



SHEFFIELD WINS *SUNDAY TIMES* 'UK UNIVERSITY OF THE YEAR' AWARD

Calling all hermits out there! If you haven't already heard: Sheffield was named as the 'UK University of the Year' in the 2001 *Sunday Times University Guide*.

The Award is based on wide-ranging achievements and qualities assessed over the past 12 months. Factors taken into account include teaching, the overall academic robustness of an institution, the student experience and the University's role on regional, national and world stages.

These are all areas in which Sheffield does exceptionally well. Taken overall, the University now has a coveted UK Top 10 ranking with a rise of 13 places since last year.

Commenting in the Guide itself, Sheffield's Vice-Chancellor, Professor () expressed his delight that the work of staff and students alike had achieved recognition in this prestigious and rigorous survey:

"The University of Sheffield has a proud history and an exciting future," he said. "To be named 'UK University of the Year' is a hallmark of the quality education of which we in Sheffield are rightly proud."

To underline this, 26 subjects at the University of Sheffield have now been given top ratings by the Quality Assurance Agency - a record few institutions can match.

At 5.3%, Sheffield also has one of the lowest drop-out rates in the country - a statistic which speaks volumes about the teaching quality, amenities and overall student experience. Only four UK universities are projected to lose fewer students before the end of their courses.

There's no doubting the 'feel-good factor' that stems from being part of a successful academic community. The University's track record in all aspects of engineering, for example, is one of the finest in the country. And its research is world-class.

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Chemistry at Sheffield has produced four Nobel Prize Winners, two in the past decade. Excellence in engineering meanwhile has resulted in world-class research links with companies such as British Aerospace, Rolls Royce and, most recently, the Boeing Company.

Reflecting on these achievements, Professor () points out that the University's research pedigree is vital to its success as a teaching institution:

"Any decent teacher can impart information," he says, "but in research universities like ours there is a much more developed depth of understanding. Because research-active staff are inquisitive, they tend to produce more inquisitive and questioning students."

This accounts for the consistently high levels of achievement in all aspects of University life at Sheffield. Winning this latest Award will continue to make Sheffield an attractive choice for both UK and overseas' students, high quality staff and blue-chip sponsors of progressive real-world projects.

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