

Writtle
University
College

Annual Review

**Report and
Financial Statements
Year End 31 July 2022**



writtle.ac.uk

Contents

4 Governors and advisors

6 Achievements

10 Strategic report – nature,
objectives and strategies
and financial position

25 Charitable status and
public benefit

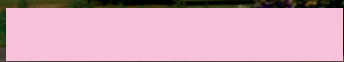
28 Statement of corporate
governance and internal control

32 Statement of the responsibilities
of the members of the
governing body

34 Report on the audit of
the financial statements

37 Financials

Governors and advisors



Governors and advisors

CHANCELLOR
VICE-CHANCELLOR

Mr J Doherty
Professor T Middleton

Members of the Board of Governors

The members who served on the Governing Body during the year and up to the date of signing these financial statements (who are also trustees of the exempt charity) are listed below;

	Date of appointment or resignation	Committees served
Dr A Bols	Appointed 12 July 2019	Audit, Risk & Compliance Committee, Search & Governance Committee
Ms T Coop (Staff Governor)	Re-appointed 31 October 2022	Personnel & Remuneration Committee
Ms S Corcoran	Appointed 15 July 2021	Personnel & Remuneration Committee, Search and Governance Committee.
Mr M Dineen	Appointed 18 March 2021	Audit, Risk & Compliance Committee
Mrs C Flanagan (Staff Governor)	Re-appointed 14 July 2022	Finance & General Purposes Committee
Mrs S Footring	Appointed 2 February 2021	Audit, Risk & Compliance Committee
Mr D Hewitt (Chair of Board)	Appointed 28 February 2020	Search & Governance Committee, Personnel & Remuneration Committee
Mr F Howie (Acting Chair)	Re-appointed 14 July 2022	Chair Finance & General Purposes Committee
Mr P Marshall	Appointed 12 July 2019	Finance & General Purposes Committee
Professor T Middleton (Vice Chancellor)	Appointed 1 August 2017	Finance & General Purposes Committee, Search & Governance Committee
Miss E-J Murray	Appointed 12 July 2019	Finance & General Purposes Committee
Mr M Pragnell	Appointed 10 September 2019	Finance & General Purposes Committee
Mr A Radford	Term finished 30 November 2021	Chair Audit, Risk & Compliance Committee
Mr G Smith	Resigned 26 September 2021	Finance & General Purposes Committee
Mr N Spenceley	Re-appointed 25 August 2020	Chair Personnel & Remuneration Committee
Mr S Spencer (Staff Governor)	Resigned 31 July 2022	
Mr P Swan	Resigned 4 February 2022	Personnel & Remuneration Committee
Mr V Travers (SU President)	Resigned 11 February 2022	Personnel & Remuneration Committee
Ms S White (Senior Independent Governor)	Re-appointed 17 October 2019	Chair Audit, Risk & Compliance Committee
Mr E Wollen (SU President)	Appointed 14 July 2022	Personnel & Remuneration Committee

Professional advisors

External auditors	Buzzacott LLP, 130 Wood Street, London, United Kingdom, EC2V 6DL. (appointed June 2022)
Bankers	Barclays Bank plc, 40-41 High Street, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 1BE.
Internal auditors	RSM Risk Assurance Services LLP, The Pinnacle, 170 Midsummer Boulevard, Milton Keynes, MK9 1BP (appointed July 2020)
Solicitors	Birkett Long, Essex House, 42 Crouch Street, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3HH. Quantrills Solicitors, The Peninsula Business Centre, Wherstead Street, Wherstead, Ipswich, IP9 2BB. (HR Support)

University College details

Address	Writtle University College, Lordship Road, Writtle, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 3RR
Telephone	+44 (0)1245 424200
Email	Info@writtle.ac.uk
Website	www.writtle.ac.uk

Copies of the Financial Statements can be obtained from the University College's address above, or downloaded from the website.

Achievements

A group of seven graduates, four women and three men, are standing in a row in front of a large, multi-story building completely covered in green ivy. They are all wearing academic regalia, including black gowns and mortarboard caps. The graduates are smiling at the camera. The building behind them has several large, white-framed windows. The ground they are standing on appears to be a paved path or driveway. The overall scene is bright and celebratory.

Institutional achievements

- CNH Industrial (manufacturers of Case IH and New Holland agricultural machinery), began a new partnership with the University College. From autumn 2022, the CNH Land-based Service Engineering Technician Apprenticeship programme in England will be delivered by WUC's knowledgeable team.
- In July, the 2022 National Student Survey (taught data) placed the University College as the top university provider in the East of England for student satisfaction with teaching, and in the top 12 of all providers in England for overall student satisfaction.
- In 2022, the University College celebrated multiple successful funding bids. A wide range of projects gained support from the Research England Higher Education Innovation Fund. Land-based and animal teams are now working with industry partners to establish a pig behaviour and welfare centre, research sow nutrition and use vertical farming to produce high-quality, disease-free propagules. The University College is researching the production of invertebrates for animal feed, working towards decreasing injury risk in sport dogs and establishing a video library for pet behaviour and training professionals. In addition, the sports department is proud to be supporting behavioural change in at-risk youths through engagement in physical activity.



- Writtle University College gained accreditation by the Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme (TASS). TASS is a Sport England funded partnership between talented athletes, educational institutions and national governing bodies of sport. Its Sport England-backed programme helps young sportspeople to gain qualifications while still carrying out their athletic pursuits.
- Writtle University College celebrated the launch of its new Centre for Sport & Health with an event attended by professionals from the health, sport and wellness sector. The well-equipped facility supports students, professional athletes and the local community.
- The University College ran a successful, targeted 3x3 Schools Basketball Tournament. The event was part of WUC's Access and Participation Plan, which works to widen participation and increase aspirations. The tournament aimed to provide students the opportunity to experience university facilities and, at the same time, understand opportunities to progress into higher education.
- The University College successfully launched football and rugby academies for male learners. The new additions followed the success of the female football academy and offer students access to elite coaching, while they study for a recognised qualification.
- Writtle University College was a 'Gold Sponsor' of the IAgRM Conference 2021. The event highlighted the future of agricultural management and brought together key influencers within the sector.

Student achievements

All our students who achieve the qualifications they set out to study are successes in their own right and the University College is proud to celebrate their work.

Every year we can cite examples of students who also achieved national distinction and in 2021/22 we celebrated the following:

- The student-led Gaia Club worked to promote sustainability and a greener future on campus and within the local community. With support from staff, they arranged for the donation of more than 700 saplings to plant on the University College's estate.
- During his year as the Students' Union's Sustainability Rep, William Charity pioneered a new 'Sustainable Futures' competition, launched a reusable cup scheme and worked to reduce the carbon footprint of the 'Baa' and SU events.
- BSc (Hons) Animal Science (Zoo and Wildlife Conservation) student Chloe Nicholls won a Commended Presentation Award at the sixteenth UFAW Student Animal Welfare Conference for her work on the interactions of white rhino calves, within a mixed enclosure at Colchester Zoo.
- Level 3 Horticulture students supported the Essex Agricultural Society's annual Food and Farming Day. The students grew plants that were transported to dozens of primary schools around the county, to teach pupils in years four, five or six how food travels from farm to fork.
- Horticulture students raised money for charity, by opening the University College's beautiful grounds in support of the National Garden Scheme (NGS).

Level 3 students supporting Essex Agriculture Food and Farming initiative



UmPhafa Private Nature Reserve



- The women's netball team topped their league (in the South East Region) in British University and College Sport (BUCS) after scoring an impressive 296 times throughout the season.
- BSc (Hons) Horticulture student Megan Webb was presented with the Aberconway Award at the Chartered Institute of Horticulture's annual AGM. The prize is given to the best dissertation submitted by a student or horticulturist under the age of 30.
- Groups of undergraduate and postgraduate animal students carried out conservation work with UmPhafa Private Nature Reserve in South Africa and Project Wild Gambia in 2022. They gained hands-on experience with day-to-day reserve management and carried out conservation work with endangered species.
- In May 2022, the University College's Floristry students exhibited their work at the National Flower Show. Floral archways, flower-filled tea pots and other stunning displays were used to create an 'Alice in Wonderland Tea Party'.
- Veterinary Nursing students gained hands-on experience of conservation projects at Welgevonden Game Reserve in South Africa and assisted staff with veterinary interventions, working with animals including rhinoceroses.

Staff achievements

The University College was also pleased to recognise notable achievements from its staff, including:

- Peter Hobson, Professor in Biodiversity Conservation & Sustainability, was appointed as an International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Commissioner, for a working party on forests.
- Frontiers in Plant Science, the most-cited plant sciences journal, appointed Dr. Kami Baghalian, senior lecture in crop production, as the main editor for the following research topic; 'Current and Future Perspectives for Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA) in the 21st Century'.
- Senior Lecturer in Equine Science and Veterinary Physiotherapy Dr. Roberta Ferro de Godoy travelled to Brazil to spend two weeks sharing knowledge and research on horse biomechanics. She was collaborating on PhD research studying the biomechanics of the Criollo horse. Dr. Ferro de Godoy was funded by a Newton Fund/CONFAP (The UK Academies Research Mobility Award) and worked with the Federal University of Pelotas.
- University College lecturer Mark Williams was the strength and conditioning lead for England's medal-winning 3x3 Basketball Men's and Women's teams for the Commonwealth Games.



Lecturer Mark Williams contributed to the First Team England 3x3 Basketball Training Camp

Alumni achievements

- Former agriculture student, Chris Chipatiso, starred in the BAFTA-winning documentary 'Our Land'. The short film was part of ITV's Black, British and Breaking Boundaries and followed Chris' search for land and the challenges he faced when starting a farm.
- Recent graduate in BSc (Hons) Equine Sports Therapy and Rehabilitation Isy (Isabelle) Anderson was named 2021's winner of The British Equestrian Trade Association's (BETA'S) Thesis of the Year Award. The competition recognises and rewards excellence in undergraduate study.
- Alumni Helen Elks-Smith and Oliver Bond appeared in Your Garden Made Perfect in early 2022. The BBC2 television series uses virtual reality to allow homeowners to explore newly imagined gardens before choosing between two designs.
- Graduate Samuel Moore exhibited his SunsLifestyle Outdoor Living Garden at the RHS Hampton Court Palace Garden Festival in 2021. He was supported by the University College's Level Three Horticulture students who provided plants.
- MA Landscape Architecture graduate Alex Pettitt has been asked to design ecology-focused gardens and a picnic area for Essex Wildlife Trust Thameside Nature Discovery Park.

Strategic report



Strategic intent: Enabling students to fulfil their potential to shape the Animal, Environmental, Sport & Health Science industries of the future.

Strategic report

Strategic report nature, objectives and strategies

The members of the Board of Governors present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 July 2022.

Legal status

Writtle University College (WUC) was awarded taught degree awarding powers in 2016, having gained University College title in the same year.

The University College has one wholly owned subsidiary company, Writtle College Services Ltd, which is currently dormant.

Vision and mission

The University College is in the process of completing a new Strategic Plan to 2030. This will feature a mission of "putting science into practice".

'One Writtle' Values will include:

- Community
- Innovation
- Partnership
- Sustainability
- Inclusion
- Wellbeing

The Vision is:

To be a leading UK university-sector further and higher education institution. Our focus will be on applied teaching, professional development and innovation in the animal, environmental, sport and health sciences.

Financial objectives

The overall longer-term financial objective remains to achieve and to maintain a robust and stable financial position, a bedrock on which the University College can be confident of achieving its educational aspirations.

Key strategic themes include:

- Revenue maximisation, predominantly through increased enrolments and recurrent grant funding but including third- stream income from student accommodation, short course and conference activity.
- Effective partnership arrangements.
- Quality of financial and management information.
- Robust financial control and value for money frameworks.

These priorities were agreed for the 2021/22 year through our integrated planning exercise and the outputs were regularly monitored. During 2022/23 a revised value for money policy will be prepared and reporting arrangements developed with an increased emphasis on student outcomes.

Financial position

Summary financial results

A summary of the financial results with prior year comparatives is below:

	2021/22	2020/21
	£k	£k
Income	17,340	15,277
Expenditure	(18,847)	(17,082)
Underlying operating deficit	(1,507)	(1,805)
Pension scheme accounting charges	(1,843)	(1,605)
Deficit before other gains and (losses)	(3,350)	(3,410)
(loss)/gain on disposal of fixed and investment assets	(21)	319
Unrealised surplus on revaluation of tangible assets	76	0
Deficit	(3,295)	(3,091)
Actuarial gain in respect of pension scheme	19,268	4,460
Total comprehensive income for the year	15,973	1,369

Total comprehensive income for the year

The University College has reported an underlying operating deficit (prior to Local Government Scheme, LGPS, accounting charges and asset disposals) of £1.5m in 2021/22 (2020/21: £1.8m underlying operating deficit).

