

2020-21 ANNUAL REVIEW



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WELCOME

We started the year with ambitious plans. This would be a 'year of transition' as we accelerated our journey to 2030, diversifying our portfolio, developing our learning environments and championing transdisciplinarity; preparing our graduates to thrive in the Creative Industries of the future and 'doing it for real'.

In reality, it certainly was not the year any of us had envisaged. None of us could have foreseen the events that would unfold as the global pandemic gained momentum, challenging every aspect of our operations and requiring us to reassess how we educate, learn and research.

We must acknowledge the disruption and distress caused by the pandemic, but we must also celebrate the resilience and resourcefulness that was shown by our staff and students as we navigated these turbulent times. As we negotiated public health restrictions, re-opening our doors in September only to have to close them again before Christmas with further national lockdowns, Falmouth's community reacted with understanding and ingenuity. As we responded to and recovered from the crisis, they continued to create, collaborate and inspire.

There is much to be proud of in these pages – proof that by working in partnership, across disciplines and within business, we are continually moving forward with confidence.

What I have seen our staff and students achieve over the past year is remarkable. Despite the exceptional difficulties, Falmouth and its creative, connected and courageous people managed to provide a special academic experience, ground-breaking research and exciting innovation and enterprise.



Professor Anne Carlisle OBE
Vice-Chancellor & Chief Executive



OUR YEAR AT A GLANCE

4,687 UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS
ON CAMPUS

213 POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS
ON CAMPUS

1,612 STUDENTS STUDYING ONLINE

730 INTERNATIONAL/EU STUDENTS,
FROM **85** COUNTRIES WORLDWIDE



The Games Academy is ranked as one of the top 30 games schools in the world

 **CAPITAL ONTAP**

Falmouth University graduates are the most likely in the UK to start or manage a business



Our employability service RealWORKS wins the Strategic Innovation Award

RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND ENTERPRISE



Blending creativity with
technology to help young
people affected by trauma

Healing power

THE role of creativity in tackling the effects of trauma is central to ATTUNE, a four-year research programme aimed at mitigating the effects of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) in children and young adults. In June, it was announced that a national consortium jointly led by Falmouth University and Oxford University had been awarded £3.8m, funded by UK Research and Innovation, for the project which hopes to spark a change in the way mental health is understood and then addressed by community services.

The study will draw on creative practices to help young people tell their stories and outline their preferences for treatment, using their responses to find impactful opportunities for protecting their mental health during adolescence. Researchers and young participants will then co-design a 'serious game' at Falmouth's Game Academy, to test the potential of gaming technology in prevention and therapeutics for a more personalised solution to mental trauma.

"Blending technology, psychology and cutting-edge creative practice to develop products and services is a bold step,"

said Anna Mankee-Williams, Senior Research Fellow in Technology and Innovation in Health and Care at Falmouth.

"This collaborative work will help us sharpen our focus on the best ways of supporting young people who've experienced ACEs."



The powerful combination of creativity and technology has potential to change lives and shape a better future, offering solutions to the grand challenges of our age. At Falmouth, we are constantly pushing the frontiers of knowledge and discovery.



Lecturer establishes historic Royal Musical Association study group

Further research achievements over the year include...

... one of just ten fellowships awarded globally by the Royal Geographic Society (RGS). Dr Sherezade Garcia Rangel, BA Creative Writing Online course leader, will take a creative expedition through the history of her home nation in *Unbound Beauty: Venezuela according to the Wiley Digital Archive*.

Numerous famous scientists and explorers, from Charles Darwin to Ernest Shackleton, have received RGS backing during their lives, so Sherezade will be in illustrious company as she delves into the archival materials to interpret Venezuela's past. Some may view the digital resources of the 191-year-old scientific society as an unusual habitat for a Creative Writing lecturer, but not so Sherezade.

"Creative writing can be malleable and used as a tool for research," she explained.

"Our research is no less rigorous or academic than that by our STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) subject colleagues."

