

UNIVERSALLY SUFFOLK

Summer 2026

Introduction from Vice-Chancellor Jenny Higham



Welcome to the latest edition of Universally Suffolk. As another academic year draws to a close, there is much to celebrate.

We have been ranked in the top 50 universities in the UK as part of the Complete University Guide 2027, and we have risen an incredible 82 places from 2022 to 2027 which is testament to our wonderful colleagues across the University. Our final-year students have also had their say in the 2026 National Student Survey with the results putting the University above the England national average once again.

We have also launched three new Master's courses, the Business Solutions Centre has marked its first anniversary and our apprenticeship provision has been praised by Ofsted for its high achievement rates and strong learner support.

Alongside this, we've celebrated exciting news including a UK Small Business Awards shortlisting for a Photography student and the opening of illustrator Helen Oxenbury's exhibition in the Waterfront Gallery.

There is plenty more to look forward to over the coming months as we enter our 10th anniversary year. We'll keep you updated on our celebratory plans in the next edition.

Headline News

Students report strong satisfaction in 2026 National Student Survey

The University has scored above the national average for England in the latest National Student Survey (NSS) results published this month.



It is a UK-wide official survey of final-year university students, which gives them the opportunity to share honest feedback about their course and university of study.

The University of Suffolk scored above the England national average in all nine themes once again this year.

[READ THE FULL STORY](#)

We're ranked among top 50 universities nationally in Complete University Guide 2027

The University is among the top 50 universities in the UK, ranked 44th out of 130 institutions in the 2027 Complete University Guide.

The latest rankings have seen Suffolk rise by 11 places from its 55th position last year, and continues the University's remarkable climb over the last five years, moving up 82 places from 2022 to 2027.

The University is also ranked top for facilities spend and seventh for academic services spend.

[READ THE FULL STORY](#)



Photography student shortlisted for national award

A student who runs a photography business alongside studying for her degree has been shortlisted for a prestigious award.

Chloe Jenkins, a first-year BA (Hons) Photography and Visual Media student, is in the running for the Young Entrepreneur of the Year prize at the UK Small Business Awards 2026.

[READ THE FULL STORY](#)

Donation gives students an inspirational behind the scenes trip



Students had the opportunity to explore behind the scenes at some top London museums thanks to funding from a Suffolk business.

A group of first-year students from the BSc (Hons) Wildlife, Ecology and Conservation Science programme visited the Angela Marmont Centre at the Natural History Museum, the Linnean Society collections and the world-renowned Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew.

The trip was made possible thanks to a donation from Debach Ltd.

[READ THE FULL STORY](#)

Back Ipswich's UK City of Culture 2029 bid

Ipswich is in the running to become the UK City of Culture 2029, creating an opportunity to celebrate local talent, strengthen communities and attract new investment.

The University is proud to back the bid which provides an opportunity to showcase Ipswich and what makes it special, champion its rich heritage and pioneering spirit, while imagining new possibilities, shaping plans and sparking change.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Jenny Higham said: "The City of Culture 2029 bid is a once in a generation opportunity to drive creative and economic growth and it is vital to include all communities to maximise the benefits to Ipswich and the county."

[LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CITY OF CULTURE BID](#)

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

Research and Knowledge Exchange

University to help train future nuclear workforce

A new research project to support the UK's nuclear workforce will be delivered by the University, thanks to national funding for PhD students.

The University is working with three other universities on the Doctoral Focal Award in Radiation Protection, Nuclear Safety and Environmental Sustainability (RAPTOR).

It will deliver a new doctoral training programme with the aim of producing 80 highly trained researchers who can deliver practical solutions across the civil and defence nuclear sectors.

[READ THE FULL STORY](#)

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

Academic News

Three new Master's courses launch to meet

industry skill needs

A trio of new Master's course will be available at the University this autumn to help address the skills needs in key industries.

From September, postgraduate students will be able to study on the MA Social Work, MSc Digital Marketing and Data Analytics and MSc Cognitive Behavioural Therapy courses, with applications already open.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Business Engagement

Business Solutions Centre: A year of progress and what's next

The University recently marked the first anniversary of its Business Solutions Centre, reflecting on the Centre's impact and future ambitions.

Since its launch, the Centre has strengthened collaboration between the University and businesses across the region, supporting workforce development, innovation and skills growth.

The event highlighted the University's strategic priorities and its commitment to delivering even greater value for businesses through new initiatives and enhanced employer engagement. A key focus was the positive outcomes achieved through partnerships with local organisations. Tracey Whale, of East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust, highlighted the role apprenticeships play in developing skills, supporting careers and strengthening local communities.

