

UNIVERSALLY SUFFOLK

Winter 2026

Introduction from Vice-Chancellor Jenny Higham



Welcome to the latest edition of Universally Suffolk. The year has got off to a busy start for our staff and students. We have been working closely with local businesses to build our apprenticeship offer alongside traditional degree routes. We were pleased to announce five new degree-level apprenticeships during National Apprenticeship Week. They include our Project Management apprenticeship, developed in partnership with Suffolk technology firm Halo who are actively recruiting young people to join the programme in September.

Alongside this, we've celebrated exciting news including an ecotourism award win, the launch of the Suffolk Centre for Culture and Heritage and a Fine Art student's work being selected for a prestigious London exhibition.

There is plenty more to look forward to over the coming months including our Open Lecture series and Spotlight Suffolk events.

Headline News

Global recognition for University's rainforest ecotourism partnership project

A citizen science project in the Peruvian Amazon run in partnership with the University's Wildlife, Ecology and Conservation Science course has won a prestigious Regenerative Travel Impact Award 2025.



The 8 Primates Project, launched by Rainforest Expeditions and the University's Dr Mark Bowler, uses bioacoustics, artificial intelligence and community engagement activities to help record and safeguard primate species such as spider monkeys, howler monkeys and capuchins.

[READ THE FULL STORY](#)

Leading legal journalist joins University's annual law lecture

The University welcomed Joshua Rozenberg KC, the country's leading legal commentator and journalist to speak at its third Legal Advice Centre annual law lecture.

The event, A Question of Law, was hosted by the University's Legal Advice Centre in partnership



with the Suffolk and North Essex Law Society and sponsored by law firm Ellisons.

Prior to the event, which included a Q&A with the audience, he met with Law students to answer questions about his career including why he chose to become a journalist after qualifying as a solicitor.

[READ THE FULL STORY](#)

University launches Suffolk Centre for Culture and Heritage

Representatives from the county's culture and heritage sector came together to celebrate the launch of the Suffolk Centre for Culture and Heritage.

The University's newly installed Chancellor, Zeb Soanes, joined Professor Emma Bond, Pro-Vice Chancellor for Research and Knowledge Exchange, for an insightful conversation about our creative landscape – from festivals and illustration to film, photography and history.

Guests also heard from some of Suffolk's cultural leaders including Sammi Wong, artist, illustrator and alumni of the University.

[READ THE FULL STORY](#)

Student's artwork chosen from thousands for renowned London exhibition

Third-year BA (Hons) Fine Art student Belinda Downing is one of just 82 creatives from almost



4,000 entries to be shortlisted for the John Ruskin Prize Exhibition 2026.

Her artwork, Fragments (East Lane), is an installation of eight pieces of hinged paintings on found boards which are double-sided, with the inspiration coming from the ruined World War Two gun emplacements of East Lane in Bawdsey.

[READ THE FULL STORY](#)

Strategy and Vision update

Consultation continues as the University updates its Strategy and Vision. Following initial workshops with staff, Senate and Board members, the current consultation is focused on specific themes including academic portfolio, Suffolk's role as a Civic University and future financial sustainability.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Jenny Higham, Provost Professor Rachel Allen, Pro Vice-Chancellor Marek Hornak and colleagues will also obtain feedback from students, the county's businesses, public sector organisations, secondary and further education providers.

[FOR FURTHER NEWS, VISIT THE NEWS PAGE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)

Research and Knowledge Exchange

Participants with Parkinson's sought for study using singing as facial rehabilitation resource

People with Parkinson's Disease are being sought for an innovative study exploring weekly singing sessions which researchers hope will demonstrate improvements in

facial mobility and expression capability.

The study, a partnership between the University of Suffolk's Institute of Health and Wellbeing, the University of Essex, East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust and Britten Pears Arts, will compare facial mobility and expression between participants in Britten Pears Arts' east Suffolk Skylarks weekly singing programme with those who do not sing.

[READ THE FULL STORY](#)

University publishes independent study on early impacts of Sizewell C

A study by researchers at the University has examined how residents in Leiston and surrounding communities perceive current experiences, anticipated future impacts and long-term legacy expectations associated with the Sizewell C nuclear power station construction.

The study, commissioned by Sizewell C and carried out by the University's Dr Cristian Dogaru and Laura Polley, aimed to establish a baseline understanding of community experience at the early stages of construction.

[READ THE FULL STORY](#)

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

Academic News

Accreditation for BA (Hons) Architecture

The University's undergraduate Architecture course has secured full validation from a key industry body in recognition of its quality.

Representatives from the Royal Institute for British Architects (RIBA), the global professional membership body for architects, visited the



University in December to assess the BA (Hons) Architecture course.

[LEARN ABOUT ARCHITECTURE](#)



Partnership agreed with pharmacy chain for MPharm Pharmacy student placements

Students will benefit from 70 days of placements as part of their four-year Master of Pharmacy course.

Starting in September 2026, the first students will gain valuable experience from the partnership with G.M Graham Pharmacies.

The placements will provide practical exposure to services including vaccinations, blood pressure monitoring, prescribing consultations and the NHS Pharmacy First Service.

[FULL STORY](#)

Business Engagement

University partners with Halo to announce new apprenticeships for 2026

Leading Suffolk technology firm Halo is working with the University to identify recruitment opportunities for the new Project Management degree apprenticeship.