The total comprehensive income for 2021/22 was a surplus of £16.0m (2020/21: total comprehensive income surplus of £1.4m). This includes: a loss on disposal of fixed assets of (£21k) (2020/21: profit £0.3m); and a £19m actuarial gain arising in respect of the Local Government Pension Scheme (2020/21: gain of £4.5m). This was mainly due to a significant increase in the discount rate used by the LGPS actuary to value the University College's pension liabilities at 31 July 2022. The discount rate used was equivalent to a high-quality corporate bond of equivalent currency and term at the reporting date and the assumed level of future inflation, in accordance with financial reporting requirements, and it, therefore, reflected market conditions at that time.

Income

Total income of £17.3m was 13.5% higher than the prior year, which was largely due to an increase in FE and HE student numbers and third stream income recovering from the pandemic.

Higher Education (HE) tuition fees account for 88% (2020/21: 90%) of fee income and 39% (2020/21: 42%) of total income, whereas Further Education (FE) tuition fees account for only 12% (2019/20: 10%) of fee income and 5% (2019/20: 5%) of total income, with the core 16-18 provision directly grant funded by the ESFA.

Other total income, representing 55% in 2021/22 and 53% in 2020/21 is made up of funding body grants,

income from campus accommodation rental, short courses and conferencing, and investment income.

HE funding body grants of £1.1m (2020/21: £1.2m) account for 18% (2020/21: 20%) of government funding and 6.5% (2020/21: 8%) of total income, whereas FE funding body grants of £5m (2020/21: £4.6m) account for 82% (2020/21: 80%) of government funding and 29% (2020/21: 30%) of total income.

Expenditure

Total expenditure, excluding LGPS accounting charges, was £18.8m in 2021/22, £1.7m (9%) more than the prior year of £17.1m.

Staff costs were £12.7m, an increase of £0.7m (5.5%) from the prior year (2020/21: £12m). The staff costs include an LGPS pay accounting charge of £1.5m (2021/22: £1.3m). Staff costs excluding redundancy and the LGPS pay accounting charge as a proportion of the University College's total income decreased to 64% in 2021/22. (2020/21: 69%).

With inflationary and incremental pay and pension increases, alongside lean teaching and professional support services teams, it remains a challenge to reduce staff costs without jeopardising the student experience and inhibiting our ability to achieve the University College's strategic growth objectives.

Non-pay operating expenses was £6.2m in 2021/22, £1.4m (22.6%) more than the prior year of £4.8m. This reflected: inflationary pressure; the need to address urgent health and safety and estate infrastructure items; and strategic estate development consultancy costs.

Statement of financial position

Total net assets have increased by the retained surplus for the year of £16m (116.8%) to £29.6m (2020/21 : £13.7m) as at 31 July 2022.

The University College invested £0.6m (2020/21: £0.5m) in fixed asset additions to improve the student experience in 2021/22. Major capital projects included computers (£47k), new boilers (£92k), the 2nd phase of refurbishment of Design 1 (£22k), fire alarms (£49k), fencing the equine site (£31k) and the purchase of an electric van (£28k).

The cash position remained consistent for the 2021/22 year, compared to a decrease of £2m for the previous year.

Total borrowing amounted to £96k in the form of finance leases with the balance of a term loan facility being fully repaid during 2021/22.

During 2022/23, the University College will review its short-term and longer-term borrowing requirements, in accordance with the objectives outlined in its Strategic Intent.

The University College has a Local Government Pension Scheme deficit of £1.9m as at 31 July 2022, a reduction of £17.4m vs the prior year due to actuarial valuations at that date for assets (£0.6m improvement) and liabilities (£16.8m improvement). The reduction in the valuation of liabilities is mainly due to the discount rate used.

The University College has total reserves of £29.6m (2020/21: £13.7m) as at 31 July 2022 comprising an Income and Expenditure reserve surplus of £11.7m

(2020/21: deficit £4.7m) and a Revaluation Reserve of £18m (2020/21: £18.4m).

Cash flow and liquidity

The University College's operations generated cash flows in and out of the business: inflows from fees, grants and services; outflows from payments to staff, students and suppliers. In 2021/22 this resulted in a net inflow from operating activities of £0.2m (2020/21: outflow £0.1m).

The net impact of the cash inflows and outflows in 2021/22 was a £34k cash outflow (2020/21: £1.8m outflow), as outflows on capital investment exceeded the net inflows on land sales.

It is the policy of the University College to obtain the best terms for all purchases, therefore supplier terms may vary according to the individual agreement. The University College's normal terms of payment are within 30 days of the end of the month in which the invoice is received.

Outlook

As a mixed economy provider, the University College is dependent on strong levels of student recruitment and is exposed to government funding constraints in both the Further (FE) and Higher Education (HE) sectors.

Education

Whilst the financial health of the HE sector as a whole has been sound, the trajectory is a weakened position for many, due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic since March 2020, the impact of Brexit and, since early 2021, rapidly escalating inflation compounded by the war in Ukraine. This has resulted in the highest inflation rises for over forty years and significant increases in interest rates. There remains some uncertainty over the future level of funding for further and higher education and the University College will need to adapt its financial strategy when there is more clarity on the potential outcomes for the sector.

With relatively fixed income per student and generally fixed costs of teaching and assessing and high estate overheads, a high proportion of the revenue generated by each additional student recruited benefits the operating position, making growth in student numbers critical to future financial stability.

For those institutions already facing significant financial challenges, the combination of these factors could exacerbate solvency risk. In this particularly uncertain operating environment the University College recognises that it needs to continue to respond proactively, building on its areas of expertise, maintaining existing and developing new partnerships, expanding and modernising its curriculum offer including a new human health and wellbeing portfolio, capitalising on the strength of its latest NSS (National Student Survey) results and delivering further improvements such as enhanced progression to professional and managerial employment.

The University College has developed a focus on animal and human applied biosciences, with a decline in traditional agriculture, horticulture and design student numbers. However, WUC is well-placed to build on its enduring reputation as a quality provider

in agriculture and horticulture and new programmes have launched with clear focus on sustainable agri-food and regenerative agriculture. Looking ahead, the University College will continue to develop existing and new partnerships in the health science sector and will validate new courses as part of its sport and health portfolio in new areas including physical literacy and exercise psychology. The University College is seeking to expand vocational apprenticeships and to develop higher level apprenticeships in agriculture, horticulture, applied environmental science as new standards are approved.

International students represent around 4% of HE student numbers and whilst there are pockets of international HE recruitment, this is not at the level achieved in other specialist institutions. This is seen as an opportunity with the correct international marketing strategy in place. We are reviewing new agent agreements to build our presence and recruitment in targeted markets including India, China and Africa.

In conjunction with the requirement to increase student numbers in HE and FE, the University College must look to make further efficiency savings and to secure diversified commercial income streams. Its Strategic Intent focuses on curriculum development opportunities around a theme of “putting science into practice” and opportunities to improve teaching and learning facilities through collaborative projects with industry and professional partners.

Post balance sheet events

On 23/09/22 the University College submitted a reportable event notification to the Office for Students highlighting a risk of insolvency in April to May 2024. This reflected a shortfall in higher education undergraduate enrolments compared with recruitment and significant potential increases in energy costs, prior to the announcements of government support for educational and other institutions. The notification provided to the OfS highlighted a number of mitigations which have been developed further by the University College Leadership Group (UCLG) during the intervening period. Progress against these strategic and operational liquidity risk mitigation measures are monitored by the Board through a combined Strategic Risk and UCLG Action Plan Report. The Vice Chancellor, Chief Financial Officer, University College Secretary and Registrar and Director of Human Resources and Student Services met with the OfS during October, following the submission of the reportable event, and quarterly update meetings will be scheduled during 2022-23 to discuss the latest cash flow projections and progress on mitigating actions.

In September 2022 the OfS confirmed that WUC's application for capital grant funding to create the first phase of an integrated animal centre at the Lordship campus has been successful with £5.8 million awarded for works that are planned to commence at Easter 2023.

In December 2022 Barclays Bank confirmed that a University College request to vary the terms (increase the value available for drawdown) of a Trade Loan Facility has been approved.

Going concern

Over the majority of the six-year period between 2010/11 to 2015/16 the University College delivered an operating surplus, except in 2012/13 when HE recruitment dipped upon the introduction of the higher tuition fee regime.

During the subsequent six-year period between 2016/17 and 2021/22 operating deficits have been generated but liquid resources have been supplemented through a programme of planned asset disposals.

During 2020/21 a £1 million Trade Loan Facility was arranged with Barclays Bank. This will enable the University College to mitigate peaks and troughs in its operating cashflow and in delays in completing planned asset disposals.

In September 2022 the University College submitted a reportable event notification to the Office for Students indicating a risk of falling below 30 cash days in hand depending on the outcome of student recruitment, inflationary pressures and other factors in future financial years.

In December 2022 the bank confirmed that the Trade Loan Facility will remain at the current increased level of £2 million with a further uplift to £3 million to cover the delivery period for a compressed programme of refurbishment works at the Lordship campus that will be funded from OfS capital grant payments during 2022-23 and 2023-24.

This variation to that Trade Loan Facility, coupled with further planned asset sales during 2022-23, will mitigate the risk of falling below 30 cash days in hand during the period to 31st July 2024.

The University College is developing curriculum growth opportunities in connection with its new Strategic Intent and the development of a new estate master plan and will also be in a position to capitalise on a growing local population from extensive housing developments in and around the Chelmsford area and from an improved transport infrastructure.

The University College is vigilant of the challenging external environment it operates within and regularly considers the inherent risks, in terms of both opportunities and threats, at executive level (standing item at its Leadership Group) and Board level (Audit, Risk & Compliance Committee and Board of Governors). The University College has simplified the format of its Strategic Risk Register and combined this with an action plan to address both shorter-term liquidity and financial sustainability risks, to maximise awareness and understanding and its ability to react appropriately.

In assessing going concern, the University College has had regard to the principal risks and uncertainties that are set out in the Strategic Risk Register, specifically in relation to the: risk of compliance with regulatory requirements; the risk of not achieving planned student number growth targets in 2023/24; the need to complete further planned asset disposals; the continuing availability of the Trade Loan Facility of sufficient value with Barclays Bank; the risk associated with very high inflation persisting into the 2023 calendar year and beyond; and uncertainty regarding future funding for further and higher education following the chancellor's 2022 autumn statement.

After making appropriate enquiries and with reference to the more detailed narrative in the 'Financial Position' section, the Board of Governors considers that the University College has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

In assessing its ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting using FRS102, the University College has considered a period of at least twelve months from the date the financial statements are authorised for issue. Accounting guidance does not specify a maximum period that should be considered by organisations as part of this assessment, rather this is a matter for judgement.

Although at £2m at 31 July 2022 the cash position remained reasonably strong and monthly cash flow forecasts from August 2022 to 31st July 2024 indicate that the University College can continue to meet its financial commitments as they fall due within 12 months from the date of approval of these financial statements, the strategic and operating environment is complex and uncertain and the range of mitigating actions referred to in the combined Strategic Risk Register and Leadership Group Action Plan involve various stakeholders and both current and potential partners.

Many of these mitigating actions are inter-related and will need to be delivered in parallel during the first nine months of the 2022-23 financial year and progress will be actively monitored by the Board and its committees.

Risk management

During 2021/22 the University College combined its Strategic Risk Register with a Leadership Group Action Plan to provide a more focussed risk management reporting model for the Board of governors.

This report enables the Board and its committees to regularly monitor progress made by the Leadership Group on the mitigation of:

- Critical risks to cashflow/financial viability.
- Critical risks to financial sustainability.
- Risks to business as usual activity.

The key themes within the combined report are:

- Developing and securing investment in a curriculum growth plan in human health.
- Delivering further and higher education student number targets over the next two years.
- Achieving third stream income targets over the next two years.
- Developing effective partnerships with other educational providers.
- Continuing access to appropriate short-term borrowing arrangements.



Higher education

Student numbers

Completing the 2021/22 year, the University College had 691 HE students (FTEs) (2020/21: 685). Of these, 25 FTEs (2020/21: 19) were international students.

The majority were enrolled on undergraduate programmes, principally BSc, BA and Integrated Masters awards but also Foundation Degrees, HE Diplomas and Certificates.

There were 47.7 FTEs (2019/20: 43) on taught postgraduate (PGT) programmes and 4.5 FTEs (2019/20: 12) on postgraduate research programmes (PGR).

Student achievement

In academic year 2020/21 Writtle University College conferred the following awards:

- 161 Bachelor degrees
- 32 Integrated Masters degrees
- 19 Diplomas of Higher Education
- 47 Certificates of Higher Education
- 13 Certificates of Continuing Education
- 12 Masters' degrees
- 14 Other postgraduate awards

Additionally, there are 3 students having awards conferred by the University of Essex.

Curriculum developments

During a relatively quiet year in terms of validation events, in 2021/22 the University College has sought to consolidate existing provision, whilst at the same time reviewing the development opportunities and its future portfolio. A market opportunity project undertaken by The Knowledge Partnership during 2021, included a review of existing provision alongside the identification of congruous portfolio opportunities. This data led insight has informed the University College's strategic intent to pursue the development of courses in human health sciences.