... the creation of a Popular Music Study Group at the Royal Musical Association (RMA), the first group of its kind to be established in the RMA's 147-year history. Dr D Ferrett, Falmouth's Senior Lecturer in Popular Music and one of the four academics involved in the collaboration, explained how the RMA's acceptance of this group provides a platform for debate and discussion.

"As musicians and academics, we want to ask why the study of popular music is valuable culturally, socially, politically and so on," said D, who explained that the way popular music is studied differs from traditional musicological analysis. "Moreover, who does it include and leave out?"

The group will reach out to a wider field of academics and experts, too, creating an inclusive framework of study.



... further recognition for Falmouth's Sound/Image Cinema Lab, the production and research hub at the School of Film & Television. The Lab received an Innovative Education award at the University Industry Innovation Network ceremony, where Dr Neil Fox was also recognised as a 'boundary-spanning champion' for his approach to the relationship between industry and academia.

The Lab gives Falmouth students and graduates access to real-world filmmaking experiences, both building confidence in their skillset and accelerating career development. After the success of his BAFTA award-winning feature *Bait*, lecturer Mark Jenkin is drawing on Lab assistance for his next film, *Enys Men*.

"With the right support, film students – particularly undergraduates – are capable of stepping up to the challenge of working on a professional feature film."

Dr Neil Fox, Senior Lecturer, School of Film & Television



Success for Falmouth's
Sound/Image Cinema Lab

Total immersion

Spring 2021 saw the launch of Immersive Business, which enables small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly to explore and apply virtual, augmented and mixed reality technologies.

Led by Falmouth University, in partnership with the University of Exeter, this two-year programme is part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund and based at a new, state-of-the-art facility on the Penryn Campus. Eligible SMEs can access support, expert technical advice and the latest academic research through a collaborative approach to the development of new products, experiences or productivity tools.

Embracing immersive technology, with help from Immersive Business, can give these emerging enterprises a crucial competitive edge – locally, nationally and globally.



Making wAVEs

Visitors to five small museums in Cornwall can now journey back through time to meet historical characters and see artefacts in their original settings, using virtual and augmented reality and other innovations such as haptic 'touchable' technology, developed by Falmouth University's research experts.

The wAVE (Augmented and Virtual Experiences) Project was developed by the Cornwall Museums Partnership and the Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Local Enterprise Partnership, in conjunction with Falmouth University, and funded by the Coastal Communities Fund. Combining future technologies with our rich cultural heritage, wAVE set out to transform the sector and drive economic diversification in the region – allowing visitors to re-live the region's dramatic and vivid past.

The wAVE project technology was installed after two years of work and has since generated a global network from Cornwall: the Museums Immersive Network (MIN), which aims to promote best practice, provide skills development opportunities and encourage new collaborations between immersive design and museums.



Future-focused museums
project comes alive





Exploring West Cornwall's
wild Tin Coast, with Data
Duopoly's new app

Letting them fly

A busy year for Launchpad saw continued success for the fledgling companies nurtured in this innovative post-graduate incubation and acceleration programme. Hosted and delivered here at Falmouth, Launchpad brings together software engineers, digital creatives and business people to solve industry challenges set by strategic partners.

It's a fast-moving environment; in just 12 months, founders build new high-growth, high-value digital businesses in Cornwall that are underpinned by a specially designed, one-year MSc Entrepreneurship programme. Despite the challenges of lockdown, the pace didn't slow.

Launchpad tech start-up Data Duopoly uses satellite data to enhance visitor experience in venues worldwide.

The Data Duopoly app tracks and monitors visitor distribution to give a unique, personalised digital experience. After receiving backing from several angel investors, which unlocked further funding from AeroSpace Cornwall and the European Space Agency, founders Tanuvi Ethunandan and Erin Morris were able to expand their team and accelerate product development – despite the pandemic.

A successful trial of the app at the Eden Project saw Data Duopoly team up with the Tin Coast Partnership, which comprises the National Trust, local businesses, charities and community groups, to develop the XplorTINCOAST app – an interactive experience for visitors to the tin mining World Heritage Site in West Cornwall.

