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Foreword

It’s an exciting time to be part of Newcastle University, with new research continually making headlines, ambitious initiatives revitalising our landmark buildings and sports programmes, and new connections being made in our local and global communities.

At the core of it all is Newcastle’s excellent education. We celebrated the culmination of that education for some 4,400 students in colourful degree ceremonies this summer.

Newcastle University’s global community has a bigger reach than ever before. About 40 per cent of our graduates live abroad, from Hong Kong and Singapore to the USA and Canada. Nearly a third of our current students are from outside the UK; our current staff are likewise highly international. The impact of our research ranges from enhancing education in Gateshead and India, to finding treatments for diabetes and children’s cancer, worldwide. Our alumni are joining forces with current students to generate new enterprises, from Yorkshire to Africa. Newcastle’s education keeps on going for life.

In my new role as Dean of Advancement, I am proud to play a part in Newcastle’s achievements, and extremely grateful to all of the alumni, benefactors, friends and colleagues of the University who support these exciting initiatives in vital ways. I hope to meet many of you in the coming year, and encourage you all to stay in touch and enjoy being part of this enriching community.

Professor Anya Hurlbert
Dean of Advancement
Professor Chris Day appointed as next Vice-Chancellor

Professor Chris Day, one of the UK’s leading medical academics, has been appointed as the new Vice-Chancellor of Newcastle University from January 2017.

Currently Newcastle University’s Pro-Vice-Chancellor (PVC) for the Faculty of Medical Sciences, Professor Day will take over from Professor Chris Brink when he retires in December 2016.

Professor Day’s visionary leadership as PVC has seen the Medical Faculty rise to be in the world’s top 50, establish the UK’s only overseas medical campus in Malaysia and achieve international recognition for its research into ageing, liver and mitochondrial diseases.

Speaking of his appointment, Professor Day said: ‘This is a huge honour and I am privileged to be able to lead such a wonderful University with so many talented and dedicated staff and students.

‘I am immensely proud of Newcastle University, which has become known for its commitment to tackling some of the world’s most pressing challenges through its research and teaching. It is this ethos of “Excellence with a Purpose”, that has been championed so effectively by Professor Chris Brink during his nine-year role as Vice-Chancellor, that I pledge to continue.’

Born and raised in the North East of England, from a state school background, Professor Day, 56, is a passionate advocate for widening participation and enthusing children about science and medicine, irrespective of their circumstances.

As a board member of the International Centre for Life in Newcastle, he has been actively involved in establishing ‘Life’ as a beacon for public engagement in science and gives up his own time to give talks and lectures to young people considering a career in medicine. This was recognised by the Association of Colleges who in 2013 presented him with a Gold Award for excellence in his chosen career and as a role model to future students.
Transfer of School of Medicine, Pharmacy and Health

Following an extensive consultation exercise with school staff and students, Durham University has agreed a transfer of its School of Medicine, Pharmacy and Health to Newcastle University.

Both Universities’ governing Councils have approved the relocation of the School from Durham University’s Stockton campus to Newcastle University. The earliest any changes will take effect will be for the start of the 2017–18 academic year.

The transfer will ensure a coherent and sustainable regional medical education provision for the future. It positions Newcastle as one of the few universities in the Russell Group that will be able to offer programmes and research in medicine, dentistry, biomedical sciences, psychology and pharmacy with synergies across all three of its faculties.

University responds to Brexit

In the wake of the UK’s referendum on membership of the European Union, the University’s Vice-Chancellor, Professor Chris Brink, has assured all EU staff and students their presence and contribution is valued by the entire University.

He said: ‘The University is unswerving in its commitment to a continuation of substantial numbers of European and international staff and students in our academic community.’

The University moved quickly to confirm that all of its 1,205 current EU students, as well as EU students joining in September 2016 and 2017, will continue to be charged home UK fees for the duration of their study programme.

And from October 2016, the University will provide an interest-free loan scheme to support all University employees (both EU and EEA) to cover the costs of securing their legal right to reside in the UK.

Professor Nick Wright, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research and Innovation, has also publicly stated ways in which the UK Government needs to secure continued involvement in international research collaborations with EU partners.
Bug eyes

Miniature glasses have proved that mantises have 3D vision – providing a new model to improve visual perception in robots.

Most knowledge about 3D vision has come from vertebrates. However, a team at Newcastle led by Professor Jenny Read has discovered that the praying mantis, an invertebrate, uses stereopsis or 3D perception for hunting.

In a specially designed insect cinema, mantises fitted with tiny glasses attached with beeswax were shown short videos of simulated bugs. The mantises didn’t try to catch the bugs when they were in 2D, but did when they were shown in 3D.

The team are continuing the research examining the algorithms used for depth perception in insects to better understand how human vision evolved and to develop new ways of adding 3D technology to computers and robots.

UNESCO Chair for Cultural Protection

Professor Peter Stone, one of the UK’s leading specialists in protecting cultural property during armed conflict, has been appointed as the first-ever UNESCO Chair in Cultural Property Protection and Peace.

Professor Stone has previously acted as a specialist advisor to the UK government regarding the identification and protection of the cultural heritage in Iraq. He is also Chair of the UK Committee for the Blue Shield, the cultural heritage equivalent of the Red Cross.

