We are Essex.
Are you?

Working at the University of Essex
Where we're heading

We are a university going places. 50 years ago, our founding vision was to be “freer, more daring, more experimental”, a principle to which we still hold true. Our bold agenda, set out in our Strategic Plan, focuses on a very clear mission: to contribute to society through excellence in education and excellence in research.

We will judge our success against our goal of being placed in the top 25 of UK universities and to have all our subjects in the top 20% of their discipline within the UK by 2019, and to have grown in size and student numbers by 50%.

Our values

The pursuit of our mission to contribute to society through excellence in research and excellence in education is underpinned by our core values, shared across our community and evidenced in our activities and behaviours. If you share our values, you will be at home at Essex.

Do you strive for excellence? We aim to achieve excellence in both education and research, ensuring that all of our activities support these two equal priorities.

Do you long for the freedom to question and test received wisdom? All members of our University are empowered to put forward new ideas.

Do you value openness? We insist on integrity, honesty and openness in all our activities.

Would you like to be part of a community where the pursuit and dissemination of knowledge is valued for its own sake and which provides all members with the opportunity to fulfil their potential?

Do you value inclusivity, diversity and equality and treat people with dignity and respect?

Are you innovative and creative? Can you harness these skills in ways that address the new challenges and needs of a rapidly changing world?

Can you look beyond borders to share our global outlook which allows us to collaborate and co-operate internationally, and ensures we draw on a diverse range of perspectives to enrich our own academic community and global society?

Can you spot opportunities for partnership working regionally, nationally and internationally? We want to develop relationships which are of mutual benefit to both our University and its partners.

Are you prepared to take responsibility and embrace accountability and transparency in relation to decision-making?

If you answered “Yes” to all these questions, welcome home.

“Aspire to be anyone’s equal but no-one’s superior.”

Our Chancellor: Shami Chakrabarti, Director of Liberty, the civil liberties and human rights organisation.
What we believe

We believe a person’s potential is not simply defined by grades or background but by an attitude of mind: a willingness to question, to collaborate and to push at the frontiers of knowledge.

These are the kinds of staff you will work with and students you will encounter at Essex. There is more to learn than we can ever be taught, so we want our staff to inspire our community to want to explore and embrace new ideas and values.

Why we are different

The Essex Experience is built on four pillars: the Essex Spirit, a culture of membership, a global community and outlook, and a research mindset and skills. Our manifesto video, We are Essex, encapsulates what we are about.

The Essex Spirit

Essex provides a home for the tenacious, the bold, the inquisitive and those impatient for change. By asking difficult questions, we break intellectual boundaries and challenge the status quo. Whether that’s a ground-breaking piece of research or developing a process which improves the student experience, we want to appoint staff who will relish the challenge of delivering our commitment to excellence.

A culture of membership

Our staff and students are members of our University – for life. Together we form a mutually supportive community where we build friendships, develop interests and embrace values which transform our lives, and those of others. We believe that the idea of the ‘alma mater’ extends to those who work at Essex. The University has a formative and transformative role to play in the lives and careers of our staff and being part of the Essex community is as important to them as it is to our students.

A global community and outlook

We offer an environment that reflects and supports our founding philosophy: an intimate yet genuinely international setting that fuses ideas, cultures and a breadth of perspectives, where internationalism is central to who we are and what we do. At Essex, you will discover the world in one place, full of people who hold a genuine worldview, with the integrity, awareness and tolerance that makes for a better world.

A research mindset and skills

At Essex we don’t just teach what others think, our staff are themselves leading thinkers and practitioners. We cannot educate global citizens without our students having direct interaction with staff who are at the leading-edge of their disciplines, creating knowledge and directly engaged in research, and in scholarly and policy debates. We like to question conventional wisdom, stimulate curiosity and nurture our members’ desire to pursue new ideas, whatever their field of work or study. Research underpins everything we do regardless of the activity or the research-profile of the job role: our professional services staff are likewise expected to balance creativity with an evidence-based approach to their work to ensure that what we do is innovative and has impact.
Our strengths

Excellence in education

91%

In 2013 we were awarded the prestigious Times Higher Award for Outstanding Support for Students.

Our Students’ Union is on a mission to become the world’s most student-centred organisation.

Our students enjoy a range of sports activities at no extra cost.

We have invested heavily in facilities to enhance the Essex Experience.

New residential developments, The Meadows and University Square.