WUC's green estate resources, existing staff expertise within the sport and health department, the 'science into practice' mission and provision from levels 2 to 7 all combine to provide a unique opportunity to develop course strategy aligned to local skills needs in the health sector. There is a clear opportunity outlined through research and key stakeholders to leverage people and estate assets to focus on the non-medical determinants of health.

Leveraging our estate assets, including horticulture, animal collections, outdoor sport and leisure facilities provides the opportunity to influence the creation of health in individuals and/or the communities we serve, rather than treating or preventing health concerns. This salutogenic approach to health creation will see courses including elements that address a number of concerns including inactivity, social determinants of health, health inequalities, inclusivity, confidence and resilience. On-site working partnerships supporting a multi-disciplinary team approach to community health have been established over the year, resulting in the development of our Centre of Sport and Health as a new facility to support curriculum and community network ambitions. Our approach to framing WUC's health provision in an exceptionally competitive

market has resulted in considerable interest from the sector. The University College will seek to be ambitious in this area, and work continues to enable the institution to become a key 'anchor organisation'; a valued and trusted community partner; a training partner of choice for external stakeholders (including, but not limited to, the NHS/regional health organisations as well as commercial enterprises and schools) and an institution recognised as innovative in research and knowledge exchange in the sector.

Validation of the proposed new awards will occur during 2022/23, but the extensive groundwork that has been undertaken in 2021/22 will provide an excellent basis for this strategic shift in provision into a new area. It is anticipated that the strong and extensive industry links, including onsite practitioners will enhance course and graduate outcomes through employment opportunities.

In addition to the Health Science proposals for 2024 entry, course teams developed initial proposals for five new undergraduate awards, plus three new postgraduate awards, for delivery from 2023 onwards. The intention is to offer new bachelor's awards in health and exercise psychology as well as health and physical literacy, a new Certificate of Higher Education in Urban Horticulture (extending existing horticultural provision for those more interested in amenity horticulture), a new undergraduate programme in Conservation and Community Engagement and a proposed new title within the Equine scheme. At postgraduate level, there are two new titles (Environment and Creative Practice and Conservation Education and Engagement) that will seek to offer shared option modules to enhance efficiency and facilitate an improved community feel for our postgraduate students. A further proposed new award in sports nutrition will seek to provide the first level 7 award in human health science at WUC. All of these new titles are currently being marketed through the 2022/23 UCAS cycle, and will hopefully undergo successful validation events during the autumn of 2022.

During the year, the new Pet Behaviour Clinic opened specialising in dog training and pet behaviour counselling and complements our delivery in Animal Science and Management. The clinic has received excellent feedback from pet owners and students enjoy observing a commercial clinic in a professional environment. The clinic will be an integral part of a new Canine Centre development that will be funded, alongside the development of enhanced laboratory facilities, by a successful £5.8m capital expenditure funding bid to the Office for Students (notification received October 2022).

Research and Innovation

Earlier in 2021/22, WUC celebrated multiple successful funding bids for smaller awards. A wide range of projects gained support from the Research England Higher Education Innovation Fund. As part of these bids, land-based and animal teams are working with industry partners to establish a pig behaviour and welfare centre, research sow nutrition and use vertical farming to produce high-quality, disease-free propagules. Staff are also collaborating with industry to research the production of invertebrates for animal feed, working towards decreasing injury risk in sport dogs and establishing a video

library for pet behaviour and training professionals. In addition, WUC's sports department is proud to be supporting behavioural change in at-risk youths through engagement in physical activity. During the summer, a staff member travelled to Brazil to spend two weeks sharing knowledge and research on horse biomechanics. The University College also hosted Understand Horses Live, a two-day conference-type event featuring an international expert panel working to develop knowledge and understanding of horse behaviour, training, riding and physiology.

National Student Survey (NSS)

In July, the National Student Survey placed Writtle University College as the top university provider in the East of England for student satisfaction with teaching, and in the top 12 of all providers in England for overall student satisfaction. The National Student Survey (NSS) is an externally managed questionnaire completed by undergraduate students from participating higher and further education institutions. It provides the opportunity for students to 'rate' the institution on their level of agreement with specific and overall components of their experience, in their course of study at their enrolled institution.

The survey is completed by final year students during their last semester of study. The 2022 NSS was completed by students finishing their course in academic year 2021/22. A total of 143 WUC-registered students completed the survey from an eligible population of 177, representing a response rate of 81.0% (a decrease of 1 percentage points compared to the NSS 2021).

The University College achieved an overall satisfaction score of 83.8% in this year's NSS, an increase of 4.3 percentage points (pp) compared to 2021 (79.5%). WUC's 2022 score has exceeded the sector (England) for a third consecutive year and has seen improvements in a number of areas including teaching on course and assessment and feedback. Teaching on course

was the highest scoring scale at 88.1%, followed by learning opportunities at 85.6%. 'The SU (association or guild) effectively represents students' academic interests' has seen a significant decrease between 2021 and 2022 however, by -8.3pp. However, in all questions across all scales WUC's NSS 2022 scores have exceeded the provider benchmarks, and despite the poorer performance seen around student voice and SU representation, WUC's scores remain considerably above benchmark.

Of the 114 university sector providers in England to have participated in the NSS 2022, WUC ranks 11th for overall satisfaction, with a score of 83.8%. This represents a significant improvement compared to 2021, where WUC's score of 79.5% for overall satisfaction ranked 21 of the 113 participating university sector providers in England.

These high ratings reflect the ongoing hard work of academic teams, particularly the personal support provided to students, along with the wide range of co-curricular services and activities provided by the Student Success team.



Further education

The Further Education market for Writtle University College is generally local, however due to the University College's specialist offer, particularly in Equine, Agriculture and Horticulture, students travel regionally, with some students commuting up to around 40 miles.

Locally and regionally, the University College has a respected reputation, having been assessed as 'Good' by Ofsted in March 2018, and is seen to offer school leavers with a more independent and stimulating learning environment providing an enhanced student experience and a different subject offer to that offered by school sixth forms or other general further education colleges. The provision of HE as a potential progression route also adds appeal to students and parents alike. We expect to see this increase further over the coming years through an enhanced higher education progression plan and incentives.

In 2021/22 we have seen a number of developments in our core portfolio and further education provision:

- We launched in September 2021 our new Level 2 and Level 3 programme in Land and Wildlife conservation. In its 1st year we enrolled 22 learners.
- Launch of a new Animal Science pathway to our Level 3 Animal Management programme with 12 learners completing studies in its first year.
- Through a new partnership with CNH Industrial we have worked to launch a new Level 3 apprenticeship programme in Land Based Service Engineering. This will see its first entrants in October 2022 and apprentices will access learning facilities both at the university college as well as at CNH's headquarters in Basildon.
- Following progress made in higher education to support students through the work of the Student Success team, we introduced a new role of FE Student Success Leader to the staffing structure from February 2022.
- Additionally, a new Learning Hub facility has been established, providing a central area for further education students to congregate, surrounded by offices for FE support staff including careers, student, and learning support services. This has been received positively by the student body.
- In line with our Strategic Intent and an overall decline in student recruitment for our Art and Design programme, we took the decision in 2021 to teach out the current cohort of students. This programme will close at the end of the academic year 2022/2023.
- Following the success of the female football academy progress with Leyton Orient Football Club, we launched a male pathway in 2021/22. Our development of academies has also included a new rugby academy from September 2022. Linked to our Level 3 study programmes, our sport academies are attracting a good level of interest and will be built upon over 2022 through taster day initiatives and targeted marketing campaigns.

WUC's core 16-18-year-old recruitment at the University College in 2021/22 at the end of the academic year was 601 students, up 2% from 589 from 2020/21.

FE student numbers

At the end of the academic year 2021/22 there were 1238 FE students in total, including 601 core 16-18-year old's, 133 19+ students, 302 full cost students and 203 apprentices.

FE quality improvement

The University College's further education provision continues to improve and was awarded a 'good' rating during the March 2018 Ofsted inspection. The report concluded that the students "receive very good support from teachers and assessors to help them be successful in their chosen subject". The report concluded with the following:

- Students and apprentices make good progress towards achieving qualifications in English and Maths;
- Students receive good quality feedback from their teachers on their work that helps them improve assignments and achieve higher grades;
- Students and apprentices develop very high standards of practical skills as a result of high quality work experience placements or training at work; and
- Students exemplify the British values of respect, tolerance and democracy in their everyday lives at the University College.

Resources

The University College has various resources that it can deploy in pursuit of its strategic objectives.

Estate strategy

Tangible resources include the main University College campus which covers some 180 hectares, encompassing specialist teaching facilities, laboratories, a dedicated equine centre, small animal facility, a working farm and open green estate, to deliver and support its academic provision. The University College has residential accommodation on campus for around 400 students, as well as a number of residential properties.

Work continued in 2021/22 to review its estate masterplan. This is under development with the support of our estate development partner, Endurance Estates and appointed architects Cube Design Ltd.

Climate change

During 2022/23 as a key element of the work on the Strategic intent enabling strategies, the University College will continue to develop a phased programme of future improvements to its estate in response to the challenges posed by climate change and the need to make incremental changes to the University College's operating model to reach net zero carbon.

People

On average during 2021/22, the University College employed 259 members of staff, expressed as full-time equivalents (FTEs). This represents an increase on the previous year when there were 242 FTE's. Included within the total are 179 academic/ academic support staff members (2020/21: 160).

Stakeholder relationships

In line with other universities and colleges, WUC has many stakeholders. These include;

- Students and their families
- Staff
- The local community and regional employers
- Local Authorities/LEP
- OfS/ ESFA
- Professional & Representative bodies (e.g. GuildHE, UCEA and Landex)
- Partner HE and FE institutions
- Trade Unions

The University College recognises the importance of these stakeholders and engages in regular consultation.



Enhanced Student Support

Further investment by the University College into our Student Success, Wellbeing and Inclusion teams has enabled further development of services provided to Further and Higher Education students

Initiatives in place:



Annual **Student Spotlight Awards** to recognise student achievement in extra-curricular, community and entrepreneurial success recognised at graduation and presentation ceremonies.



Free online programme of tailored tuition for new students ahead of the start of the academic year, targeted to increase confidence and helping ease the transition to university life.



Our **peer mentoring** provided new arrivals with support and guidance directly from 2nd and 3rd Year students. Peer mentors supported online 'Ask a Buddy' and 'Pitstop' workshop sessions facilitated by the Student Success team.



Launched in 2020, our SSAP informs the work of the Student Success team and consults on what would make a difference to distinct groups of students within the WUC. Initiatives include the 'Steps to Success' workshop series, aimed at presenting careers and employability material in a more accessible way for disabled and neuro-diverse students.



Study skills support

Core 1-1 and group tuition service for Study Skills.



The FE quality improvement plan

Our Improvement Plan includes staff training plan and support, high grades in English and Maths, 16-18 Main Qualification achievement together with student tutorial and wider enrichment support programme to promote skills development.



Careers and employability

Focus on careers and employability through a series of events and opportunities to engage with industry and the WUC alumni community.

Making an impact



WUC position in The Guardian's **Top 7** Universities for Agriculture and Animal courses.



Following exceptionally difficult year for all higher education institutions, the University College achieved an overall satisfaction score of **84%** in this year's National Students' Survey.



Improved Further Education retention rate to **95.8%** for 2020/21 - +1.7% ahead of 2019/20 and 4.5% ahead of national average rate.



WUC's 2022 National Students' Survey score exceeds the sector for a 2nd consecutive year, ranking No 11 nationally for overall student satisfaction. The University College was also the highest-rated university-sector provider for teaching in the East of England.