The logo for Codices, featuring a stylized smiley face icon inside a circle followed by the word 'codices' in a bold, lowercase sans-serif font.

Over 3 million

The monthly active Quiz Kit users recorded by Launchpad lockdown success story Codices during the last quarter. The tech company creates live interactive game shows and has developed a new platform, which is in testing.



£33k AeroSpace funding
for Cornish start-up

Launchpad company Now & Then provides tools that create tailored guided tours for visitors to attractions and museums.

“Everywhere has a story to tell,” said company founder Mike Robinson. “We’re simply helping places to tell theirs.”

The Now & Then mobile application is triggered via GPS or Bluetooth when near historical places of interest, so that users can access information on their own phones – a Covid-safe, cost-effective and sustainable solution. An AeroSpace Cornwall grant of more than £33,000, which Mike can unlock once he receives match funding, will help propel the app towards its launch.

The Launchpad experience was a rollercoaster ride for indie games team Studio Somewhere.

Directors Cameron Shackleton and Adam Westerman reflected:

“Juggling making a game and studying, while learning how to build a company, was challenging. While tough, we feel we have come out the other side stronger.”

Studio Somewhere has since developed its first game, which has been released on the Nintendo Switch. Featuring momentum-based rolling and gliding controls, *Bonito Days* promises to transport players to a world of lazy summer days and less stressful times – a distant memory, perhaps for this high-flying duo.



Circa £4.4m

The recent fundraising valuation of Launchpad indie games start up Waving Bear Studio, who continue to develop their first title, the quick fire, first person shooter *Stuffed*.

MAKING FUTURE PEOPLE



Graduate lands exhibition at Selfridges, Oxford Street

Passers-by at Selfridges in Oxford Street were given a welcome glimpse of the cultural landscape they had come to miss, when Press & Editorial Photography graduate Marco Kessler's Sony World Photography awarded images were displayed across the windows of the store during the pandemic lockdown. Marco's exhibition, *A Return to Nature*, revealed the extraordinary worlds within polytunnels – from layers of algae on the protective plastic to self-seeded wildflowers and networks of animal nests. Supported by GRAIN and Arts Council England, the project explored the resilience of nature and finding beauty in unexpected places.

Press & Editorial Photography student Cameron Smith's images received acclaim at the British Sports Journalism Awards, which highlight some of the UK's best breakthrough talent. A spectacular series of stills, featuring a variety of sports from surfing to BMX, earned Cameron a place on the 'young sports photographer' category shortlist.



Student shortlisted at iconic Sports Journalism Awards

On St David's Day, an illustration by Falmouth graduate Elin Manon took centre stage on the world's most visited webpage. The Google 'doodle', inspired by Welsh mythology and Elin's own identity and upbringing, depicted the dragon that was said to reside beneath the castle of fifth century warlord King Vortigen.



Despite challenges, our students continued to create, collaborate and inspire.



Student claims the Architects' Journal Prize

A project detailing the regeneration of an historic Cornish mining town earned BA(Hons) Architecture student Louis Domville-Musters the prestigious 2021 Architects' Journal Student Prize. Sited in Camborne and bringing together a mix of public spaces, museum exhibits and workshops, the visualisation celebrated the work of one of Cornwall's great inventors, Richard Trevithick.

Louis' entry was outstanding among a competitive field, which featured work from some of the brightest young architecture students in the UK.

According to course tutors Toby Carr and Tom Ebdon, the work demonstrated the core skills of an architecture student:

"... the ability to listen and understand people and places, and to translate that understanding into a compelling piece of architecture that can look back to the history and context of a site and critically suggest a future that is unapologetic in its bright vision."



A powerful response to the pandemic

A powerful short film made in response to the pandemic explores the rhythmic processes of making NHS Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). BA(Hons) Dance & Choreography graduate Maria Evans, who created 2020 Rhythms, explained: "By capturing found movement of key workers, the screen becomes the dance, where each person is a vital cog in a larger process."