It is one of five new apprenticeships being launched by the University in 2026 to help address skills needs in the region.

[READ THE FULL STORY](#)

Freeport East Clean Growth Innovation Showcase

The University of Suffolk hosted the Freeport East Clean Growth Innovation Challenge Day with Tech East recently.

Fourteen students attended from a variety of courses including Nursing, Data Science, Business and Social Work to work among multidisciplinary teams of researchers, innovators, entrepreneurs and local businesses to explore the challenges and develop solutions centred around digital and data, manufacturing, clean energy and ports, logistics and transport.

Teams are being selected to progress into a focused development phase to refine and validate their concepts ahead of a showcase in June where they will pitch polished solutions to investors, corporate and innovation leaders, who are actively looking to take ideas forward.

AI Festival

The University is delighted to be a sponsor at this year's AI Festival.

Taking place on 27 and 28 May, at XR Labs in Bury St Edmunds, the event will explore the implications for innovation, business, skills and employment in relation to what will be the defining technology of the 21st century.

[BOOK HERE](#)

Opportunity for summer internships

Many of the University's students are keen to gain valuable work experience over the summer break.

Internships can be from a week up to around 10 weeks in duration and can be a great way for businesses to start building a talent pipeline, with many employers making graduate offers to summer interns, having used the internship to assess whether they will be a good fit.

If you are interested in offering paid summer internships, please get in touch.

EMAIL US

Annual University of Suffolk Hackathon

Technology students are looking forward to the annual spring Hackathon.

Facilitated by local technology company IJYI on 24-26 March, students from first-year to Masters, will form small teams and work on a technical challenge before presenting their innovations to a panel of judges.

The University would welcome sponsors to support the event; either by providing prizes, merchandise for spot prizes or goody bags, as tech mentors or to even sponsor refreshments.

If you would like more information please email us below.

EMAIL US

Supporting the University



A message from our Development Director, Sarah Westwood

The University of Suffolk is a fundamental part of the beautiful county it calls home. What began with the energy, ambition and belief of a small group of individuals over a decade ago is now delivering measurable positive impact on the region's people and communities.

As the University's Development Director, it's my great privilege to work with individuals and companies who choose to support what we do to educate and inspire Suffolk's young people, strengthen key workforces and bring together those who care about our County under a common purpose.

Amongst the most far-sighted of our supporters are those who make provision for the University in their will. By leaving a legacy they are investing in the future of people they may never meet and addressing challenges we might only just foresee.

If you're considering making this most future-focused gift, our video and brochure will tell you more.

If you've already made this commitment, please tell us so that we can invite you to join the Wolsey Circle, a group established to recognise the generosity of legacy donors.

"Leaving a legacy to the University of Suffolk is an unrivalled opportunity to make an ongoing contribution to the health, welfare and education of the nation."

Neil Watts, Member of the Wolsey Circle

VIEW OUR LEGACY BROCHURE AND VIDEO

EMAIL THE DEVELOPMENT TEAM

What's on



Spotlight Suffolk: Have Women Smashed the Glass Ceiling?

4 March | 5.30–9.00pm |
Waterfront Building

An International Women's Day panel of senior leaders will discuss whether women have smashed the glass ceiling and if organisations and businesses are doing enough to enable women to lead.

The panel will be chaired by Chief Constable Rachel Kearton and panellists include Professor Jenny Higham, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Suffolk, Judi Newman, Chief Executive of St Elizabeth Hospice, Pauline Essah, CEO of Essa, and Honor Pollok, Founder and CEO of Kynigos Partners.

[BOOK NOW](#)

EmpowerUS: Shaping Ipswich's Future: Women Leading Change for Ipswich

17 March | 2.00–6.00pm | The Atrium

Have an idea for Ipswich's future? A bold innovation? A vision for how Ipswich can thrive by 2030? This is an invitation to be part of it. Part of Ipswich Thrive Business Week 2026, this open-to-all event puts female-first thinking at the centre of Ipswich's growth, bringing together students, local leaders and change-makers to explore how women are shaping business, community and opportunity.

[BOOK NOW](#)



Open Lecture: Lemn Sissay – An Evening of Poetry and Conversation

23 March | 5.30–8.30pm |
Waterfront Building

Lemn Sissay, a BAFTA-nominated, award-winning writer and broadcaster, celebrates the publication of his latest collection with an evening of readings and discussion.

Tickets cost £20 each, and £15 for University of Suffolk students.

[BOOK NOW](#)

Postgraduate Open Evening

16 April | 4.00–7.00pm | Ipswich campus

The University's Postgraduate Open Evening is an opportunity for prospective students of all ages to visit campus and get a taste for what postgraduate study can offer.

Attendees can talk to lecturers about course offerings and discuss support services.

[BOOK NOW](#)



Open Lecture: The Cartographic Fool by Mike Sauter

23 April | 5.30–8.00pm |
Waterfront Building

Author and Associate Professor of History Mike Sauter will discuss the release of his new book, *The Cartographic Fool*. It uncovers the story of the Fool's Cap Map, an engraving published circa 1595 in Antwerp.

[BOOK NOW](#)

Feedback

We'd love to hear your feedback about this newsletter

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