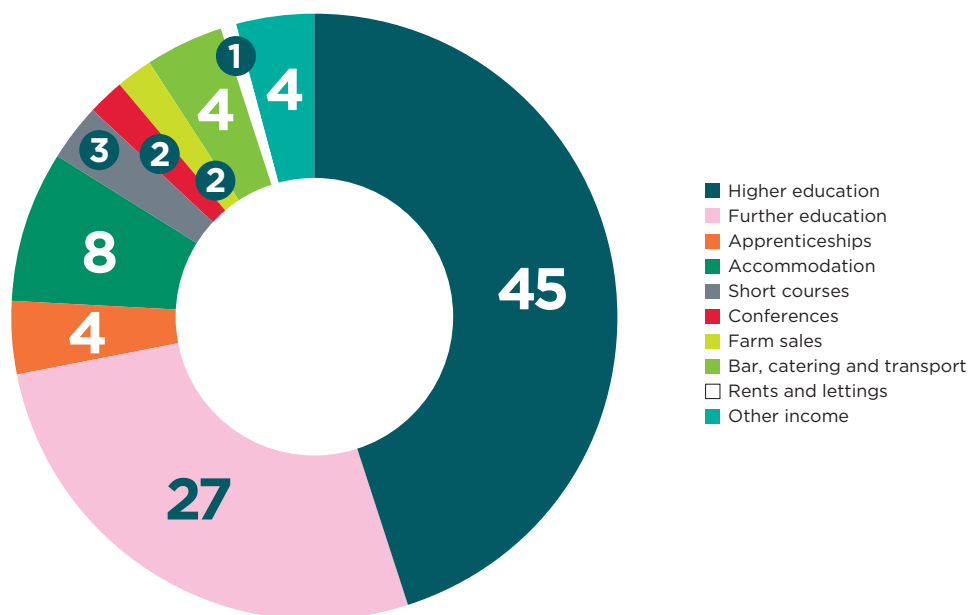


Increasing attractiveness of WUC as a place to study through growth in applications up 32% vs 2 years ago (2019/2020)

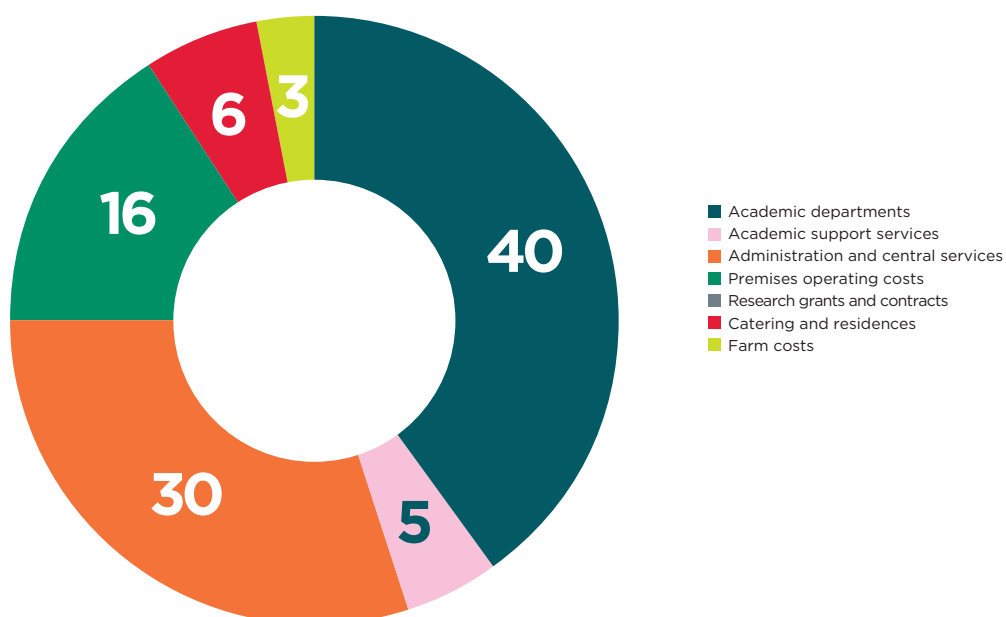
Value for money

In November 2022 the Board approved a new Value for Money Policy which places greater emphasis on the student experience. During 2022/23 improvements to the reporting of value for money will be developed to align with the latest Office for Students guidance on the outcomes for students condition of registration and good practice within the further education sector. The charts below summarise the profile of WUC operating income and expenditure during 2021/22.

Income (%)



Expenditure



Equality and diversity

Equality at the University College means that everyone is treated fairly. The University College believes Equality and Diversity are central to achieving its strategic objectives, whilst enhancing its cultural profile and labour demographic.

Diversity at the University College means recognising that everyone is different, respecting and encouraging these differences and valuing the benefits that diversity brings.

The University College is committed to maintaining its excellent record in teaching and learning by ensuring there is equality of opportunity for all, fostered in an environment of mutual respect and dignity. WUC recognises that the promotion of equality is the concern of all members of the University College's community.

The University College is careful to ensure that due consideration is given to the potential impacts on equality and diversity of its policies and actions.

For further information, visit

<https://writtle.ac.uk/Equality-and-Diversity>

Disability statement

The University College works hard to ensure that disabled people are involved in all aspects of the University College's work and life. Counselling and welfare services are made available to all students and these are widely promoted through induction, during student success initiatives and via on-going student communications. These services were successfully provided online during the coronavirus pandemic and now the Wellbeing Team continues to support students through a combination of online and in-person services.

The University College's Learning Support department seeks to promote the general well-being of students, parents and staff by offering practical help and guidance and by ensuring they have access to a full range of support services which include:

- Identifying, co-ordinating and providing study support for students with learning difficulties such as dyslexia
- Co-ordinating and providing support for students with disabilities
- Providing staff and students with the necessary information and skills to ensure they foster full engagement with the curriculum
- Providing a confidential counselling service.
- The University College endeavours to provide specialist equipment, such as radio aids/loops, for use by students, staff or visitors. In addition, some assistive technology is made available to those with learning difficulties/disabilities.

All University College admissions processes are non-discriminatory. Any appeals against a decision not to offer a place are dealt with through the admissions complaints and appeals procedure.

Health and safety

The University College's working procedures and practices have been progressively developed since the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and the provisions in the legislation now permeate all aspects of its activities.

The University College has a full-time Health & Safety Officer to oversee and advise on all matters relating to Health and Safety across all activities. The post holder reports directly to the Vice-Chancellor.

Health and Safety matters are regularly considered in detail by the University College's Personnel and Remuneration Committee and reported through to the Board of Governors as necessary. The Board also receives an annual report on Health & Safety across the University College.

The University College's health and safety activity during the 2021/22 was understandably focused on continuing to respond to the coronavirus pandemic and ensuring that students and staff were able to safely remain on campus when it was appropriate to do so. The University College has made significant investment in health & safety equipment, adaptations to campus facilities and various new policies and guidance documents to support students, staff and campus visitors to mitigate the risks associated with the virus.

Staff and student involvement

The University College considers good communication with its staff and students to be paramount and to this end constantly reviews its communications processes.

Students are represented at all levels in the committee structure, including on the Board of Governors, Academic Board, Education Committee. Representatives from the Students' Union are also invited to the University College Leadership Forum. The University College continues to run separate FE and HE Student Councils, which allow students to raise any matters affecting their student experience.

During 2021/22 the Students' Union continued to work with the NUS and GuildHE to develop the ways in which it works to act as an effective representative body for students. The Vice-Chancellor continues to meet regularly with the SU President and Students' Union Support Officer to ensure that student needs can be reviewed and acted upon quickly.

Conclusion

The University College has again been well served during the year by its teaching and professional staff teams and well supported by its students. Relationships with external stakeholders continue to strengthen.

Whilst it is dealing with a very challenging recruitment environment, it has set in train both new courses and an enhanced recruitment process that will ensure it maximises opportunity in future years.

Statement as to disclosure of information to auditors

The members of the Board of Governors who were in office on the date of approval of these financial statements have confirmed, as far as they are aware, that there is no relevant audit information of which the auditors are unaware. Each of the members of the Board of Governors has confirmed that they have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken in order to make themselves aware of any relevant information and to establish that it has been communicated to the auditor.



Mr F Howie

Acting Chair of the Board of Governors

The background of the entire page is a dense, close-up photograph of various leaves. The leaves are primarily shades of deep purple and vibrant green, with some showing variegation or lighter green veins. They are arranged in a way that creates a textured, layered effect. A solid pink horizontal bar is positioned below the text.

Charitable status and public benefit

Charitable status and public benefit

Writtle University College (WUC) is a Higher Education Institution (HEI) and an exempt charity under the terms of the Charities Act 2011. In setting and reviewing the University College's strategic objectives, the Governing Body has had due regard to the Charity Commission Guidance on public benefit and particularly the supplementary guidance on the advancement of education. The charitable objectives are the provision of higher and further education and the carrying out of research.

Government research attests to the enhanced social and economic benefits gained by individuals and the wider public as direct and indirect results of people engaging with further and higher education. Recognising the benefits of engagement with education beyond school leaving age, the law was amended, increasing the age of participation to 18. Anyone born on or after 1 September 1997 is now required to continue their education until their 18th birthday.

A substantial body of information shows clearly that training and research undertaken by HEIs has important and measurable regional and national economic and social benefits, evidenced by publications and research material available on the archived Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE) and the Office for Students (OfS) websites.

The wider public benefit and national economic importance of vocational training and research undertaken by institutions such as the University College was highlighted in the Government's UK Strategy for Agricultural Technologies, published July 2013. The importance of the land-based sector is acknowledged in the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) and highlighted in the Essex Rural Strategy (relaunched 2016).

Vision and mission

To be a leading UK university-sector further and higher education institution. Our focus will be on applied teaching, professional development and innovation in the animal, environmental, sport and health sciences.

The Strategic Vision Statement is that Writtle University College will be "A leading UK university-sector further and higher education institution. Focus will be on applied teaching, professional development and innovation in the animal, environmental, sport and health sciences". The Mission Statement is "Putting Science into Practice".

Public benefit

As is the case at many other modern universities, WUC recruits from its home region, with approximately 43% of the University College's intake coming from the local area, within a 20-mile radius; this increases to approximately 66% recruited from within a 40-mile radius which is mainly north, east and west of Writtle (rather than extending into London).

Supporting this regional recruitment network WUC normally runs a programme of outreach work, which

has restarted following the lifting of restrictions with a number of onsite pupil taster sessions and partnership activities - alongside outreach work in school including careers events, mock interviews and personal development workshops. We have continued to have an online presence with our outreach work, through WUC's online 'outreach hub' designed to support teachers, parents and pupils as well as content developed specifically for in school careers platforms, for example Springpod. Content includes training and awareness sessions for Essex secondary school teachers, with presentations from our recent graduates, plus curriculum-based bitesized video material for schools. During 2021/22 the University College also continued to play an active part in the 'Make Happen' collaborative outreach network, helping to encourage more young people from Essex into higher education.

The University College aspires to deliver a range of specialist and practical subjects to a diverse cohort of HE students, enabling them to contribute to the challenges facing the UK's land-based industries. Our vision is to combine specialist facilities and professional working environments with an inclusive, safe and welcoming environment for our students. Our small size allows us to provide a highly personal and supportive learning environment, contributing to the fulfilment of our mission to be a proactive partner in the success of every one of our students. In addition to providing subject-specific theoretical knowledge, understanding and practical skills, courses also address topics relevant to the development of an informed, active, and inquiring citizenry, including ethics, sustainability, and climate change. In addition to subject-specific expertise offered by lecturers, the institution provides a supportive environment in which those with a variety of learning requirements, and those with a range of disabilities, can benefit

The University College has consistently attracted high proportions of disabled students, with a general upwards trend over the last 8 years. In 2020/21 the University College had 28% disabled learners, which is well above the sector average at 16.6%. We support predominantly a female student population, with growth in courses that have a track record of being dominated by females, including our successful Veterinary Physiotherapy, Equine and Animal Science /Management courses, which has skewed the gender balance of the student body as a whole. To help mitigate this challenge, the University College continues to leverage and develop its Sport and Health course offer alongside offering academies in football and rugby targeted to increase access for male students, as well as continue efforts to address gender skew in other course areas.

During 2021/22, the University College opened its campus up to the wider community through the NGS open gardens scheme as well as running on campus events including the Celebration of Horticulture event which was attended by around 800 visitors,

Applied research and innovation work at the University College spans fields as diverse as conservation, genetics, studies into dog behaviour and livestock production science. During 2021/22

we continued our work with iGrowing which is a joint venture between Plant Raisers Ltd and Extreme Low Energy limited to plan the implementation of a solar powered controlled growing environment solution, with support from the EIRAS network. Our animal science work benefited from a trial of specialist water systems for livestock supported by Brenntag. Our agriculture team secured support from East of England NFU for the conversion of the University College farm to regenerative methods.

WUC's new strategic intent 'putting science into practice' was formally approved by Board of Governors in 2021 and focuses on growth in applied and vocational teaching, professional training, and applied innovation in the animal, environmental and human sciences over the next ten years. The underlying principle is collaboration to ensure that public health and animal health and welfare are safeguarded, that food is produced sustainably, and that the natural environment is protected. Work streams associated with developing three underpinning enabling strategies (People, Estates and Learning & Teaching) are being defined and will shape much of the University College's work over the next three-five years.

At Further Education level, the University College offers a range of programmes in land-based and associated subjects including apprenticeships and full cost short courses which are often bespoke for employers.

The University College's further education curriculum includes:

- Animal and Equine
- Agriculture, Horticulture and Arboriculture
- Art & Design and Floristry
- Sport

Progression into employment or further or higher education is good and a strong emphasis is placed on providing employability skills and supporting progression within education. For example, all full-time students undertake a work placement which forms part of their programme of study and a number of 'real work environments' are effectively utilised to develop skills (such as a dog grooming parlour, animal unit and equine yard, stud duties and estate duties).

All full-time 16 to 18 year-old students participate in study programmes, which comprise a main qualification, work experience, employability training, English and Maths. This tailored package of learning provides not only academic achievement but also incorporates wider life skills which improve progression and employment potential. Examples of employability training undertaken include certificates of competence, fitness instructing, sustainable development, enterprise skills and coaching.