Commissioned by East London Dance through their The Fi.ELD (Future Innovators. East London Dance) programme, the film premiered at MESA, an interactive, online multi-arts festival.

"2020 Rhythms presents humanity in the year's fluctuating rhythms of emotion – our pulling apart and our coming together."

Maria Evans (Dance & Choreography, 2020)



Described as “a cabinet of illustrative curiosities”, **Wunderkammer** continued to inspire by moving online – allowing creative minds to meet virtually. Masterminded by Head of Illustration Keryn Bibby and stuffed with examples of Illustration coursework, alongside alumni case studies, notable student commissions and the latest industry news, the showcase is designed to put student talent on the radar of industry partners.

Third-year Fashion Photography student Layna Miyazaki’s short film *Another Day* was exhibited by SHOWstudio, an award-winning fashion website founded and directed by British fashion photographer Nick Knight. Layna created the film for her final year client brief project, during which she was mentored by artist Amy Gwatkin.

“At a difficult time, this really brought light to my final year,” said Layna, who described *Another Day* as the accumulation of three years of artistic development. She added:

“The Fashion Photography course has incredible facilities and offers many opportunities for students to gain industry experience and to develop and create work.”



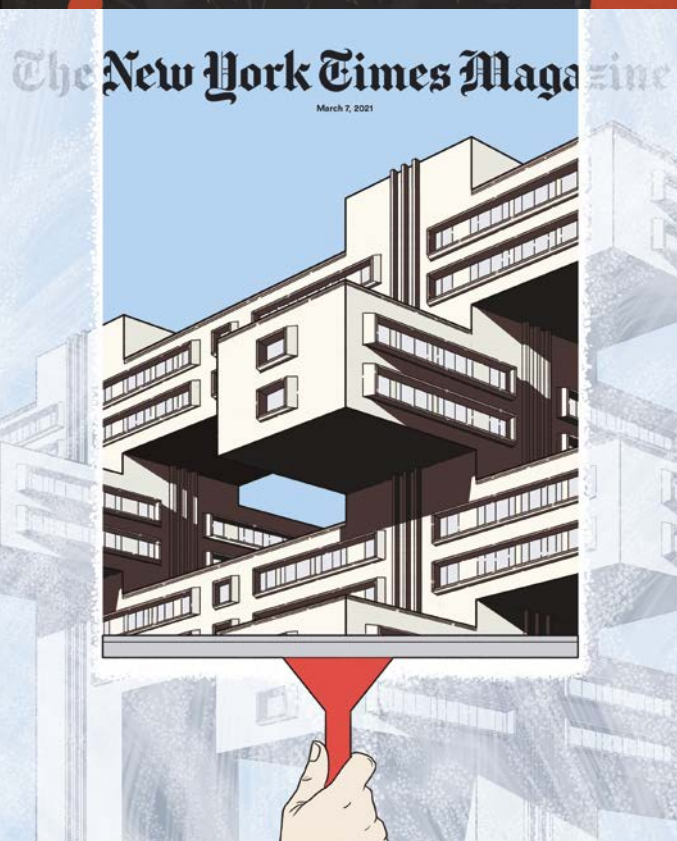


Creative Advertising and Illustration students and graduates excelled at the annual Design and Advertising (D&AD) New Blood Awards. Competing alongside more than 6,000 student creatives from more than 60 countries, Falmouth's Creative Advertising teams scooped six 'Pencils' (white, graphite and wood), while six Illustration students were listed as 'ones to watch' in the Festival Portfolio Picks.

Highlights included 'Coors Unplugged', a guide to making music from the humble beer bottle, by Georgia Lamb and Louis Friedlander, and 'Wise Up To Words' by Chris Will and Freya Williams – exploring how stories and lives shared through rap have the potential to educate and inspire.

"These hard won and highly respected awards will certainly give a kick-start to their careers."