Through the accolade, Newcastle University will deliver training and capacity-building activities and build new partnerships worldwide to mitigate the destruction of cultural property during conflict and strengthen the use of UNESCO World Heritage Sites as tools for peace.
**Organic and non-organic product findings**

A new study has shown that both organic milk and meat contain around 50 per cent more beneficial omega-3 fatty acids than conventionally produced products.

Analysing data from around the world, a team led by Newcastle University reviewed 196 research papers on milk and 67 on meat. They found clear differences between organic and non-organic milk and meat, especially in terms of fatty acid composition, and the concentrations of certain essential minerals and antioxidants.

In their findings, published in the *British Journal of Nutrition* in February 2016, the team say the data shows that a switch to organic meat and milk goes some way towards increasing the intake of nutritionally important fatty acids. In August 2016, Nielsen data reported that organic beef sales had increased significantly since the findings were published.

**‘Talking’ traffic lights**

A groundbreaking project in Newcastle, piloting technology where traffic lights ‘talk’ to motorists, could be rolled out to tackle congestion and pollution in major cities across Europe.

Newcastle is one of seven European pilot sites trialling the new technology of communicating vehicles as part of the €10 million Compass4D project funded by the European Union.

The UK arm of the project involves linking an in-vehicle communication system directly with Newcastle’s Urban Traffic Management Control (UTMC) centre – the infrastructure ‘talking’ to motorists.

Led by Newcastle University in collaboration with Newcastle City Council, Siemens and the North East Ambulance Service, the project’s aim has been to improve safety, cut patient journey times, and reduce congestion and pollution by helping motorists to drive more efficiently.
Newcastle will take centre stage next year when it hosts Freedom City 2017, a programme of events to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Dr Martin Luther King visiting Newcastle University to receive an honorary degree.

On 13 November 1967, Newcastle University gave Dr King an honorary degree – the only UK university to do so during his lifetime. Remarkably, he took time to visit the University to receive the award of Honorary Doctor of Civil Law, and in a spellbinding impromptu acceptance speech spoke movingly of his struggle for racial justice and the challenges in overcoming war, poverty and racism.

Working with our partners Northern Roots and NewcastleGateshead Initiative, the Freedom City 2017 celebrations aim to bring Dr King’s legacy to life through an exciting programme of large-scale public events, talks, exhibitions, art works, and performances, many of which will take place at the University. There will also be an education programme, research projects and academic events, led by the University.

Freedom City 2017 will run throughout the year, and culminate in a number of special events that will take place 11–13 November 2017. Among these will be a commemorative event in the King’s Hall, and the unveiling of a new statue of Dr King.

Get involved
Were you at the University in November 1967? If you were, and you remember Dr King’s visit, we’d love to hear about your memories of this momentous occasion. You can tell us about your memories by contacting: advancement@ncl.ac.uk.

There will be many opportunities for everyone to take part in Freedom City 2017, and a dedicated website was recently launched to help people stay in touch with the activities that will take place around the city throughout 2017.

To keep up to date with Freedom City 2017, visit: www.freedomcity2017.com
To watch Dr King’s speech, visit: www.ncl.ac.uk/congregations/ceremonies/honorary/martinlutherking
Making a **Global Impact**

Thanks to the generosity of alumni and supporters, research at Newcastle University shapes lives, influences policy and helps us to understand and address challenges that the world faces. Here are some of the projects our researchers are currently involved in, thanks to the generosity of our graduates and friends:

www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/impact

**Protecting future generations from mitochondrial diseases**
- leading the world in work to protect future generations from the risk of mitochondrial disease

**Sharing the gift of education**
- TED Prize-winning research by Professor Sugata Mitra is transforming the lives of children around the world with a new model of education

**Making the future possible for children with cancer**
- Newcastle has an international reputation for translating scientific discovery into life-changing therapies and a new facility will accelerate this work

**Relieving pressure on global water supplies**
- finding new ways to relieve the pressure on the world’s water supplies and help governments cope with changing demands on this precious resource
Working towards a future without dementia
– exploring the causes of the illness and improving care for people with dementia

Averting the Type 2 diabetes time bomb
– challenging what is currently understood about the condition and even finding ways of reversing it

Caring for children with arthritis
– helping to improve the diagnosis and treatment of children with arthritis

Shaping the future of surgery
– Newcastle University is developing new technology and techniques that push the boundaries of what is surgically possible

Improving health by encouraging movement
– tackling one of the simplest yet most important challenges of our time: how can we sit less and move more to be a little healthier?

Improving life for families facing muscular dystrophy
– improving the outlook for those born with rare neuromuscular diseases
The University’s Vice-Chancellor, Professor Chris Brink, retires at the end of 2016. Since his appointment in 2007, he has provided leadership for the University throughout times of challenge and opportunity.

‘I had never been to Newcastle before my interview,’ recalls Professor Brink, who joined Newcastle University from Stellenbosch University in South Africa, where he was Vice-Chancellor. Prior to that, he was Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research) at Wollongong University in Australia. ‘The last time I had lived in England was between 1975 and 1978. The interview panel asked, if I were to be appointed, what I wanted to achieve here.

‘The University's mission statement is to be a world-class research-intensive university, to deliver teaching of the highest quality and to play a leading role in the economic, social and cultural development of the North East of England.