The event reinforced the importance of collaboration between education and industry in addressing regional skills needs, driving innovation and supporting long-term economic growth across Suffolk and the wider region.

[WATCH THE ANNIVERSARY VIDEO](#)

Ofsted praises apprenticeships

The University's apprenticeship provision has been recognised by Ofsted for its high achievement rates, strong learner support and positive safeguarding culture.

In its latest report – the University's first under Ofsted's new inspection framework – Ofsted confirmed that all required standards are being met. Inspectors praised the high quality of apprentices' work, their commitment to learning, and the confidence they develop in their roles.

The report also highlighted how apprentices gain a greater understanding of their local communities while building the skills employers need – reflecting the University's commitment to developing industry-ready professionals who can make an immediate impact in the workplace.

With an apprenticeship achievement rate of 91%, compared with a national average of 65%, the University of Suffolk is among the top five

university apprenticeship providers in the country.

LEARN MORE ABOUT APPRENTICESHIPS

Could AI and data help unlock your organisation's next stage of growth?

What could your organisation achieve with 12 weeks of dedicated support focused on innovation, AI and data-driven decision-making?

The University is inviting ambitious Suffolk organisations to collaborate through its Student Impact Projects programme, connecting businesses with talented students to tackle real business challenges.

Whether you're looking to explore AI, improve operational efficiency, analyse customer or market data, streamline processes or identify new growth opportunities, a Student Impact Project offers a fresh perspective backed by academic expertise. Projects are tailored to your organisation's needs and delivered through a structured consultancy-style approach, providing practical recommendations and measurable outcomes.

This is an opportunity to trial new ideas, access emerging talent and discover how data and AI can support sustainable business growth with minimal risk. If your organisation is ready to embrace innovation and explore what's possible, we'd love to hear from you and discuss how a Student Impact Project could support your next stage of development.

FIND OUT MORE AND SUBMIT AN EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Apprenticeship units

With the introduction of Apprenticeship Units, the University is pleased to be offering an apprenticeship unit for AI leadership: Strategy and Opportunity.

Apprenticeship units are short, flexible training programmes designed to help employers quickly develop skills in key areas of business need. They provide targeted learning without the commitment of a full apprenticeship and can often be funded through the Growth and Skills Levy.

The new AI Leadership: Strategy and Opportunity apprenticeship unit is aimed at leaders and managers responsible for shaping organisational strategy and innovation. It equips participants with the knowledge to understand AI's capabilities and limitations, identify opportunities for AI-driven improvement, assess risks, and develop an AI strategy aligned to business goals.

For businesses, this means developing the confidence and capability to make informed decisions about AI adoption, improve productivity, identify new opportunities for growth, and implement AI responsibly and effectively across their organisation

EMAIL THE BUSINESS SOLUTIONS CENTRE TEAM

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE APPRENTICESHIP UNIT

Supporting the University



Sponsorship opportunities

As we look ahead to an exciting autumn, including welcoming new students, celebrating our Class of 2026 at graduation, and announcing our Suffolk Salutes award winners, we are delighted to offer a range of inspiring sponsorship opportunities to be part of these milestone moments.

With sponsorship opportunities starting from just £250, there's a meaningful way for everyone to get involved. Our diverse portfolio offers tailored packages, each designed with exciting opportunities for engagement. Our Alumni Relations and Development team would be delighted to explore the options with you and help you find the perfect fit.

Most importantly, sponsorship plays a vital role in enhancing educational opportunities by enabling us to go beyond core funding and create transformative experiences for our students. It supports scholarships, improved facilities and innovation, helping to remove financial barriers and broaden access. Ultimately, sponsorship is an investment in future generations, empowering students to succeed and make a meaningful impact in our community and beyond.

EMAIL THE DEVELOPMENT TEAM

What's on



Exhibition: Adventures in Childhood - Helen Oxenbury

10 July - 11 September | 10.00-4.00pm | Gallery, Waterfront Building

Adventures in Childhood will feature 50 of Helen Oxenbury's most famous illustrations including from the hugely popular *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* and *Farmer Duck* stories. The exhibition is free and open to the public.

FIND OUT MORE



Adventures in Childhood: Story and Craft Sessions

22 July - 26 August | 11.00-11.45am | Foyer, Waterfront Building

Organised by the Suffolk Centre for Culture and Heritage, there will be free family story and craft sessions during the summer holidays.

Every Wednesday morning, from 22 July to 26 August, will be inspired by a different children's book illustrated by Helen Oxenbury, with the story being read before a craft activity to make something to take home.

Spaces are free but must be booked for children aged four to 12 and are limited to four per family.

BOOK HERE

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AND HERITAGE NEWSLETTER**

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