Jono Wardle, Senior Lecturer, BA(Hons) Creative Advertising



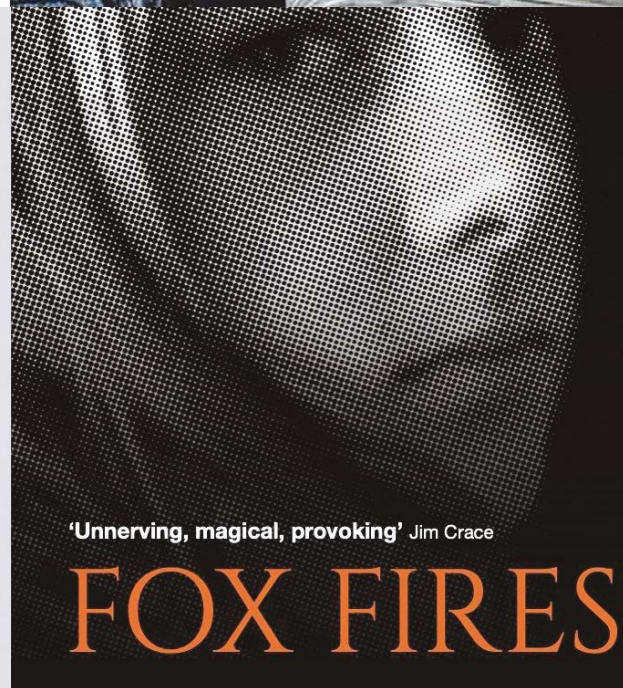
Staff success stories

'Orangutan, Adult, Pongo Pygmaeus' Fiona Sperryn, Associate Lecturer in Textile Design, won a Highly Commended award at the Wildlife Artist of the Year for a portrait woven with natural fibres.

'Hand' A reflective essay on living with early onset Parkinson's disease, by Associate Lecturer in Film Brett Harvey, reached significant audiences on YouTube and the Parkinson's UK Facebook page.

'Fox Fires' Following the success of his Man Booker-longlisted debut, *The Many*, Creative Writing lecturer Wyl Menmuir's "moving, mesmerising" second novel was released at an online launch.

'Wilderness' Associate Professor Neil Fox's internationally acclaimed portrayal of a jazz world romance, crewed by staff and students, was released for streaming across major digital platforms.





DOING IT DIFFERENTLY



Looking forward

What will our future learning and working environments look like, or consist of? It's a core question in our 2030 Strategy, which outlines our drive towards learning that's flexible across platforms and working environments.

The pandemic accelerated our existing plans to adopt digitally enhanced learning. We couldn't always meet face to face with our students, but we could explore the opportunities created by new technology to foster understanding and resilience. These exceptional circumstances afforded us the chance to reconsider the traditional format of campus-based educational delivery, in line with our 2030 Strategy, laying important foundations for the future.

We also grew our online portfolio by launching postgraduate courses in Fine Art and Film & Television, and undergraduate degrees in Creative Writing and Visual Communication, which are developed, marketed and taught in house.

Speaking out

From business moguls and sports stars to comedians, creators and international explorers, Falmouth's new accessible, online Guest Speaker Programme kicked off in December with an eclectic line-up. Designed to encourage cross-disciplinary collaboration as a catalyst for innovation, the programme offers students the opportunity to hear from experts across all sectors and specialisms.

First up was best-selling author, broadcaster and BAFTA winner Danny Wallace, who answered questions ranging from how to stay productive during the pandemic to what it was like to write and voice a lead character in the game series *Assassin's Creed*.

The event host and Director of the School of Communication, Paul Springer, said: "Danny's career has been about achieving what Falmouth students are capable of – creating opportunities that capture people's imagination, even in challenging times."

Our constantly evolving curriculum integrates educational excellence, research and innovation into every one of our nine academic departments.



Working in partnership
with Gorton Studio

Creating connections

By working in partnership with a select group of specialist institutions, Falmouth has created greater opportunities for students – enabling us to unlock their potential, optimise their employability and offer them the option of studying for a Falmouth degree from a greater range of locations.

Exciting collaborations with industry-leading organisations, including the Eden Project and Fashion Retail Academy, as well as specialist educators across the globe, enhance our course portfolio at different levels.