A new integrated public and academic library in Southend at The Forum and a library extension in Colchester.

An innovative new building to house Essex Business School.

Ultramodern teaching and learning spaces in the new Forum, Southend-on-Sea.

Excellence in research

9th

We rank 9th in the UK overall for our research (Research Assessment Exercise, 2008).

Our research had global impact: 22% of our research is rated as world-leading, 63% as internationally excellent and 93% as internationally recognised.

2nd

Our research reputation in the humanities is also strong with outstanding national rankings for history at 2nd, art history 9th and philosophy 10th.

#1

We are the UK’s leading university in social sciences, ranked 1st for politics and sociology, with accounting and finance 2nd, economics 3rd and linguistics 4th.

Strong financial performance

£170m

With a turnover in excess of £170m we are generating strong surpluses and are nearing completion of a capital investment programme in the region of £177m.

World leader in the social sciences

Our concentration of world-class social science research has established Essex as the UK’s leading university for the social sciences.

1st

We are ranked 1st for receipt of funding from the Economic and Social Research Council.

Largest collection

Our UK Data Archive is the UK’s largest collection of digital research data in the social sciences and humanities.

World’s largest

We are home to Understanding Society, at the internationally-acclaimed Institute for Social and Economic Research, the world’s largest and most ambitious longitudinal survey finding out how people really live in Britain.

In 2013 Her Majesty The Queen awarded our University a Regius Professorship in Political Science – one of only two universities in the social sciences and one of the youngest universities to hold such an award.

The UK’s international university

Internationalism is key to enhancing the diversity and equality of our community.

40%

40% of our students are from overseas and we have one of the most diverse faculties in the UK.

Queen’s Anniversary Prize

In 2009 we were awarded the Queen’s Anniversary Prize for pioneering work in international human rights.

2%

A truly international reputation – we are ranked in the top 2% of world universities.

We are ranked third among UK’s young universities in THE world ranking.

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Equality and diversity

Holders of an Athena SWAN Bronze Institution Award.

One of the first universities to achieve an Institutional Gender Equality Charter Mark.

1st

One of only six universities to achieve ten out of ten in Stonewall’s Gay by Degree Guide 2015.

130

Over 130 countries are represented on campus.
Our faculties and professional services

Our University is organised around three academic faculties, each led by an Executive Dean with specific responsibility to the Vice-Chancellor for budget, education and research performance and staffing issues, and ten professional services sections, each led by a Head of Section, responsible to the Registrar and Secretary.

Faculty of Humanities
The Faculty fosters creative and critical thinking applied to human practices and the creative arts, taking an interdisciplinary approach to applying fundamental theoretical and practice-led inquiries to the ethical and cultural challenges of the 21st century. The Faculty’s world-class research strength was confirmed by the most recent Research Assessment Exercise (RAE 2008) which ranked history second, art history ninth and philosophy tenth.

The Faculty of Humanities comprises: East 15 Acting School, Department of History, Human Rights Centre, The International Academy, School of Law, Department of Literature, Film, and Theatre Studies, School of Philosophy and Art History. Some 190 academic and research staff work in these departments and schools, supported by 95 administrative, technical and other staff. The Faculty hosts 3,500 students and has an income of £30m.

Faculty of Science and Health
Internationally acknowledged as leaders in pure and applied human sciences and information technologies, we have internationally recognised expertise in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. We apply fundamental research to real-world problems, from understanding Alzheimer’s disease to using robotic fish to monitor the environment, and have partnerships with multinational companies, such as BT and Mitsubishi, through to local SMEs, NHS Trusts and environmental organisations.

Our state-of-the-art facilities include our £1.5m Networked Media Laboratory; our £3m Centre for Brain Science and our £3m Centre for Tropical Research Aquarium. Some 275 academic and research staff work in these departments and schools and are supported by 170 administrative and technical staff. The Faculty hosts 4,250 students and has an income of £40m.

Faculty of Social Sciences
The Faculty of Social Sciences boasts an outstanding international research reputation that places the University as the top university for social sciences in the UK, as confirmed by the most recent Research Assessment Exercise (RAE, 2008), and in the top 100 in the world, with politics and sociology ranked first, economics third and linguistics fourth nationally. Essex Business School was ranked second in the UK for accounting and finance research. The Faculty is also home to three internationally renowned ESRC-funded centres in the social sciences – the Institute for Social and Economic Research (ISER), the Research Centre on Micro-social Change and the UK Data Archive.