Enrichment activities based around being healthy, staying safe, enjoying and achieving, developing awareness of equality and diversity, enterprise skills and awareness of sustainability are built into all study programmes. Examples of activities include:

- Encouragement of physical activity such as participating in nature walks and undertaking yard and estate duties, plus individual and team sports, as part of the curriculum.
- Promotion of healthy eating through Horticultural students growing their own herbs and vegetables.

- Working with local organisations and facilities. For example:
- Floristry students providing floral displays for the Harvest Festival.
- Equine students raising money for Cancer Research and World Horse Welfare.
- Students assisting with Essex Agricultural Society's 'Food and Farming' initiative by growing a selection of plants to go out as part of educational programme with 64 schools.

Students are able to display their work with some participating in local and national competitions. For example:

- Art and Design students holding a WUC Art Exhibition which is open to friends, families and the public.
- Floristry students participating in producing a display for RHS Hyde Hall, Hylands House and the open gardens for Writtle church.
- Horticulture students completed a project at Hampton Court Palace Flower Show

Writtle University College continues to benefit from a number of collaborations and partnerships with stakeholders, which enhance quality and efficiency, as well as developing communication and planning. Examples include:

- Working with schools, through our Access Participation Plan (APP) work, we have provided opportunities for 12-18 year old students to undertake vocational programmes, attend on campus taster workshops and personal development sessions.
- Supporting local primary schools with specific projects for example the establishment of forest schools and conservation events.
- Working with other colleges and HEIs on collaborative projects.
- Working with organisations such as FEDEC (Federation of Essex Colleges), Landex (Excellence in Land-based Colleges), Essex Agricultural Society and Essex County Council.
- Working with employers, through guest speakers, careers fairs, host visits and work placements.
- The institution supports work place training in the form of apprenticeships, short and bespoke courses.

Trustees

No member of the Board receives payment for the work they do as governors, or trustees, but expenses for travelling and subsistence are reimbursed.

The total expenses paid to or on behalf of 2 board members in 2021/22 was £705 (2020/21: £563 to 1 board member). This represents travel and subsistence expenses incurred in attending Board, Committee meetings and charity events in their official capacity.

Statement of corporate governance and internal control



Statement of corporate governance and internal control

The following statement is provided to enable readers of the Financial Statements of the University College to obtain a better understanding of the governance, management and legal structure of the University College.

Legal status

Writtle University College is a higher education corporation established under the terms of the Education Reform Act 1988. Its objects, powers and framework of governance are set out in the Articles of Government, the current version of which were approved by the Privy Council in May 2016, when the College gained University College title.

Principles

The University College is committed to exhibiting best practice in all aspects of corporate governance, and endeavours to conduct its business in accordance with the seven Principles identified by the Nolan Committee on Standards in Public Life (selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership). The University College has also applied the principles set out in The Higher Education Code of Governance, first published by the Committee of University Chairs (CUC) in 2010 and revised most recently in 2020.

Statement of corporate governance

On 1 October 1994, the College transferred from the Further Education sector to the Higher Education sector upon the authority of the Secretary of State for Education and by order of the Privy Council under Section 12A (3) and (4) of the Education Act, 1988. The Board of Governors was reconstituted from the date of transfer and comprises lay and academic persons appointed under the Instrument of Government of the University College, the majority of whom are non-executive. The role of Chair of the Governing Body is separated from the role of the University College's Chief Executive, the Vice-Chancellor. The responsibilities of the Governing Body are set out in the Articles of Government of the University College. Operational controls are laid down in the Office for Students' 'terms and conditions of funding for 2021-22' and OfS initial and ongoing conditions of registration.

The Governing Body is responsible for:

- the determination of the educational character and mission of the University College and for oversight of its activities;
- the effective and efficient use of resources, the solvency of the University College and for safeguarding its assets;
- approving annual estimates of income and expenditure;
- appointment, grading, suspension, dismissal and determination of the pay and conditions of service of the holders of senior posts; and

- setting a framework for the pay and conditions of service of all other staff.

The Board is also responsible for ensuring that:

- funds from whatever source administered by the University College for specific purposes have been properly applied to those purposes and managed in accordance with relevant legislation;
- funds provided by the Office for Students and Research England and the Education and Skills Funding Agency have been applied in accordance with the terms and conditions attached to them;
- ensuring that there are appropriate financial and management controls in place to safeguard public funds and funds from other sources; and
- securing the economical, efficient and effective management of the University College's resources and expenditure.

Through doing this the University College ensures regularity and propriety in the use of public funding.

The Board is responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the University College's website. Legislation in the UK governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

The University College maintains a Register of Interests of members of the Governing Body, which may be consulted by arrangement with the Clerk of the Governing Body.

The Governing Body meets at least four times a year and has the following sub-committees: Finance and General Purposes Committee; Audit, Risk & Compliance Committee; Personnel and Remuneration Committee; and Search and Governance Committee. The Personnel & Remuneration Committee & Search and Governance Committee were merged with effect from September 2022. All these Committees are formally constituted with terms of reference and comprise mainly of independent members of the Governing Body, one of whom is the Chair. During 2021/22, the Audit, Risk & Compliance Committee included at least one qualified accountant.

The Finance and General Purposes Committee recommends to the Governing Body the University College's annual revenue and capital budgets and monitors performance in relation to the approved budgets. The Committee held nine meetings in 2021-22.

The Personnel and Remuneration Committee advises the Governing Body on personnel issues and determines the annual remuneration of senior staff including the Vice-Chancellor. This Committee met three times this year.

The Audit, Risk & Compliance Committee met five times and reviewed the findings of the External Auditors and the Internal Auditors, including detailed internal audit reports and recommendations for the improvement of the University College's systems of internal control, together with the University College's management response and implementation plans. The auditors meet the Committee at least once every year without management present.

The Audit, Risk & Compliance Committee receives and considers reports from relevant external bodies as they affect the University College's business and monitors adherence with regulatory requirements. It reviews inter-alia the University College's annual financial statements, together with the accounting policies and considers and advises the Governing Body on external audit reports and management letters. In addition the Committee monitors the work of the external and internal auditors and considers that they carry out their activities in an efficient and cost-effective way. The University College senior staff attend the Committee's meetings as appropriate.

The Search and Governance Committee is responsible for all matters relating to the membership of the Board and its committees, as well as issues relating to training and evaluation of members.

The Academic Board is responsible for all matters relating to teaching, scholarship and research at the University College, subject to the overall direction of the Board of Governors, drawing its membership entirely from the staff and students of the institution. The minutes from each meeting of the Academic Board are reported to the Board of Governors and an independent governor attends Academic Board meetings as a 'link' member between the two bodies.

Appointment of Governors

Governors, who are also charitable trustees, are appointed by the Governing Body. This normally follows a process of consideration by the Search & Governance Committee, an interview with members of the Board and Vice-Chancellor, and consideration of a CV and letter of application. Governors are appointed for a fixed term of office, normally four years (for independent members), at the conclusion of which they will be eligible for a further four-year term of office (subject to approval). Restrictions on the eligibility of members is as outlined in the Articles of Government (Article 15) and all members are required to complete an annual declaration of interest.

Board of Governors self-assessment

A performance self-assessment review is normally undertaken by the Board annually and the responses are collated and analysed by the Clerk and reported to each committee and the Board during the year. A limited self-assessment was undertaken in 2021-22 and in July 2022 governors approved a new template and approach to individual governor appraisal, based on revised maturity matrix and self-assessment tool. Pending the publication of the University College's new strategic plan and estates masterplan, the Board decided to defer a full governance effectiveness review until 2022-23.

Full minutes of meetings, except those deemed to be confidential by the Governors, are available from the Clerk to the Governors at: Writtle University College, Lordship Road, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 3RR.

Management

The Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive is the head of the institution and is responsible to the Board of Governors for the organisation, direction and management of the University College. Under the Office for Students 'terms and conditions of funding for higher education institutions', the Vice-Chancellor is designated accountable officer.

The Vice-Chancellor is supported by a leadership group which meets bi-weekly and comprises HR, Finance, Registry, Estates, FE, HE and Recruitment & Marketing leads.

Internal control

As the Governing Body of Writtle University College, the Board of Governors has responsibility for maintaining a sound system of internal control that supports the achievement of policies, aims and objectives, while safeguarding the public and other funds and assets for which Board of Governors is responsible, in accordance with the responsibilities assigned to the Governing Body in the Instruments and Articles of Government and the terms and conditions of funding with the OfS.

The system of internal control is designed to manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives; it can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness.



The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify the principal risks to the achievement of policies, aims and objectives; to evaluate the nature and extent of those risks and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. This process was in place for the year ended 31 July 2022 and up to the date of approval of the financial statements. The key elements are as follows:

- the Board of Governors meets at least four times per year to consider the plans and strategic direction of the institution and to monitor performance against those plans;
- the Leadership Group maintains a strategic risk register that assesses key risks at institutional level, including an evaluation of the likelihood and impact of risks becoming a reality;
- following regular consideration by the Leadership Group and University College Leadership Forum (UCLF), the strategic risk register is presented for discussion at each meeting of the Board of Governors, at each meeting of the Audit, Risk & Compliance Committee, Finance and General Purposes Committee, Personnel & Remuneration Committee (each of which is responsible for primary monitoring of specific risks);
- the Board of Governors receives periodic reports concerning internal control, and requires regular reports from managers on the steps they are taking to manage risks in their areas of responsibility, including progress reports on key projects;
- the Vice-Chancellor has responsibility for alerting the Board to any emergent risks;
- the Audit, Risk & Compliance Committee receives regular reports from the internal audit providers, which include the internal auditor's independent opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the institution's system of internal control, together with recommendations for improvement;
- the work of the internal audit service is informed by an analysis of the operational, business and compliance risks facing the University College;
- reports are received by budget holders, department heads and project managers on internal control activities;
- the Board receives and considers an annual report from the Audit, Risk & Compliance Committee, which provides assurance on systems for:
 - risk management, control and governance;
 - economy, efficiency and effectiveness (value for money);
 - management and quality assurance of data submitted to the Higher Education Statistics Agency, the Student Loans Company, OfS and other bodies;
 - the Board's review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control is also informed by the work of the executive managers within the institution, who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework, and by comments made by the external auditors in their management letter and other reports

The review by the Board of Governors of the effectiveness of the system of internal control is informed by internal audit, which operates to standards defined in the OfS Audit Code of Practice (Annex C of the 'terms and conditions of funding for higher education institutions for the period to 31 July 2022'). The internal audit providers submit regular reports which include their independent opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the institution's system of internal control, together with recommendations for improvement. This is reviewed and signed off by the Audit, Risk & Compliance Committee.

The University College ensures the role of the external audit and internal audit contributes where possible to improve the control environment and our performance of delivery of value for money, through the actions described above.

Significant control weaknesses

The University College is required, in accordance with the OfS 'Regulatory Advice 9: Accounts Direction', to set out any significant internal control weaknesses that have arisen during the financial year or after the year end and before the financial statements are signed. There were no significant control weaknesses during 2021/22.

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries and with reference to the more detailed narrative in the 'Financial Position' section, the Board of Governors considers that the University College has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

Signed on behalf of the Board of Governors



Mr F Howie

Acting Chair of the Board of Governors

12 January 2023

Statement of responsibilities of the members of the governing body



Statement of responsibilities of the members of the governing body

In accordance with the University College's Instruments and Articles of Government, the Governing Body is responsible for the administration and management of the University College's affairs, including ensuring an effective system of internal control, and is required to present audited financial statements for each financial year.

The Governing Body is responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the University College and to enable it to ensure that the financial statements are prepared in accordance with the Instruments and Articles of Government, the Statement of Recommended Practice on Accounting in Education Institutions and other relevant accounting standards.

In addition, in line with the OfS 'terms and conditions of funding for higher education institutions 2021-22', the Governing Body, through its designated office holder, is required to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the University College's state of affairs and of the surplus or deficit and cash flows for that year.

In causing the financial statements to be prepared, the Governing Body has ensured that:

- suitable accounting policies are selected and applied consistently;
- judgements and estimates are made that are reasonable and prudent;
- applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departure disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- financial statements are prepared on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Institution will continue in operation. The Governing Body is satisfied that it has adequate resources to continue in operation for the foreseeable future: for this reason the going concern basis continues to be adopted in the preparation of the financial statements.

The Governing Body has taken reasonable steps to:

- ensure that funds from the Office for Students, Research England and the Education and Skills Funding Agency are used only for the purposes for which they have been given and in accordance with the relevant terms and conditions;
- ensure that there are appropriate financial and management controls in place to safeguard public funds and funds from other sources supplemented by detailed annual income, expenditure, capital and cash flow budgets;
- monthly reviews of financial results involving variance reporting and updating of forecast outcomes;
- comprehensive Financial Regulations, detailing financial controls and procedures, approved by the Audit, Risk & Compliance Committee and the Governing Body;
- clearly defined and formalised requirements for approval and control of expenditure, with investment decisions involving capital or revenue expenditure being subject to formal detailed appraisal to safeguard the assets of the University College and prevent and detect fraud;
- secure the economical, efficient and effective management of the University College's resources and expenditure.