‘I recognised there were four components to this idea – the University, business and industry, civil society, and government. Newcastle is – quite literally – famed for its bridges, and I said the challenge for the University was not just to build bridges between these four components, but to cross them. To do so, I articulated the vision of a world-class civic university.’

Excellence in research and teaching

‘I have always been fascinated by the juxtaposition of excellence and relevance,’ explains Professor Brink. ‘How does an institution of brilliant academics impact on society? I believe there are two key questions we should always ask ourselves – the first is “What are we good at?” and the second is “What are we good for?”

“What are we good at?” is reflected in our teaching and research,’ he says. “What we are good for” is demonstrated by our engagement with civil society.'
The University’s research continues to make a real impact on people’s lives, cultures, economies and societies. ‘Our academic work is responsive to large-scale societal needs and demands,’ says Professor Brink. ‘It is this ethos that underpins our research and informs our strategy, and is summarised by our slogan of “Excellence with a Purpose”.

In teaching, nine out of 10 students are satisfied with their learning experience and 94 per cent of our students are in employment or further study within six months of graduation. As well as a host of extracurricular activities, a substantial activity in volunteering, and one of the largest widening participation schemes in the UK, the University has a strong focus on student entrepreneurship. ‘Our students not only secure jobs when they leave, but they create jobs too,’ says Professor Brink.

Engagement with civil society

One of the challenges for a civic university is that there is no universal measurement for the impact a university makes within civil society.

‘Our research is constantly evaluated, we consistently perform well in various rankings and these determine part of our core research funding,’ explains Professor Brink. ‘However, there is no credit in global rankings for engagement with civil society. Our engagement is not an independent activity either; it relates to our research and teaching which we deploy to help address the challenges facing civil society.’

Under Professor Brink’s leadership, the University has focused on addressing some of the key issues facing global society today. ‘Of all the global and local challenges facing the world, we asked ourselves “Where does our expertise lie?”’ explains Professor Brink.

‘There are so many worthy causes a civic university could be working on, but we cannot do them all, so we focus on issues that fit with our research and teaching. By interacting with society, you learn as much as you give.

‘Our idea of a world-class civic university has taken root within the academic community and the city itself. There are always more challenges to come, but Newcastle University will always stand for “Excellence with a Purpose”.

Addressing global challenges

The University’s commitment to ensuring that its research responds to some of society’s pressing needs is articulated through three societal challenge themes: ageing, social renewal and sustainability.

The Newcastle University Institute for Ageing seeks to understand ageing with a focus on how people age, how people can age better and the global challenges posed by people living longer. A new National Centre for Ageing Science and Innovation will be based at the University.

The Newcastle University Institute for Social Renewal looks at how individuals, communities and organisations continue to adapt and thrive in times of rapid change. As an institution, Newcastle University asks the big questions facing a modern society.

The Newcastle University Institute for Sustainability builds on the University’s international reputation for research expertise in this field, with co-ordinated research across interdisciplinary topics like energy, transport, infrastructure, water and waste.
Urban innovation
The University’s campus has evolved throughout Professor Brink’s time as Vice-Chancellor. New facilities, public spaces and state-of-the-art buildings nestle neatly alongside the University’s traditional redbrick architecture. Like their older counterparts on campus, the new buildings are another chapter in the University’s development. However, perhaps Newcastle University’s – and Professor Brink’s – biggest legacy to date is a partnership that will not only deliver for the city, but also the world…

Science Central
This is Newcastle’s £250 million flagship project. In partnership with Newcastle City Council, with substantial investment from Legal & General Group, and delivered through the Science City partnership, the project brings together academia, the public sector, communities, business and industry.

Located in the heart of the city, Science Central will capitalise on a number of Newcastle University’s renowned research capabilities, including sustainability, engineering, computing science, transport and urban planning. The 24-acre site occupies the area which was originally the Elswick Colliery and later the site of the Scottish & Newcastle Breweries.

Science Central will become an exemplar of urban sustainability and innovation. The first building on the site, The Core (pictured below), is already filled to capacity.
Urban Sciences
A £58 million Urban Sciences Building, now under construction, will house the School of Computing Science. It will also contain an Urban Observatory and Decision Theatre to analyse and explore real-time data, improving understanding of the interaction between the city’s energy, water, transport, waste and digital control systems.

Smart Grid
A new low-carbon energy centre, energy storage test bed and smart grid network will allow the development of new technologies for maximising efficiency, availability and sustainability of energy.

Innovation Hub
The University has obtained funding for a new building that will house two national innovation centres: the National Centre for Ageing Science and Innovation (NASI) and the National Institute for Smart Data Innovation (NISDI).

Learning and Teaching Centre
The Urban Sciences Building will connect via a bridge to a new £34 million Learning and Teaching Centre, which will incorporate a 750-seat auditorium, social learning spaces for students, and more space for Newcastle University Business School.

In addition, Newcastle City Council is planning a Laboratories Building, while Legal & General Group are considering various alternatives for investment on the remainder of the site.

For more information about Science Central, please visit: www.ncl.ac.uk/sciencecentral
Impact without Boundaries

As a world-class civic university, Newcastle works with other leading academic institutions and renowned academics around the globe. With four campuses, international partnerships and collaborations, the University's work is transcending national boundaries.