Our partnership with Gorton Studio has seen the introduction of an intensive, practice-focused postgraduate degree in Prosthetic Effects, based partly at our campus and at state-of-the-art facilities offered by Gorton Studio and sister company Millennium FX.

In November, we strengthened a successful partnership with WaterBear, the College of Music in Brighton, which offers industry-focused and internationally recognised degrees. These include BA(Hons) Career Musician and MA Music Entrepreneur, which are awarded by Falmouth University and delivered in Brighton and online.

By investing in WaterBear and taking a seat on its board, we are perfectly positioned to support career musicians with industry and professional expertise – creating confident, flexible and entrepreneurial graduates, ready to contribute to the creative economy.

An aerial photograph of a university campus, featuring various buildings, green spaces, and a winding path, is centered on a globe. The globe is set against a background of a blue sky with wispy white clouds. The campus is surrounded by lush green fields and some distant buildings.

TAKING CORNWALL GLOBAL

Hatch report highlights:

£100m GVA (Gross Value Added) contribution to Cornwall's economy, which is equivalent to **£1** in every £109 of economic activity in the county

2,030 full time equivalent jobs supported in Cornwall

x2 it is estimated that these figures will double by 2030

While our work delivers outputs with global impact, our approach is firmly rooted in the needs of our local community.

As the only university headquartered in Cornwall, driving the region's economy is at the heart of our mission. Falmouth's substantial economic contribution to the community, and in turn to the wider UK economy, became apparent with the release of a new independent economic study undertaken by Hatch.



Breaking down barriers

The University's reach into local and national communities was bolstered by the launch of our Raising Aspirations Programme, which aims to remove some of the barriers that underrepresented students face when applying to university. The programme seeks to widen participation and improve opportunities, through the support of high-quality provision in schools and colleges across the UK.

Our Raising Aspirations Ambassadors act as role models to provide students with inspiration and information about university life. We believe that anyone with talent and potential should be able to study with us, regardless of their background.

Community support

As the pandemic progressed, the University's Fashion & Textiles Institute continued to provide hands-on help by collaborating with Cornwall Scrubs to produce NHS-standard PPE items for frontline staff in hospitals across the county.

We also responded with funding for Covid marshals, brought into the Falmouth and Penryn area to ensure that students, residents and visitors followed social distancing rules and to help allay community concerns. The marshals, funded in conjunction with the University of Exeter and in cooperation with the Falmouth Town Team, patrolled beaches, town centres and residential areas from 4pm to 4am each day.



A recipe for success

More than 150 Cornish businesses have engaged with Launchpad Outreach, a business support programme initiated by Falmouth University and fully funded by the European Regional Development Fund. Throughout the pandemic, the Launchpad Outreach team continued to offer fully bespoke and flexible support, helping local small and medium-sized enterprises to adapt and survive – with many going on to launch new products or services.

This summer, The Cake Professionals called upon Launchpad Outreach support to run the first ever UK-wide survey of the custom cake world. We caught up with the Cornwall-based company to find out how the process worked.

Q. What did you hope to achieve?

A. We had the idea and the contacts for the survey, but we lacked the expertise to execute it. The involvement of Launchpad Outreach was a complete game changer. We launched a national survey that garnered an amazing 2,817 responses.

Q. How will your business benefit?

A. The results gathered are helping us shape our business strategy based on hard data, rather than best guesses. The data has also been made available to other cake-related businesses, so that they can provide better services and products.

Q. So, Launchpad Outreach provided some key ingredients for growing your business?

A. Yes, absolutely. The survey and analysis enabled us to gather 30,000 points of information. This informs not just the development of our business, but our clients' businesses, too.



On the international stage

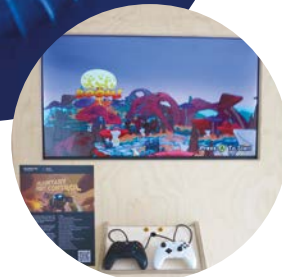
When the world arrived in Cornwall during the G7 in June, in collaboration with Cornwall Council, Falmouth University was proud to host the 'Cornwall House' – a showcase of the best of Cornish innovation, manufacturing and enterprise.