The key elements of the University College's system of internal financial control, include the following:

- clear definitions of the responsibilities of, and the authority delegated to, senior members of the University College staff;
- and review according to approval levels set by the Governing Body;
- appointment of professional internal auditors whose annual programme is determined by the Audit, Risk & Compliance Committee and approved by the Governing Body.

The Audit, Risk & Compliance Committee, on behalf of the Governing Body, continually reviews the effectiveness of aspects of the University College's system of internal control. Any system of internal financial control can, however, only provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance against material misstatement or loss.

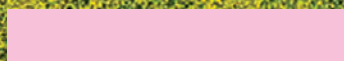
Signed on behalf of the Board of Governors

Mr F Howie

Acting Chair of the Board of Governors

12 January 2023

Report on the audit of the Financial statements



Independent auditor's report to the governing body of Writtle University College

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

We have audited the accounts of Writtle University College (the 'University College') for the year ended 31 July 2022 which comprise the University College statement of comprehensive income and expenditure, statement of changes in reserves, statement of financial position, the cash flow, the statement of accounting policies and the notes to the financial statements.

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting for Further and Higher Education (2019).

In our opinion, the accounts:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and of the University College's affairs as at 31 July 2022 and of their income and expenditure. Gains and losses, changes in reserves and cash flows of the University College for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting for Further and Higher Education; and
- in all material aspects, funds received for special purposes administered by the College have been applied only for the purposes they were received, and managed in accordance with relevant legislation;
- in all material aspects, funds provided by the OfS and UK Research and Innovations (including Research England), the Education and Skills Funding Agency and the Department for Education have been applied in accordance with the relevant terms and conditions; and
- the requirements of the OfS's accounts direction have been met.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts section of our report. We are independent of the group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the accounts in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

In auditing the accounts, we have concluded that the governing body's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the accounts is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the group and University College's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the accounts are authorized for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the governing body with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The governing body is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the accounts and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the accounts does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the accounts, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the accounts or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the accounts or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the governing body

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the memorandum of assurance and accountability issued by the Higher Education Funding Council for England and the accounts direction issues by the OfS requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the governing body's annual report is inconsistent in any material respect with the accounts; or
- the University College's grant and fee income, as disclosed in the notes to the accounts, has been materially misstated; or
- the provider's expenditure on access and participation activities for the financial year has been materially misstated; or
- sufficient and proper accounting records have not been kept by the University College; or
- the University College accounts are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Governors' remuneration specified by law are now made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of the governing body

As explained more fully in the governing body's responsibilities statement, the governing body is responsible for the preparation of the accounts and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the governing body determines is necessary to enable the preparation of accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the accounts, the governing body is responsible for assessing the group's and the University College's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the governing body either intends to liquidate, or for the University College or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the accounts as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these accounts.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognize non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the University College through discussions with management, and from our knowledge and experience of the sector,
- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the University College, including the Further and Higher Education Act 1992, funding agreements with the OfS and associated funding rules, ESFA regulations, data protection legislation, anti-bribery, safeguarding, employment, health and safety legislation, some conditions of OfS registration;
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence; and
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the University College's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions; and
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates set out in the accounting policies were indicative of potential bias.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which include, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reviewing the minutes of board and relevant committee meetings;
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims; and
- reviewing any available correspondence with HMRC and the University College's legal advisors.

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the governing body and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the accounts is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the governing body, in accordance with the Accounts Direction issued by the Office for Students. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the governing body those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the University College and the governing body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Buzzacott LLP
Statutory Auditor
130 Wood Street
London
EC2V 6DL



19 January 2023

Buzzacott LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006



Financials



Statement of comprehensive income and expenditure

	Notes	Year ended 31 July 2022 £'000	Year ended 31 July 2021 £'000
Income			
Tuition fees and education contracts	1	7,724	7,115
Funding body grants	2	6,200	5,754
Other income	3	3,331	2,316
Investment income	4	69	67
Research	5	10	0
Donations	6	6	25
Total income		17,340	15,277
Expenditure			
Staff costs	7	12,724	11,993
Other operating expenses	9	6,218	4,831
Depreciation	12,13	1,447	1,542
Interest and other finance costs	8	301	321
Total expenditure		20,690	18,687
Deficit before other (losses)		(3,350)	(3,410)
(Loss)/Gain on disposal of fixed assets		(21)	319
Gain on revaluation of investment property		76	0
Deficit before tax		(3,295)	(3,091)
Taxation	11	0	0
Deficit for the year		(3,295)	(3,091)
Other comprehensive income			
Actuarial gain in respect of pension scheme	25	19,268	4,460
Total comprehensive income for the year		15,973	1,369
Represented by:			
Unrestricted comprehensive income for the year		16,463	2,763
Revaluation reserve comprehensive expense for the year		(490)	(1,394)
		15,973	1,369
Deficit for the year attributable to:			
University College		(3,295)	(3,091)
Total Comprehensive income for the year attributable to			
University College		15,973	1,369

All items of income and expenditure relate to continuing activities.

The accompanying notes and policies on pages 42 to 55 form part of these financial statements.

University College statement of changes in reserves

	Notes	Income and expenditure account <i>Unrestricted</i> £'000	Revaluation reserve £'000	Total £'000
Balance at 1 August 2020		(7,476)	19,786	12,310
Deficit from the income and expenditure statement		(3,091)	0	(3,091)
Actuarial loss in respect of pension scheme	25	4,460	0	4,460
Transfers between revaluation and income and expenditure reserve		1,394	(1,394)	0
Total comprehensive income/(expense) for the year		2,763	(1,394)	1,369
Balance at 1 August 2021		(4,713)	18,392	13,679
Deficit from the income and expenditure statement		(3,295)	0	(3,295)
Actuarial loss in respect of pension scheme	25	19,268	0	19,268
Transfers between revaluation and income and expenditure reserve		490	(490)	0
Total comprehensive income/(expense) for the year		16,463	(490)	15,973
Balance at 31 July 2022		11,750	17,902	29,652



University College statement of financial position

	Notes	As at 31 July 2022 £'000	As at 31 July 2021 £'000
Non-current assets			
Fixed assets	12	30,778	31,694
Investments	13	910	975
		31,688	32,669
Current assets			
Stock	14	306	299
Trade and other receivables	15	803	673
Cash and cash equivalents	20	1,962	1,996
		3,071	2,968
Less: Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(3,125)	(2,625)
Net current assets/(liabilities)		(54)	343
Total assets less current liabilities		31,634	33,012
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	17	(74)	0
Provisions			
Pension provision	19	(1,908)	(19,333)
Total net assets		29,652	13,679
Income and expenditure reserve - unrestricted		11,750	(4,713)
Revaluation reserve		17,902	18,392
		29,652	13,679
Total Reserves		29,652	13,679

The financial statements were approved by the Governing Body on 12 January 2023 and were signed on its behalf on that date by:

Professor T Middleton
Vice-Chancellor



Mr F Howie



University College cash flow

	Notes	As at 31 July 2022 £'000	As at 31 July 2021 £'000
Cash flow from operating activities			
Deficit for the year		(3,295)	(3,091)
Adjustment for non-cash items			
Depreciation	12, 13	1,447	1,542
Gain on revaluation of investment property		(76)	0
Increase in stock	14	(7)	(1)
Increase in Debtors	15	(130)	(28)
Increase in creditors < 1 year	16	507	420
(Decrease) in creditors > 1 year	17	0	(83)
Increase in pension provision	19	1,843	1,605
Adjustment for investing or financing activities			
Investment income	4	(69)	(67)
Interest payable	8	0	27
(Loss)/Profit on the sale of fixed assets		21	(319)
Capital grant income	2	(30)	(91)
Net cash (outflow)/inflow from operating activities		211	(86)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Proceeds from sales of fixed assets		150	739
Capital grants receipts	2	30	91
Investment income	4	69	67
Payments made to acquire fixed assets	12	(561)	(497)
Cash flows from financing activities		(312)	400
Interest paid	8	0	(27)
Repayments of amounts borrowed		(29)	(2,120)
Capital element of finance lease		96	0
		67	(2,147)
(Decrease)/Increase in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(34)	(1,833)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year	18	1,996	3,829
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year	18	1,962	1,996



Statement of accounting policies for the year ended 31 July 2022

1. Basis of preparation

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP): Accounting for Further and Higher Education 2019 and in accordance with Financial Reporting Standards FRS 102. The University College is a public benefit entity and therefore has applied the relevant public benefit requirement of FRS 102. The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention (modified by the revaluation of fixed assets and investments).

2. Basis of consolidation

Writtle College Services Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary with net assets of £100 has not traded for a number of years and is currently dormant. The financial statements of the University College have not been prepared on a consolidated basis on the grounds of materiality.

The financial statements do not include those of Writtle University Colleges Students' Union as the University College does not exert control or dominant influence over policy decisions. The Student's Union presents its financial position to the governing body on an annual basis. Transactions between the University College and the Students' Union are disclosed under transactions with related parties (note 27).

3. Income recognition

Income from the sale of goods or services is credited to the Statement of Comprehensive Income and Expenditure when the goods or services are supplied to the external customers or the terms of the contract have been satisfied.

Fee income is stated gross of any expenditure which is not a discount and credited to the Statement of Income and Comprehensive Expenditure over the period in which students are studying. Where the amount of the tuition fee is reduced, by a discount for prompt payment, income receivable is shown net of the discount. Bursaries and scholarships are accounted for gross as expenditure and not deducted from income.

Funds the University College receives and disburses as a paying agent on behalf of a funding body are excluded from the income and expenditure of the University College where the University College is exposed to minimal risk or enjoys minimal economic benefit related to the transaction.

Grant funding

Grant funding including funding council block grant, research grants from government sources, grants (including research grants) from non government sources are recognised as income when the University College is entitled to the income and performance

related conditions have been met. Income received in advance of performance related conditions being met is recognised as deferred income within creditors on the statement of financial position and released to income as the conditions are met.

Grants (including research grants) from non government sources are recognised in income when the University College is entitled to the income and performance related conditions have been met. Income received in advance of performance related conditions being met is recognised as deferred income within creditors on the statement of financial position and released to income as the conditions are met.

Donations and endowments

Non exchange transactions without performance related conditions are donations and endowments. Donations and endowments with donor imposed restrictions are recognised in income when the University College is entitled to the funds. Income is retained within the restricted reserve until such time that it is utilised in line with such restrictions at which point the income is released to general reserves through a reserve transfer.

Donations with no restrictions are recognised in income when the University College is entitled to the funds.

Capital grants

Capital grants are recognised in income when the University College is entitled to the funds subject to any performance related conditions being met.

Investment income

Investment income is credited to the Statement of Comprehensive Income and Expenditure on a receivable basis.

4. Accounting for retirement benefits

Retirement benefits to employees of the University College are provided by the Teachers' Pensions Scheme (TPS) and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). These are defined benefit schemes which are externally funded and contracted out of the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme.

Contributions to the TPS are charged to the income and expenditure so as to spread the costs of pensions over the employees' working lives with the University College in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by qualified actuaries on the basis of quinquennial valuations using a prospective benefit method.

The assets of the LGPS are measured using closing market values. LGPS liabilities are measured using the projected unit method and are discounted at the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liability.

The increase in the present value of the liabilities of the scheme expected to arise from employee service in the period is charged to the operating surplus. The expected return on the scheme's assets and the increase during the period in the present value of the schemes liabilities, arising from the passage of time, are included in the pension finance costs. Actuarial comprehensive income are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.

A more detailed explanation of the arrangements for pension schemes can be found in Note 25.

5. Employment benefits

Short term employment benefits such as salaries and compensated absences are recognised as an expense in the year in which the employees render service to the University College. Any unused benefits such as holiday pay, are accrued and measured as the additional amount the University College expects to pay as a result of the unused entitlement.

6. Finance leases

Leases in which the University College assumes substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of the leased asset are classified as finance leases. Leased assets acquired by way of finance lease and the corresponding lease liabilities are initially recognised at an amount equal to the lower of their fair value and the present value of the minimum lease payments at inception of the lease.

Minimum lease payments are apportioned between the finance charge and the reduction of the outstanding liability. The finance charge is allocated to each period during the lease term so as to produce a constant periodic rate of interest on the remaining balance of the liability.

7. Operating leases

Costs in respect of operating leases are charged on a straight-line basis over the lease term. Any lease premiums or incentives are spread over the minimum lease term.

8. Foreign currency

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated to the respective functional currencies of Group entities at the foreign exchange rate ruling at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies at the statement of financial position date are translated to the functional currency at the foreign exchange rate ruling at that date.

9. Fixed assets

Fixed assets are stated at cost or deemed cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Deemed cost refers to land and buildings that had been revalued to fair value on the date of transition to the 2015 FE HE SORP, being the revalued amount at the date of that revaluation.

Where parts of a fixed asset have different useful lives, they are accounted for as separate items of fixed assets. However, it is recognised

that for certain historical assets held it is neither practical nor cost effective to split assets in this way. Componentisation has been adopted for assets acquired on or after 1 August 2014.