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Professional Services sections
Our Professional Services support the University in achieving excellence in education and research, through the delivery of efficient and effective services to the University community and the provision of an environment in which excellence can be achieved.

There are ten sections within Professional Services, aligned to the principal areas of the University’s business operations: Academic Section, Campus Services, Communications and External Relations, Finance, Estate Management, Human Resources, Information Systems Services, Strategic Planning and Change, Research and Enterprise Office. Some 1,031 staff work within these sections.

Professional services staff share a commitment to deliver integrated partnership working, based on a mutual respect for the essential but different roles of our academic and professional communities. Our central teams focus on institution-wide or specialist services, while members of professional services working within departments and faculties deliver subject-specific support. A number of roles are co-located in both a central team and an academic area to ensure the optimum impact of professional services in those areas which require very close partnership working. With this range of models, we can ensure that the expertise and experience within professional services can be deployed effectively to support the provision of excellent education and research.
A great place to work

Our community comprises 12,000 students and 2,200 staff based at three distinctive campuses each with their own individual atmosphere and characteristics, but all offering a friendly and supportive community. Watch our We are Essex – are you? video to hear why our staff love working here.

Colchester Campus
Our original campus is set in the historic Wivenhoe Park, painted by Constable, and is located three miles from Colchester, Britain’s oldest recorded town. In the 1960s, it was the site of a radical new project for higher education and is now home to 10,500 students. The architecture of Essex was designed to embody the ideals of the campus university and town planning principles were used to create a new academic city. At the heart of the campus are five interlinked squares, designed to remove barriers between staff and students, to take learning outside the confines of the classroom and to engender community spirit — all things that you still find here today. Watch our Colchester Campus time lapse for a flavour.

Loughton Campus
Colchester, Britain’s oldest recorded town and Roman capital, offers a rich mix of history and culture; the cobbled lanes in the Dutch Quarter and the historic Roman remains nestled among modern architecture are constant reminders of Colchester’s past.

Loughdon’s flourishing arts scene has been further enhanced recently by the development of its site, a contemporary visual arts facility. Only five minutes away, Colchester Arts Centre, housed in a converted church, promotes an eclectic mix of contemporary performance arts, comedy and music, and has a reputation for presenting cutting-edge work and high-quality artists. Colchester is also home to a Norman keep and the Castle Museum which takes you through 2,000 years of British history. Slightly further afield, the north Essex landscape of picturesque villages and rolling countryside challenges commonly held preconceptions of our county and is a peaceful and interesting place to explore.

Colchester boasts one of the top state schools in the country being ranked 1st nationally for A-level results and 7th for GCSEs. It also has good transport links, having a fast train line into London, and is only 35 miles from London Stansted airport.

Southend Campus
Our newest campus is located in the heart of Southend-on-Sea, which combines the charm of a traditional seaside resort with a modern and lively university town where everything is on your doorstep. Our University occupies a pivotal role in the development and prosperity of Southend, being prominently embedded within the community. 1,000 students study across the town centre in our campus buildings. Watch our Southend Campus time lapse for a taster.

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Loughton
Loughton offers easy access to the rich, cultural diversity of London on the one hand and to the natural beauty of the ancient Epping Forest on the other, ideal for leisure pursuits including walking, running, cycling and horse riding. The residential area around Loughton offers a wide variety of shops, restaurants, pubs and cafes and has a leisure centre providing gym and pool facilities.

Loughton is located close to the M25 and M11, giving direct access to airports and the rest of the UK. Getting into central London is easy too; Debden underground station is just a five minute walk away from where it takes under 30 minutes to reach the city.

Southend
Southend has a burgeoning cultural scene, with three theatres, numerous art galleries, fledgling creative industries businesses, and is home to arts organisation Metal. There is a thriving live music scene and the town also holds the purple flag — the gold standard for night time destinations. Slightly further afield, visitors and residents can discover the fishing and arts communities in Leigh-on-Sea and enjoy its independent shops and café culture.

Southend has an unusually high proportion of grammar schools, with three being ranked in the top 75 nationally for A-level performance. Southend boasts two train lines and two arterial roads into central London, which is just 40 miles away, and an airport from where you can fly to a range of European destinations.

Essex is a county of enormous contrasts and surprising variety; it has rural, urban and coastal habitats with distinct cultures and histories.

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