Professor Richard Davies, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Engagement and Internationalisation, explains.

‘Over the last two years, Newcastle University has been setting out its internationalisation strategy. We are now delivering on our agenda within the UK – and increasingly around the world – and we are known for both our international profile and impact.

‘Our international partnerships, about which you can read more over the next few pages, engage the University at school, faculty and institutional level. As a civic university, our work addresses some of the major challenges facing global society today. We aim to ensure not only that our international partners possess similar research interests to us, but also that they share our values and commitment to the role our work plays within civil society. These collaborations and transdisciplinary activities bring research which delivers real-world change.

‘We have simplified our internationalisation strategy and restructured it. In doing so, we encourage one-to-one partnerships between University staff and those of our partner institutions.

‘Research partnerships are an increasingly important part of the business of a 21st-century university and our academics are always thinking on a global scale.

‘Newcastle’s internationalisation strategy also allows us to deliver an international experience, at whichever campus our staff and students are based. In doing so, we continue to attract the best international staff and students as well as significant funding for international research projects. This approach enriches the University too. Our multicultural cohort of staff and students, across all four campuses, makes for a better learning and research environment and makes them – and the city of Newcastle too – more diverse and culturally richer.

‘The EU referendum vote has made the future a little more uncertain, so it’s more important than ever that we remain committed to research collaborations across Europe. Ultimately, the Brexit vote makes us more resolute in our commitment to attracting the brightest students and delivering research that transcends national boundaries.

‘And we have our international alumni community of over 180,000 people located around the world who help us deliver our goals. I am in regular contact with alumni who advise us, offer support and help us maintain our position as a world-class civic university.’
Global Footprint

The University’s branch campuses give Newcastle a truly global reach.

Newcastle University in Singapore, established in 2008, is the University’s first overseas venture. Developed with the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) and Ngee Ann and Nanyang Polytechnics, it is playing a pivotal role in developing Singapore’s next generation of engineers and scientists.

The University’s Malaysia-based campus, Newcastle University Medicine Malaysia (NUMed), offers undergraduate degrees in Medicine and Biomedical Sciences identical to Newcastle’s UK-based provision, and continuing professional development for medical professionals. In both locations we are building strong research collaborations with local university partners.

Meanwhile, Newcastle University London in the City of London offers degrees designed by the triple-accredited Newcastle University Business School, and places its students in a prime position to develop professional networks with global business and industry leaders.

Below: Newcastle University London

Newcastle University in Singapore

Newcastle University Medicine Malaysia
Global Partnerships

Newcastle University is ambitious on a global scale. Our key partner institutions share our ambitions, goals and values.

Research and other collaboration in the field of healthy ageing is a cornerstone of a strong, multi-stranded partnership with the University of Groningen (ref.1 on the map), which also includes three dual Masters’ programmes developed with Newcastle University Business School.

In North America, collaboration with Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis (2) has resulted in a University of California Press publication and exchange arrangement in paediatric dental care. With the University of Pittsburgh (3), Newcastle is working on public engagement in business marketing, energy, and education.

With Cornell University (4), under the social renewal theme, we are collaborating to help communities thrive in a changing world, addressing rural development, sustainable agriculture and urban and regional planning.

In Brazil, Newcastle’s collaboration with the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul (PUCRS) (5) spans all three of Newcastle University’s faculties and includes joint working between the Great North Museum and PUCRS’ Museum of Science and Technology. Newcastle also works closely with the Universidade de São Paulo (USP) (6) building sustainable and strategic academic-led partnerships.

Newcastle has significant research collaborations with one of India’s premier institutions, the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT Delhi) (7), with a recent major award for collaborative research on atmospheric pollution and human health.
Newcastle’s partnership with Xiamen University (8) continues to prosper through active exchange in a number of areas of national and regional strategic priority.

As a founding member of RENKEI (9) – the Japan–UK Research and Education Network for Knowledge Economy Initiatives – Newcastle is working with Japanese academics and industry to share innovative approaches to global problems.

Our partnership with Monash University in Australia (10) has a particular focus on combining strengths in biomedical sciences and clinical medicine for the benefit of the wider population.

Global Alumni Community

Newcastle University has an alumni community of over 180,000 graduates worldwide. The growing number of University events and activities taking place around the world each year (see page 32) reflects the diversity and international reach of Newcastle’s alumni community.

Wherever a graduate is based in the world, they have a number of ways to stay involved with Newcastle University. From volunteering as an in-country alumni representative for professional networking, hosting professional development events, or even organising alumni mixers and reunions, our alumni play an important role in connecting graduates with each other and their alma mater.

If you would be interested in hosting an event or finding out more about alumni activities in your country, please contact: advancement@ncl.ac.uk.

Find out about the University’s new NCL Professional Network on page 25.
Be part of our Life-Changing Research

As NU Advancement invites the University's alumni and supporters to back world-leading medical research, a moving example has emerged from the University's own Medical School of why research matters.

When gastroenterologist Dr Mark Welfare became Dean of the University’s Medical School in Malaysia in 2014, he and his wife Nicky Asbury saw it as a great opportunity for their family, and especially their two youngest children, to experience a new culture.