Freehold land and buildings

Costs incurred in relation to land and buildings after initial purchase or construction, and prior to valuation, are capitalised to the extent that they increase the expected future benefits to the University College.

Freehold land is not depreciated as it is considered to have an indefinite useful life. Freehold buildings are depreciated on a straight line basis over their expected useful economic life to the University College ranging between 5-90 years.

No depreciation is charged on assets in the course of construction.

Fixtures, fittings & equipment

Equipment costing less than £1,000 per individual item is written off to the income and expenditure account in the period of acquisition. All other equipment is capitalised at cost.

Exceptionally, PCs will be considered as a capital purchase even if purchased individually at a cost of less than £1,000 (including VAT).

Capitalised equipment including computers and software is depreciated on a straight line basis over its expected useful economic life to the University College ranging between 2-15 years.

Depreciation methods, useful lives and residual values are reviewed at the date of preparation of each statement of financial position.

Where equipment is acquired with the aid of specific grants it is capitalised and depreciated in accordance with the above policy.

Borrowing costs

Borrowing costs are recognised as expenditure in the period in which they are incurred, no borrowing costs directly attributable in the acquisition, construction or production of a qualifying asset are capitalised.

10. Investment properties

Investment property is land and buildings held for rental income or capital appreciation rather than for use in delivering services.

Investment properties were revalued initially as part of the overall valuation undertaken as at 1 August 2014.

The University College utilised the services of BNP Paribas Real Estate to provide valuation for the investment portfolio as at 31 July 2022.

Also see note 13 on non-current assets.

11. Stock

Stock (standing crops, livestock and consumables) is valued at the at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell.

12. Cash and cash equivalents

Cash includes cash in hand, deposits repayable on demand and overdrafts. Deposits are repayable on demand if they are in practice available within 24 hours without penalty.

Cash equivalents are short term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value.

13. Provisions, contingent liabilities and contingent assets

Provisions are recognised in the financial statements when:

- (a) the University College has a present obligation (legal or constructive) as a result of a past event;
- (b) it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation; and
- (c) a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

The amount recognised as a provision is determined by discounting the expected future cash flows at a pre-tax rate that reflects risks specific to the liability.

A contingent liability arises from a past event that gives the University College a possible obligation whose existence will only be confirmed by the occurrence or otherwise of uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the University. Contingent liabilities also arise in circumstances where a provision would otherwise be made but either it is not probable that an outflow of resources will be required or the amount of the obligation cannot be measured reliably.

A contingent asset arises where an event has taken place that gives the University College a possible asset whose existence will only be confirmed by the occurrence or otherwise of uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the University College.

Contingent assets and liabilities are not recognised in the statement of financial position but would be disclosed in the notes.

The University College do not have any contingent assets and liabilities as at 31 July 2022 (2020/21 nil)

14. Taxation

The University College is an exempt charity within the meaning of Part 3 of the Charities Act 2011, and, as such, is a charity within the meaning of Section 506 (1) of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988. The University College is recognised as a charity by HM Revenue & Customs.

It is therefore a charity within the meaning of Para 1 of schedule 6 to the Finance Act 2010 and accordingly, the University College is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by section 478-488 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 (CTA 2010) or section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied to exclusively charitable purposes.

The University College receives no similar exemption in respect of Value Added Tax. The University College is partially exempt for Value Added Tax as its main activity is the supply of education which is exempt. Irrecoverable VAT on inputs is included in the costs of such inputs. Any irrecoverable VAT allocated to fixed assets is included in their cost.

Should the University College's subsidiary company; Writtle College Services Ltd resume trading then it would be liable to Corporation Tax in the same way as any other commercial organisation.

15. Reserves

Reserves are classified as restricted or unrestricted. Restricted endowment reserves include balances which, through endowment to the University College, are held as a permanently restricted fund which the University must hold in perpetuity.

Other restricted reserves include balances where the donor has designated a specific purpose. The University College does not have any restricted reserves as at 31 July 2022 (2020/21 nil).

16. Financial instruments

Financial liabilities and equity are classified according to the substance of the financial instrument's contractual obligations, rather than the financial instrument's legal form. All loans, investments and short term deposits held by the University College are classified as basic financial instruments in accordance with FRS 102. These instruments are initially recorded at the transaction price less any transaction costs (historical cost). FRS 102 requires that basic instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost, however the University College has calculated that the difference between the historical cost and amortised cost basis is not material and so these financial instruments are stated on the statement of financial position at historical cost. Loans and investments that are payable or receivable within one year are not discounted.

17. Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the University College's accounting policies, which are described in accounting policy notes 1-17, judgements (other than those involving estimations) that have a significant impact on the amounts recognised and to make we are required to make estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimated and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

Critical accounting judgements

There are no critical judgements, apart from those involving estimation (which are dealt with separately below)

Key source of estimation uncertainty

The key assumptions concerning the future, and other key sources of estimation at the statement of financial position date, that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year, are discussed below

Local Government Pension Scheme

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 24, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 July 2022. Any differences between these figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.



Notes to the financial statements

	Notes	Year ended 31 July 2022 £'000	Year ended 31 July 2021 £'000
1. Tuition fees and education contracts			
HE			
Full-time students' fees		6,233	5,894
Full-time students charged international fees		296	200
Part-time student fees		288	291
		6,817	6,385
FE			
Full-time students' fees		45	78
Full-time students charged international fees		21	10
Part-time student fees		269	213
Short course student fees		513	372
Other fees and support grants		59	57
		907	730
		7,724	7,115
2. Funding body grants			
Recurrent grant			
Office for Students		1,106	1,072
Education Skills Funding Agency (ESFA)		5,064	4,591
Capital Grant (OfS)		30	91
		6,200	5,754
2.1 Grant and fee income			
Note The source of grant and fee income, included in notes 1 to 2 is as follows:			
OfS	Grant income from the OfS	1,087	1,118
Other bodies	Grant income from other bodies	45	45
Taught	Fee income for taught awards (exclusive of VAT)	6,817	6,385
Research awards	Fee income for research awards (exclusive of VAT)	4	0
Non-qualifying	Fee income from non-qualifying courses (exclusive of VAT)	5,971	5,321
		13,924	12,869
3. Other income			
Residences, catering and conferences		2,246	1,276
Estate activities		509	452
Other income		576	588
		3,331	2,316
4. Investment income			
Income from investment properties		61	65
Interest receivable		8	2
		69	67
5. Research grants and contracts			
Industry and commerce		10	0
6. Donations and endowments			
Unrestricted donations		6	25

	Notes	Year ended 31 July 2022 £'000	Year ended 31 July 2021 £'000
7. Staff costs			
Salaries		8,588	8,172
Other taxes & social security costs		801	752
Other pension costs		3,329	2,979
Exceptional restructuring costs		6	90
Total		12,724	11,993

The total amount of any compensation for loss of office paid across the whole College was £6k (2020/21 £90k) and related to 2 (2020/21 5) people.

Emoluments of the Vice-Chancellor:			
Salary		116	116
Benefits*		2	2
		118	118
Pension contributions		27	27
		145	145

*Benefit relates to private medical insurance, this is a taxable benefit which is paid on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor.

One member of staff, other than the Vice-Chancellor was paid in excess of £100,000. In 2020/21 one other member of staff, other than the Vice-Chancellor was paid in excess of £100,000.

Remuneration of higher paid staff, including that of the Principal and excluding employers pension contributions:

Basic salary per annum	Number of staff (2021/22)	Number of staff (2020/21)
£100,001 – £104,999	-	-
£105,000 – £109,999	-	-
£110,001 – £114,999	1	1
£115,001 – £119,999	1	1

The head of the provider's basic salary is 4.3 (2019/20 4.2) times the median pay of staff, where the median pay is calculated on a full-time equivalent basis for the salaries paid by the provider to its staff, excluding agency.

The head of the provider's total remuneration is 4.7 (2019/20 4.5) times the median total remuneration of staff, where the median total remuneration is calculated on a full-time equivalent basis for the total remuneration by the provider of its staff excluding agency.

Summary justification

The Vice-Chancellor (VC), as the HEFCE Accountable Officer and Senior Academic, has overall responsibility for the Leadership and Management of Writtle University College (WUC), shaping the academic development and ensuring WUC remains agile within the sector. Working with the Board of Governors, the VC sets the Strategic direction for and manages the Leadership Group to develop and evolve the strategy. As the accountable officer the VC exercises general oversight of WUC's organisational structure and financial position and is held accountable in the role by the Board**, being required to ensure robust financial planning and risk management systems are in place to delivery strategic opportunities and commitment to our students.

**The VCs performance is measured through achievement of Organisational KPIs as reviewed by the Board and through relevant Committee structures, alongside an annual review of performance by the Chair of Governors. The level of remuneration has regularly been benchmarked against the industry.

Key management personnel

Key management personnel are those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the University College. The University College has defined key management personnel as the Leadership Group (LG).

The Leadership Group members currently are

Vice Chancellor, Director of HR, Registrar & Secretary and Chief Financial Officer

The total salary paid to LG for 2022 £455k, 4 posts (2020/21 £436k 4 posts)
Compensation paid for loss of office in 2021/22 was nil (2020/21 nil).

Staff based on FTE by major category	2022 No.	2021 No.
Academic	126	123
Academic Support Services	127	100
Business Support Staff	100	108
	353	331

Average staff numbers by major category:	2022 No.	2021 No.
Academic	94	94
Academic support services	85	66
Business support staff	80	82
	259	242

Board Members

The University College Board members are the trustees for charitable law purposes. Due to the nature of the University College's operations and the compositions of the Board, being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, it is inevitable that transactions will take place with organisations in which a member of the Board may have an interest. All transactions involving organisations in which a member of Board may have an interest, including those identified below, are conducted at arms length and in accordance with the University College's Financial Regulations and usual procurement procedures.

The total expenses paid to or on behalf of 2 board member was £705 (2020/21 - £563 to 1 board members). This represents travel and subsistence expenses incurred in attending Board, Committee meetings and Charity events in their official capacity.

	Notes	Year ended 31 July 2022 £'000	Year ended 31 July 2021 £'000
8. Interest and other finance costs			
Bank loan interest		0	27
Pension scheme finance costs	25	301	294
		301	321

9. Analysis of total expenditure by activity			
Residences, catering and conferences		1,013	576
Consumables and Laboratory Expenditure		134	93
Books and Periodicals		115	137
Heat, Light, Water and Power		473	458
Repairs and General Maintenance		679	371
Grants to Students' Union		15	0
Rents and Rates		108	111
Auditors' Remuneration			
Fees payable to external auditors for			
Financial Statements audit		38	66
Financial Statements - Teachers Pension Scheme assurance work		2	2
Fees payable to internal auditors for			
Internal audit		34	49
Equipment Operating Lease Rentals		28	4
Cleaning Costs		281	227
Computer Costs - Licences & Maintenance Agreements		234	218
Examination Fees		324	292
Printing Costs		86	64
Scholarships		143	154
Insurances		212	181
Professional & Consultancy		567	296
Marketing		389	327
Transport		118	70
Other Expenses		670	600
Estate Activities		555	535
		6,218	4,831

10. Access and Participation			
Access investment		111	51
Financial support		143	130
Disability Support (excluding expenditure included in the two categories above)		131	92
Research and evaluation (i)		99	88
		484	361

(i) £280k (2020/21 £192k) of these costs are already included in the overall staff costs figures included in the financial statements, see note 7

Access investment	77	45
Financial support	21	17
Disability support (excluding expenditure included in the two categories above)	128	83
Research and evaluation	54	47
	280	192

https://writtle.ac.uk/pdfs/Access-and-Participation-Plan-2022-23_2026-2027.pdf

WUC spend on APP activity in 2021/22

In 2021/22 the University College spent a total of £324,654 against the previously committed £355,670. The shortfall is mainly attributable to lower spend on bursaries and scholarships (£113,322 vs £133,850) arising from lower than forecast student numbers. The total actual spend across access, financial support and research & evaluation activity represents an increase as a percentage of higher fee income compared to the figure committed in the 2021/22 access and participation plan (16.7% vs 13.6%).

11. Taxation

UK Corporation Tax

The standard rate of tax for the year, based on the UK standard rate of corporation tax is 19% (2020/21 - 19%). The Institution is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1, Schedule 6, Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation purposes. Accordingly, the Institution is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by section 287 CTA2009 and sections 471, and 478-488 CTA 2010 (formerly s505 of ICTA 1988) or section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied to exclusively charitable purposes.

12. Fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings £'000	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £'000	Total £'000
Cost or valuation			
At 1 August 2021	35,748	11,582	47,330
Additions	27	534	561
Transfers from Investment	141	0	141
Disposals	(163)	(149)	(312)
At 31 July 2022	35,753	11,967	47,720
Depreciation			
At 1 August 2021	6,161	9,475	15,636
Charge for the year	683	764	1,447
Disposals	0	(141)	(141)
At 31 July 2022	6,844	10,098	16,942
Net book value			
At 31 July 2022	28,909	1,869	30,778
At 31 July 2021	29,587	2,107	31,694

At 31 July 2022, freehold land and buildings included £3.9m (2020/21 - £3.9m) in respect of freehold land and is not depreciated. A full valuation of the University College's freehold land and buildings was carried out as at 1 August 2014 by Strutt and Parker.

