emerging talent, and practical solutions that create real impact.

[FIND OUT MORE AND SUBMIT AN EXPRESSION OF INTEREST](#)

Find us at the Suffolk Show

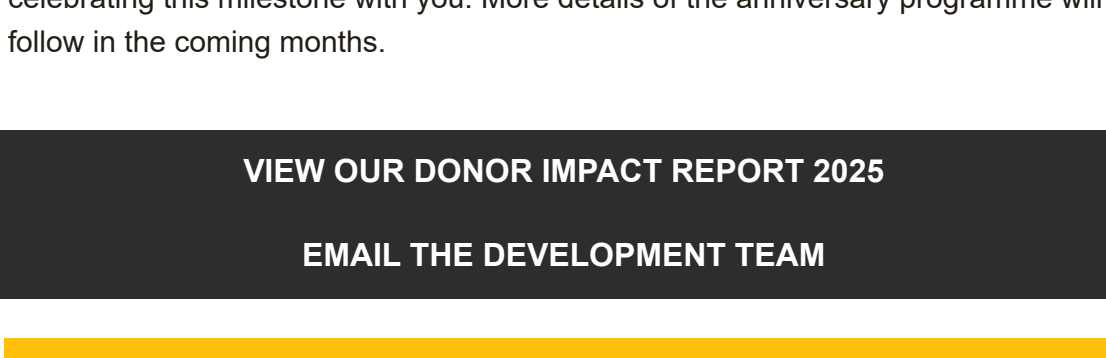
The University will be back at the Suffolk Show this year on 27 and 28 May, supporting one of the county's key events.

Celebrating Suffolk's rich agricultural heritage, culture and industries, the show takes place at Trinity Park, Ipswich.

Come and see our activities on Stand 15, which showcase:

- Wildlife, Ecology and Conservation
- Paramedic Science
- Creative Industries and Digital Humanities
- Childhood and Education

We'll also have staff present from the Students' Union, Business Solutions Centre, and our Digital Futures, Social Justice and Crime and Suffolk Sustainability Institutes, showcasing the breadth of the University's activity.



Supporting the University

A message from our Development Director, Sarah Westwood

I am delighted to share the University of Suffolk's 2025 Donor Impact Report. This first of its kind report describes the transformative impact of giving to the University in 2025 and beyond.

Thanks to the generosity and commitment of the community of individuals and corporate partners who share the ambition of the University's talented team, we have been able to expand our reach, inspire bright minds, deliver leading research and make a lasting difference to the communities we serve. These achievements gained national recognition in 2025, and the Donor Impact Report highlights just some of the outcomes made possible with the support of our friends and partners.

This sustains the University's mission and ensures we can continue to transform the lives of young people in Suffolk and further afield.

As we step forward confidently into 2026, we remain focused on deepening our impact. 1 August 2026 marks a decade of our independence and we look forward to celebrating this milestone with you. More details of the anniversary programme will follow in the coming months.

[VIEW OUR DONOR IMPACT REPORT 2026](#)
[EMAIL THE DEVELOPMENT TEAM](#)

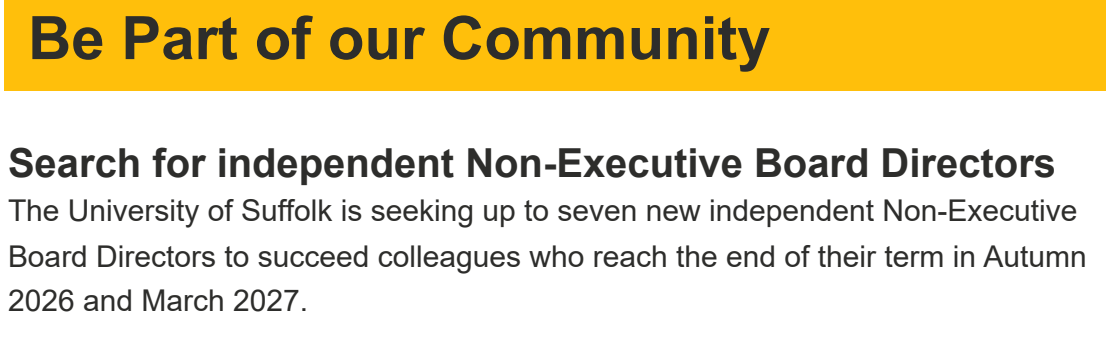
What's on

Networking Breakfast: Powering Innovation Together

11 June | 8.30–10.30pm | Adastral Park, Martlesham

The University of Suffolk is co-hosting a networking breakfast with BT next month. The event will explore how collaborating with the University can support your business growth, while showcasing how businesses are already working with the University to develop talent, drive innovation and create tailored solutions that meet real-world challenges.

[BOOK NOW](#)



Children and Childhoods Conference

15–16 July | 9.00–4.00pm | Waterfront Building

The seventh biennial Children and Childhoods Conference will bring together academics, pedagogues, practitioners, policymakers, early career and postgraduate researchers and students.

The two-day event will look at how children encounter, navigate and are shaped by systems of crime, justice, safeguarding and social regulation, as well as childhoods lived in an era of intensifying childhood poverty, political instability and technological change.

Tickets range in price for one day or two day passes.

[BOOK NOW](#)

Be Part of our Community

Search for Independent Non-Executive Board Directors

The University of Suffolk is seeking up to seven new independent Non-Executive Board Directors to succeed colleagues who reach the end of their term in Autumn 2026 and March 2027.

Our new Directors will bring new skills, knowledge and perspective, ensuring that – together – we achieve the performance and diversity of thought needed to address an unprecedented range of needs and opportunities.

We are looking for specific backgrounds in building, audit and risk, estates and property management, legal, people and culture. HE research and development. As new and emerging technologies play a fundamental role in University life, we're also interested in people with expertise in digital innovation and AI and those with a strong connection to business circles and networks in Ipswich and Suffolk.

The deadline to apply is Monday 8 June

[FIND OUT MORE AND APPLY](#)

Feedback

We'd love to hear your feedback about this newsletter

[Email communications@uos.ac.uk](mailto:communications@uos.ac.uk)

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