But soon after their move, Nicky, a psycho-oncologist, whose job involved helping families deal with the impact of cancer, became a cancer patient herself. Abdominal pain, and a mass that at first seemed to be fibroids, was in fact leiomyosarcoma, an aggressive cancer of the smooth muscle that makes up the uterine wall.

Following her diagnosis in January 2015, the family moved back to Newcastle and Nicky underwent major surgery. Sadly though, she died in July this year, leaving Mark and their three children aged 10, 13 and 23 (pictured right) to face the future without their beloved wife and mother.

Mark wanted Nicky’s death to lead to something positive, and contacted Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Professor Chris Day, to ask if he could part-sponsor a PhD post to research advances in the treatment of uterine leiomyosarcoma. Professor Day agreed without hesitation.

‘Uterine leiomyosarcoma is an ‘orphan cancer’,' says Mark. ‘It affects 600 to 700 families in the UK every year – that is a lot of people, a lot of husbands and children. We say that cancers need early diagnosis, prevention and effective treatment. In this case, it is difficult to diagnose, we don’t know what causes it, so prevention isn’t possible, and we have no effective treatment. In Nicky’s memory, we have to make a difference.’

Mark set a target of raising £36,000 from friends, family and the University’s alumni community, with the Medical School matching their support.
‘We’ve already raised over £7,000 on JustGiving, and my sons are planning viral fundraising, and initiatives at school and at their rugby club,’ explains Mark. ‘We aim to raise the money in the year and then invite PhD bids. The PhD project that wins the award could be about any of a wide range of applications. It could be about better diagnosis; a blood test to aid early diagnosis; how MRI scans could be used; or what characterises leiomyosarcoma on an ultrasound. It might be about the epidemiology and environmental factors that could aid prevention; or it might be about the molecular biology that drives the cancer that could potentially lead to curative treatment. We’re open to all ideas that will make a tangible impact.’

‘As a world-class civic university, we want to perform high-quality, high-impact, cutting-edge research into cancer,’ says Professor Day. ‘Our objectives are to be among the UK’s top research universities, and to build on our international reputation for this life-changing research.’

You too can make a contribution to this appeal. Alumni and supporters can make a gift by completing a donation form or by visiting www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/medicalresearch. The money we raise will help us contribute to Mark’s target of £36,000. It also helps fund many other potentially life-changing research projects, such as those featured on pages 9 and 10.

Thank you.
New investment will take Newcastle top of the league

Newcastle University’s world-class expertise in medical science is set to boost its reputation for sporting excellence and deliver pioneering research into sports science. A new £30 million investment in sporting excellence will see the University develop state-of-the-art facilities and deliver a cutting-edge exercise science degree programme.

A new BSc Sport and Exercise Science degree programme will be led by Emma Stevenson, Professor of Sport and Exercise Science (pictured opposite with a student). ‘Drawing on our expertise in the Faculty of Medical Sciences, the degree will have a strong science focus,’ she says. ‘We will cover the disciplines that underpin human health and exercise performance including exercise physiology, nutrition, psychology and biomechanics.’
The proposed new sports facilities include a redevelopment of the existing Sports Centre, to include an eight-court sports hall, four squash courts, a strength and conditioning suite and two exercise studios. Students will also benefit from exercise physiology and biomechanics laboratories, an environmental chamber and gait track.

Professor Stevenson says: ‘The practical application of the science is an extremely important part of the degree programme. The new facilities will provide students with the opportunity to work with Team Newcastle athletes, applying their knowledge to enhance performance in a professional setting.’

At the University’s Cochrane Park Sports Ground, plans include two new artificial turf pitches and the refurbishment and expansion of the current facilities.

Professor Suzanne Cholerton, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Learning and Teaching, said: ‘These new facilities, alongside our existing top-class professional support, will serve to enhance the outstanding sporting talent at Newcastle University and attract gifted sportsmen and women to study at our world-class university.’

Supporting Team Newcastle

The exciting investment will ensure that Newcastle remains one of the top sporting universities in the UK.

At the end of the 2015–16 season, Newcastle University finished in 9th place overall in the British Universities and College Sport (BUCS) league. Over 160 institutions are included in the rankings and Team Newcastle’s achievement sees it placed two positions higher than the previous season.

Colin Blackburn, Director of the Centre for Physical Recreation and Sport at Newcastle University, said: ‘Our sports teams, collectively known as Team Newcastle, performed well across the board in all sport last year. We had some outstanding performances from our basketball, fencing, rowing, rugby union, squash and water polo clubs.’

The results follow on from the University’s highest ever sports scholar intake, which saw 102 scholarships awarded across 26 different sports, more than double the number of scholarships compared to last year. The University is also part of the Santander Universities network which awards a number of scholarships to talented athletes.

You can find all the latest sport news and results from Newcastle University at: www.ncl.ac.uk/sport
Explore your entrepreneurial side

In an increasingly competitive marketplace, just how do you make your business idea a reality? Whatever stage your business idea is at, Newcastle University’s Rise Up team of experienced coaches in the Careers Service are ready to help you achieve your aspirations.

The award-winning team offers expert advice and guidance to graduates looking to explore new ideas or establish their own business venture. Rise Up’s coaches can provide access to expert guidance, training, resources and opportunities. What’s more, these services are completely free.