13. Non-current investments

	Other fixed assets investments £'000	Total £'000
At 1 August 2021	975	975
Charge for the year	76	76
Transfers to PPE	(141)	(141)
At 31 July 2022	910	910

Investment properties were revalued initially as part of the overall valuation undertaken as at 1 August 2014 and have been revalued at 31 July 2020, 2021 and 2022.

The investment properties currently totalling £910k (2020/21: £975k) were revalued on an open market basis as at 31 July 2022 by an external valuer, BNP Paribas Real Estate which is regulated by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. The valuation was performed in accordance with the RICS Valuation - Professional Standards.

The investment properties were valued by an independent valuer with a recognised and relevant professional qualification and with recent experience in the location and category of the investment property being valued, BNP Paribas Real Estate, as at 31 July 2022, on the basis of fair value in accordance with the Appraisal and Valuation Manual of The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

The University College owns 100% of the issued share capital of Writtle College Services Limited, a company registered in England (number 3466224). The company ceased trading with effect from 1st August 2009.

14. Stock

	Year ended 31 July 2022	Year ended 31 July 2021
Work in progress	12	60
Livestock	145	143
General consumables	149	96
	306	299

15. Trade and other receivables

	Year ended 31 July 2022 £'000	Year ended 31 July 2021 £'000
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Other trade receivables	337	200
Prepayments and accrued income	466	473
	803	673

16. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

Secured loans	0	29
Unsecured loans	22	0
Trade payables	855	758
Social security and other taxation payable	209	180
Accruals	650	751
Deferred income and payments received on account	1,043	549
Other creditors	188	175
Amounts due to funding bodies	158	183
	3,125	2,625

17. Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

Obligations under finance lease	74	0
Analysis of leases:		
Due within one year or on demand (Note 16)	22	0
Due between one and two years	22	0
Due between two and five years	52	0
Due after more than one year	74	0
Total leases	96	0

18. Reconciliation of net debt

Net debt 1 August 2021	(1,967)	(1,680)
Movement in cash and cash equivalents	(34)	(1,833)
New finance leases	106	0
Other non-cash changes	29	1,546
Net debt 31 July 2022	(1,866)	(1,967)
Change in net debt	101	(287)

Analysis of net debt:

Cash and cash equivalents	1,962	1,996
Borrowings: amounts falling due within one year		
Secured loans	0	29
Obligations under finance leases	22	0
	22	29
Borrowings: amounts falling due after more than one year		
Obligations under finance lease	74	0
	74	0
Net debt	(1,866)	(1,967)

19. Pension provision		
	Defined benefit obligations (note 25) £'000	Total pensions provisions £'000
At 1 August 2021	19,333	19,333
Actuarial gain	(19,268)	(19,268)
Interest costs	301	301
Employee cost of scheme	1,542	1,542
At 31 July 2022	1908	1908

20. Cash and cash equivalents			
	At 1 August 2021 £'000	Cash flows £'000	At 31 July 2022 £'000
Cash and cash equivalents	1,996	(34)	1,962

21. Capital and other commitments		
Provision has not been made for the following capital commitments at 31 July 2022:		
	31 July 2022 £'000	31 July 2021 £'000
Property	0	36
Plant and equipment	0	72
Commitments contracted for	0	108

22. Lease obligations		
Total rentals payable under operating leases:		
Payable during the year	29	4
Future minimum lease payments due:		
Not later than 1 year	26	3
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	41	0
Total lease payments due	67	3

23. Events after the reporting period	
There are no material post statement of financial position events to report	

24. Subsidiary undertaking

The subsidiary company is (which is registered in England & Wales), wholly owned by the University, is as follows:

Company	Status
Writtle College Services Ltd	100% owned

The company ceased trading with effect from 1st August 2009.

Registered office: Lordship Road, Writtle, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 3RR

Writtle College Services Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary with net assets of £100 has not traded for a number of years and is currently dormant.

The financial statements of the University College have not been prepared on a consolidated basis on the grounds of materiality.

25. Pension schemes

Different categories of staff were eligible to join one of two different schemes:

- Local Government Scheme (LGPS)
- Teachers Pension Scheme (TPS)

The two schemes, are both defined-benefit schemes contracted out of the State Second Pension (S2P) the assets of which are held in separate trustee administered funds.

Total pension cost for the year	Year ended 31 July 2022 £'000	Year ended 31 July 2021 £'000
TPS	860	847
LGPS*	927	821
Employee charge for scheme	1542	1311
	3,329	2,979

*LGPS contribution of £927k, includes £146k (2020/21 £141k) of pension deficit paid in year.

Contributions amounting to £188k (2020/21 £174k) were payable to the scheme at 31st July 2022 and are included within creditors, this amount was subsequently paid in August 2022.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Teachers' Pension Scheme ("TPS") is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme. The regulations under which the TPS operates are the Teachers' Pensions Regulations 2014. These regulations apply to teachers in schools and other educational establishments in England and Wales maintained by local authorities, to teachers in many independent and voluntary-aided schools, and to teachers and lecturers in establishments of further and higher education. Membership is automatic for full-time teachers and lecturers and from 1 January 2007 automatic for teachers and lecturers in part-time employment following appointment or a change of contract. Teachers and lecturers are able to opt out of the TPS.

The teachers' pension budgeting and valuation account

Although teachers and lecturers are employed by various bodies, their retirement and other pension benefits, including annual increases payable under the Pensions (Increase) Acts are, as provided for in the Superannuation Act 1972, paid out of monies provided by Parliament. Under the unfunded TPS, teachers' contributions on a 'pay-as-you-go' basis, and employers' contributions, are credited to the Exchequer under arrangements governed by the above Act.

The Teachers' Pensions Regulations 2014 require an annual account, the Teachers' Pension Budgeting and Valuation Account, to be kept of receipts and expenditure (including the cost of pensions' increases). From 1 April 2001, the Account has been credited with a real rate of return (in excess of price increases and currently set at 3.5%), which is equivalent to assuming that the balance in the Account is invested in notional investments that produce that real rate of return.

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

The latest actuarial review of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2019 and in accordance with The Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education (the Department) on 9 June 2014. The key results of the valuation are:

- employer contribution rates were set at 23.68% from September 2019 of pensionable pay
- (including a 0.08% levy for administration) total scheme liabilities for service to the effective date of £191.5 billion, and notional assets of £176.6 billion, giving a notional past service deficit of £14.9 billion; and;
- an employer cost cap of 10.9% of pensionable pay.

The new employer contribution rate for the TPS has been implemented in September 2015. A full copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation can be found on the Teachers' Pension Scheme website at the following location: <https://www.teacherspensions.co.uk/news/employers/2014/06/publication-of-the-valuation-report.aspx>.

Scheme changes

Following the Hutton report in March 2011 and the subsequent consultations with trade unions and other representative bodies on reform of the TPS, the Department published a Proposed Final Agreement, setting out the design for a reformed TPS was implemented from 1 April 2015.

The key provisions of the reformed scheme include: a pension based on career average earnings; an accrual rate of 1/57th; and a Normal Pension Age equal to State Pension Age, but with options to enable members to retire earlier or later than their Normal Pension Age. Importantly, pension benefits built up before 1 April 2015 will be fully protected.

In addition, the Proposed Final Agreement includes a Government commitment that those within 10 years of Normal Pension Age on 1 April 2012 will see no change to the age at which they can retire, and no decrease in the amount of pension they receive when they retire. There will also be further transitional protection, tapered over a three and a half year period, for people who would fall up to three and a half years outside of the 10 year protection.

Regulations giving effect to a reformed Teachers' Pension Scheme came into force on 1 April 2014 and the reformed scheme commenced on 1 April 2015.

The pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £860k (2020/21 £847k)

FRS 102 (28)

Under the definitions set out in FRS 102 (28.11), the TPS is a multi-employer pension scheme. The University College is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the scheme.

Accordingly, the University College has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS 102 and has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined-contribution plan. The University College has set out above the information available on the plan and the implications for the University College in terms of the anticipated contribution rates.

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit scheme, with assets held in separate trustee administered funds. The Total contributions, (employers and employees) made for the year ended 31 July 2022 were £1,048k (2020/21 £925k) of which employer's contributions totalled £781k (2020/21 £678k) and employees contributions totalled £268k (2020/21 £247k)

The contribution rates were 18.9% from April 2021 for employers and range from 5.5% to 12.5% for employees, depending on salary. In addition, an annual employers contribution of £146k (2020/21 - £141k) is made to meet past service deficiencies.

The following information is based upon a full actuarial valuation of the fund as at 31 March 2019 updated to 31 July 2022 by a qualified independent actuary.

	At 31 July 2022	At 31 July 2021
Principal actuarial assumptions		
Rate of RPI inflation	3.15%	3.15%
Rate of CPI inflation	2.75%	2.80%
Rate of increases in salaries	3.75%	3.80%
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.75%	2.80%
Discount rate for liabilities	3.40%	1.60%
Commutation of pensions to lump sums	50.00%	50.00%

The current mortality assumptions include sufficient allowance for future improvements in mortality rates.

The assumed life expectations on retirement age 65 are:

Retiring today		
Males	21.00	21.60
Females	23.50	23.60

Retiring in 20 years		
Males	22.30	22.90
Females	24.90	25.10

The University College's assets in the scheme and the expected rate of return were:

	Fair value at 31 July 2022	Updated fair value at 31 July 2021
Long term rate of return expected at	15%	15%

	£'000	£'000
Equities	22,568	24,876
Government bonds	830	979
Other bonds	1,745	1,807
Property	3,728	2,712
Cash/liquidity	1,439	1,082
Other	9,200	7,405
Total market value of assets	39,510	38,861

Actuarial value of scheme liabilities	(41,418)	(58,194)
Deficit in the scheme - Net pension liability	(1,908)	(19,333)

The amount included in the statement of financial position in respect of the defined benefit pension plan is as follows:

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Fair value of plan assets	39,510	38,861
Present value of plan liabilities	(41,395)	(58,167)
Present value of unfunded liabilities	(23)	(27)
Net pensions liability (Note 19)	(1,908)	(19,333)

Amounts recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income in respect of the plan are as follows:

Amounts included in staff costs		
Current service cost	2,453	2,111
Total	2,453	2,111

Amounts included in investment income		
Net interest income	301	294
	301	294

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Movement in net defined benefit deficit in the year:		
Deficit in the scheme at 1 August	(19,333)	(22,188)
- Current employer service costs	(2,453)	(2,111)
- Employer contributions	929	821
Gains Past service costs/curtailments or settlements	(18)	(21)
Net return on assets	(301)	(294)
Actuarial gain	19,268	4,460
Deficit on scheme at 31 July	(1,908)	(19,333)

Asset & liability reconciliation

Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations		
Liabilities at start of period	58,194	54,762
Current service cost	2,453	2,111
Interest cost on pension liabilities	926	732
Employee contributions	268	247
Experience (gain)/loss on defined benefit obligation	3,520	(1,074)
Changes in financial assumptions	(21,940)	3,359
Change in demographic assumptions	(1,154)	(691)
Benefits paid	(847)	(1,250)
Unfunded pension payments	(2)	(2)
Liabilities at end of period	41,418	58,194

Reconciliation of assets		
Assets at start of period	38,861	32,516
Interest on assets	625	438
Return on assets less interest	(306)	6,112
Administration expenses	(18)	(21)
Employer contributions	929	821
Employee contributions	268	247
Benefits paid	(849)	(1,252)
Assets at end of period	39,510	38,861

The estimated value of employers contributions for the year to 31 July 2023 is £1,087k (2021/22 £1,889k), including deficit contributions.

Deficit contributions

The College has entered into an agreement with the LGPS to make additional contributions of £150k per annum from 1st April 2022 in addition to normal funding levels until the next full valuation at which point the situation will be reviewed again.

26. Learner support funds

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Funding council grants	103	117
Contribution to staff administration	(5)	(5)
	98	112
Balance unspent and brought forward	18	21
Disbursement to students	(98)	(98)
To be returned to funding council	(12)	(17)
Balance unspent at 31 July	6	18

There is £6k unspent funds to be carried forward to 2022/2023 (2021/22 - £18k).

Funding Council grants are available solely for students: the University College acts only as a paying agent. The grants and related disbursements are therefore excluded from the Income and Expenditure Accounts.

27. Related parties

Due to the nature of the University College's operations and the composition of the Board of Governors (being drawn from public and private sector organisations), it is inevitable that transactions will take place with organisations in which a member of the Board of Governors may have an interest. All transactions involving organisations in which a member of the Board of Governors may have an interest are conducted at arms length and in accordance with the University College's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures.

The Student Union is run by the students of the University College, the University College employ 2 members of staff.