Coaching sessions are available to address the specific needs of your business and can help facilitate those crucial first connections with other business professionals and industry experts. Graduates can also attend workshops on how to transform their ideas into business models, test their ideas in a safe environment and understand how to effectively manage financial and other resources.

Arches caught up with some graduates whose businesses have thrived thanks to the support of the Rise Up team.
Chloe Mortimer (BA History 2011)

Chloe’s business, The Supply Box, is an online platform that ensures a fair deal for schools and supply teachers. The Supply Box intelligently matches schools and supply teachers according to needs and preferences.

Chloe says: ‘The thing I have most enjoyed about running my own business is the variety. As a start-up I am involved in every single aspect of the business, from pitching to investors to PR and everything in between.’

As The Supply Box grows, Chloe is revolutionising the supply teacher market and putting control and profits back into the hands of schools and supply teachers.

‘I have received fantastic support from Rise Up,’ says Chloe. ‘The access to experienced business advisors, mentors and wider business network has been priceless and I certainly plan to keep in touch with them as my business grows!’

Craig Hawkes (BA Film: Theory and Practice 2013) and Vikas Kapil (MA Creative Writing 2013)

Craig and Vikas’s company, DocYOUmentary Films Ltd, is an independent film production company. They specialise in making films for all kinds of businesses ranging from independent projects within the creative sector to corporate videos for large institutions. Through the use of effective storytelling techniques, DocYOUmentary engages target audiences with a personal approach.

‘We decided to start our business after we realised there was a gap in the market,’ they said.

As part of their entrepreneurial journey, the duo had to adapt their original ideas to new market demands.

‘At the beginning, we were fearful of rejection or making mistakes. Rise Up gave us the confidence to go out and try new things. The support we have received in terms of business knowledge and mentoring is exceptional.’

For more information about Newcastle University’s Careers Service and the free support available from Rise Up, please visit: www.ncl.ac.uk/careers/enterprise
Introducing the NCL Professional Network

With graduates located all over the world, there are numerous thriving networks of Newcastle alumni and students who get together regularly. Later this year, the University will be launching the NCL Professional Network, a range of events around the world designed specifically with our graduates’ careers and networks in mind.

The NCL Professional Network will be launched around three sectors: finance, banking and investment; creative careers; and entrepreneurs and enterprise.

The events will provide a great opportunity for graduates to enhance their portfolio of contacts and meet fellow alumni and friends of Newcastle University working in related professions. Attendees will also have access to leading speakers in the sector, offering potential career-defining opportunities!
The importance of networking

Being highly networked can be essential for graduates looking to reach that next step on the career ladder. These connections are also important for employers looking to recruit new talent. In a recent survey undertaken by LinkedIn, 85 per cent of respondents had found that critical jobs are filled through some form of networking.

Naomi Oosman-Watts, Assistant Director (Career Management) at Newcastle University’s Careers Service, explains the importance of networking: ‘Being part of a strong alumni network is a great starting point for building your connections. For students and graduates, one of the best ways to boost your chances in the jobs market is to make sure you are as well informed as possible and that people know you and what you can do. For established professionals, it’s also an opportunity to link up with other alumni and to spot talented students who will soon be entering the job market.’

The NCL Professional Network events will also give current students a unique opportunity to engage with alumni who can give them a direct insight into the industries and professions they are looking to enter. This approach also gives graduates an opportunity to give back to the next generation of graduates through their own insight, advice and knowledge.

Get connected

Newcastle University Alumni’s LinkedIn group is already a thriving online community sharing professional advice and insights. Following the launch of the NCL Professional Network, leading academics from the University will share their first-hand knowledge with the LinkedIn group about the world of work.

Graduates can also start their own discussion or pose a question to fellow group members. LinkedIn is the world’s largest online professional network and helps you build one-to-one connections with fellow alumni and students. You can find and join the Newcastle University Alumni LinkedIn group at: www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/linkedin.

The NCL Professional Network demonstrates the University’s commitment to supporting the professional development of its graduates and students, helping them make the most of Newcastle University’s global community.

To ensure you receive details of the NCL Professional Network and invitations to events where you are based, please take a moment to update your details at: www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/intouch
Finding Your Voice

Newcastle University is pleased to announce a new online offering for graduates wishing to revisit their time at Newcastle through the pages of The Courier, the University’s own student newspaper.

The Courier began life as a four-page broadsheet in 1948. The University Library’s Special Collections have added a copy to the University Archives ever since – open to all intrepid researchers in the Special Collections Reading Room of the Philip Robinson Library.

As an expression of over 65 years of student news, views and opinions relating to campus life, it remains one of the richest sources of information on how the University has changed over time.

Newcastle is one of the first universities to share its student newspaper online with its alumni and student communities. A total of 1,155 issues, containing over 17,500 pages (and counting!) of history have been digitised and can now be searched and read at courierarchive.ncl.ac.uk.
Ian Johnson, Head of Special Collections and Archives, said: ‘We were really inspired when a group of alumni visited the University Archives and started sharing their own stories. The Courier has such a long and rich history, but we couldn’t produce every issue for them to see. The Courier Archive provides the opportunity for people to explore the archives and share their own memories.

‘The challenge of digitising every edition of The Courier is still ongoing. We’re calling on our alumni to let us know if they have kept issues from their time here to help us fill the gaps. The missing editions are listed on the site and we’d encourage anyone who might have them to get in touch.’

Here is a taster of pages from The Courier that can be viewed online:

18 November 1948
The very first edition of The Courier, when Newcastle University was King’s College

10 October 1963
King’s College no more as Newcastle University breaks with Durham

26 October 1966
The Rag looms large over the Tyne!

30 November 1977
All the essentials; an advertisement for the Union Christmas Party

13 October 1982
The Courier reports on the opening of the new University Library, which became known affectionately as the ‘Robbo’

28 October 1993
The student voice is heard loud and clear over planned reforms to the Union

6 November 2002
Students no longer pay for their news as The Courier goes free of charge... now free to all to read online!

8 October 2007
The Courier reports on the end of the much-loved (and derided) Tuxedo Princess floating nightclub

Visit The Courier Archive online at: courierarchive.ncl.ac.uk
Building bridges

Newcastle and London are famed for their bridges, and since opening its doors in autumn 2015, our newest branch campus has been building bridges between students, graduates and global business leaders.

At the time of going to press, Newcastle University London was preparing for its second academic year, building on the success of its founding and formative previous 12 months in operation.

With industry partners including Diageo, Santander and the Royal Bank of Scotland, the London campus aims to combine business degrees that reflect the strengths of Newcastle’s triple-accredited Business School with an industry-immersive education. As a result, the London campus brings innovation to its learning and teaching for its students, connecting research-informed theory with real-world practice.

Get involved

It’s not just staff and students who have a role to play in the success of Newcastle University London, but alumni too. The alumni voice is represented through membership of the NU London Advisory Board.

The campus is also a hub for alumni activity. Ahead of the campus’s official opening, the University hosted a professional event for graduate entrepreneurs looking to make their dreams a reality. In May 2016, notable alumna and award-winning broadcasting consultant Dianne Nelmes hosted a special event with Lord Allen of Kensington CBE. Lord Allen shared fascinating insights into his career and senior roles at Granada Group, ITV plc and Global Radio.

Dr Paul Fleet, Dean of Academic Affairs at the campus, said: ‘We invite our alumni to be part of Newcastle University London. Through professional co-delivery, leadership masterclasses and modular engagement, our graduates can demonstrate to our students how their career paths can be shaped by making the most of the opportunities and business connections our campus offers.’

For more information about Newcastle University London, please visit: [www.ncl.ac.uk/london](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/london)

If you have an idea for a graduate event in London, or would like to get involved with any Newcastle University London activities, please contact: [advancement@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:advancement@ncl.ac.uk)
News from NUMed

Since the launch of its first degree programmes in 2009, Newcastle University Medicine Malaysia (NUMed) has gone from strength to strength. NUMed is the UK’s only fully owned overseas branch campus for medicine.

Professor Reg Jordan was appointed as NUMed’s first CEO and Provost in 2007. His hard work – and that of the NUMed team including Liz Smith, COO and Head of Administration – came full circle with the first cohort of students graduating in June 2014. Professor Jordan will be stepping down from the role in autumn 2016 and passing leadership of NUMed to his successor Professor Roger Barton.

A Professor of Clinical Medicine, Professor Barton has been Director of Medical Studies at Newcastle University since 2006. Looking ahead to his new role, Professor Barton told Arches: ‘The challenge for NUMed now is to create a sustainable organisation providing education of the highest quality and producing excellent graduates. In the long term, they will be our greatest asset.

‘We will also consolidate our relationships with our local partners in the Malaysian Health Service and the other universities, and work together to achieve these aims.’

Liz Smith will also be stepping down from her role in autumn 2016. Premila Nair, NUMed’s Deputy Head of Administration and Senior Human Resource Manager, will take up the role of Chief Operating Officer.

Premila’s current involvement in various strategic aspects of the organisation will be invaluable as NUMed moves into its next exciting phase.

She said: ‘A key goal during this period is to enhance management capability to achieve excellent business results through continuous development of a high-performing organisation. As a team, our ultimate aim is to increase competitiveness and position NUMed as an international medical education provider.’

For more information about Newcastle University Medicine Malaysia, visit: www.ncl.ac.uk/numed
Singapore campus looks to the future

At the start of 2016, Professor Ian Postlethwaite took up the role of Chief Executive Officer and Dean of Newcastle University in Singapore. Arches caught up with Ian to find out how he was settling into his new role and what the future holds for Newcastle’s Singapore campus.

Formerly the University’s Director of Corporate Projects, Professor Postlethwaite has been appointed to oversee the University’s strategic operations in Singapore in succession to Professor Ehsan Mesbahi. ‘Before relocating, I visited Singapore six times in 12 months, so I know all about the hot, humid weather and the great food,’ he explained. He moved to Singapore with his wife, Elizabeth. ‘We arrived with just the things we could carry on the plane,’ he said. ‘It’s been like setting up home again, which is fun.’

So why the move to Singapore? ‘Raising the profile of Newcastle University and collaborating with top international researchers attracted me to the role of Dean here,’ explained Ian, ‘and of course, the new research and innovation centre we are establishing.’

The centre will offer postgraduate degrees, joint research, continuing professional development, masterclasses and small workshops.

‘It will develop our strong research agenda and showcase our major research contributions and technological innovation,’ he explained. ‘It will be a base to collaborate with world-class universities such as the National University of Singapore and Nanyang Technological University, as well as research institutes such as A*STAR, and with local industry too.’

The new centre is the latest chapter in the history of Newcastle University in Singapore. In November 2015, the campus celebrated its 1,000th graduate. Each one of these graduates – and Newcastle University graduates from across the region – will be part of the campus’s plans moving forward. ‘Our alumni can help us realise our ambitions,’ said Ian. ‘We are currently planning a number of events, including the launch of the new centre. It’ll be great to see them there!’

For more information about Newcastle University in Singapore, please visit: www.ncl.ac.uk/singapore
Newcastle University hosts and supports a number of alumni events right around the world, ranging from professional networking events, reunions and guest lectures. We aim to provide our graduates with an interesting and enjoyable programme of events and opportunities to network and build contacts. We also offer opportunities for you to share your experience and insight with current students and recent graduates. Below is a snapshot of some of the events hosted this year.

Guests network and enjoy refreshments at a gathering in Hong Kong, June 2015.

TED prize-winner Professor Sugata Mitra joined us at our event in New Delhi, February 2016.

Graduates enjoy an evening of professional networking, Singapore, October 2015.

Graduates attend an alumni mixer in New York, April 2016.

Alumni reconnect and develop contacts at our Oslo event, May 2016.


Graduates from around the world explore the archives at Convocation, Newcastle, June 2016.

Guests develop their contacts and hear career insights, Kuala Lumpur, November 2015.

For details of all upcoming events, and to find out how we can help you organise your own reunion, visit our website at: www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/events
Classnotes

The latest news from Newcastle University’s global alumni community.

Professor Sir Eric Thomas, former Chair of the Worldwide Universities Network and President of Universities UK (pictured centre), received an Honorary Doctor of Civil Law from the University in July 2016. He is pictured here with Newcastle University’s Professor Sir Doug Turnbull (left), Director of the Wellcome Trust in the Institute of Neuroscience, and Professor Sir John Burn (right), Strategic Research Adviser, Institute of Genetic Medicine. The trio celebrated the 40th anniversary of their MB BS graduation, having all graduated together in 1976.

Congratulations to Melanie Hartshorn (pictured with her mother, right, and aunt, left), who graduated with a BSc Hons in Biology in July 2016. Melanie suffers from Ehlers-Danlos syndrome, a rare genetic condition that causes her joints to dislocate. Against all the odds, and despite constant pain, Melanie completed the final year of her degree from home to become the first in her family to get a university degree.

If you have any news you would like to share with your fellow alumni, please contact: advancement@ncl.ac.uk

You can also share your news via our Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/nclalumni or LinkedIn group at: www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/linkedin
Funke Abimbola (née Akindolie) (LLB 1994) qualified as a Corporate Solicitor and spent 12 years in private practice. She is currently General Counsel & Company Secretary for Roche, a multinational healthcare company. Funke is also a leading diversity campaigner for gender, race and social mobility.

Dr Rufus Akinyemi (PhD 2014) is Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Medical Research and Training, University of Ibadan, Nigeria. He recently won the American Academy of Neurology 2016 Bruce Schoenberg International Award in Neuroepidemiology for the significant work he has undertaken on cognition after stroke and stroke literacy in Nigeria.

David Close (BA Economics and Business Management 2008) is now based in New York and works as Business Development Director at Cloudreach Inc., which develops business strategy for influential players in the US economy. Prior to this, he worked for IBM Global Services in London.

Dr Trevor FitzJohn (BMedSci 1975, MB BS 1978) moved to New Zealand in 1986 where he performed Neuroradiology before co-establishing Wakefield Radiology. More recently, the group merged into a bigger entity, Pacific Radiology. In 2016, he was awarded a New Zealand Order of Merit in the Queen’s Birthday Honours for his services to radiology.

Harriet Reuter Hapgood (BA Combined Studies 2004) worked in London for 10 years as a fashion journalist for *InStyle*, *ELLE* and *Marie Claire*. Now living in Brighton, her debut novel, *The Square Root of Summer*, was published by Macmillan in May 2016 and is also being reprinted in several other languages.

Elaine Lau (BEng Chemical Engineering 2014) completed her studies and joined Citibank’s Graduate Programme as a Management Associate, before joining IBM’s Global Business Service as a Business Consultant. Elaine is now pursuing an MSc in Applied Economics after being awarded a scholarship by Hong Kong Baptist University.

Dr Micheline Maylor (PhD English 2008) is deeply engaged in poetry, teaching, publishing, and mentorship. She explored Canadian literature whilst at Newcastle and is now Poet Laureate of Calgary and the Author in Residence at the Calgary Public Library. She looks forward to mentoring and developing contemporary Canadian literature.

Dr Hamad Mohd Ali Yaseen (PhD Medical Genetics 2011) now works as Assistant Professor and PI in Health Sciences at Kuwait University. In March 2016 he was awarded the Kuwait Award for Health Promotion by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Sabah for his research on umbilical cord blood stem cells, which he started during his PhD at Newcastle.
20% tuition fee discount for Newcastle University graduates

Find out more: www.ncl.ac.uk/funding