This included:


An installation from the Games Academy, including games made by our students

A demonstration of the wAVE project, where visitors could explore one of its immersive experiences

An exhibition by Marine & Natural History Photography students on the theme of sustainability



STEPS TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY



Since 2019 we've been advancing our Sustainability Strategy. We recognised that, as a future-focused, innovative Higher Education institution, we have a responsibility to educate our students – and our staff – as future global citizens, while creating a campus environment that adopts and enables sustainability best practice.

Then the pandemic struck. While our on-campus activity was grounded, our sustainability commitments remained steadfast. We capitalised on campus closures and remote working to further progress our Sustainability Strategy, laying the groundwork for some truly sector-leading sustainability initiatives.

In recognition of the threat that climate change and biodiversity collapse pose to the environment, together with our need to act, Falmouth University declared a climate and ecological emergency.



We took positive steps towards our goals, by...

... creating our first Annual Sustainability Report, enabling us to measure progress against our Sustainability Policy, demonstrate our commitment to transparency and showcase our sustainability achievements during each academic year.

... preparing to reshape our curriculum framework, embedding new Sustainability Learning Objectives into every course, using a home grown tool and approach. This will ensure that all Falmouth's graduates leave university not only understanding the importance of sustainability and their responsibilities, but also equipped to make change throughout their personal and professional lives.

... using the 'Greenstone' software to generate our first industry-standard carbon profile. This will provide richer data and analytics that will enable our Sustainability team to produce an annual emission profile to evidence progress towards our net zero targets.

... forming new partnerships. We became a profiled university with the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, which recognises how we embrace circular economy related principles. We also joined the COP26 Universities Network, working with other UK universities to raise awareness and ambition among academic communities and the public to move towards a zero-carbon, resilient world.

... scrutinising our purchasing and procurement, introducing sustainability scoring to all new tenders and implementing the NETPositive tool, which will help us ensure we're supporting sustainability minded suppliers and improve our purchasing habits.

... trialling two new workshops for students and staff, exploring carbon footprints and eco-anxiety, to help our campus community understand some of the key challenges faced in light of the climate and ecological crises, enabling them to step up and make positive changes. We also developed an induction video for sustainability, which was made available to new and returning students.

... developing a 'Carbon Neutrality by 2040' roadmap, providing a clear outline of the key projects and costs, and a timeline, that will enable us to achieve our 2040 target of making our electricity and gas usage carbon neutral.

Sustainability snippets

Penryn campus was awarded a bronze accreditation by the Hedgehog Friendly Campus programme run by the British Hedgehog Preservation Society (BHPS), for initiatives implemented over the year.

We maintained an additional 4.5 acres of wildflower meadow, increasing floral diversity across both campuses and providing supportive foundations for a more biodiverse habitat.

Our Grounds team documented our floral diversity by completing another Every Flower Counts survey, concluding that this supports an estimated 146,065 bees every day during summer months.

For the fourth year running, the Penryn Campus gardens and grounds received a Green Flag Award – which recognises high environmental standards, superior maintenance and excellent visitor facilities.

Falmouth University was ranked as a top 10 Institution by the 2021 SDG Teach In, a campaign to put sustainability at the heart of education.





Falmouth graduate exposes a global coffee crisis

Sowing the seeds

Despite the whole world pressing pause, and as a result reducing some carbon-intensive activities, 2020 remained the hottest year on record. Our Sustainability Week in early March was designed to prompt conversations around environmental issues, comprising a packed digital programme – from guest speaker sessions and workshops on topics such as rewilding and carbon capture technology, to a live screening of The World Forest Organisation's *Trees Are The Key* documentary.

Students and staff were encouraged to explore five pressing themes: sustainable lifestyles; energy and resources; ecotherapy, nature and wellbeing; biodiversity and conservation, and future thinking.

Making it happen

Our sustainability drive encompasses big ambitions and hands-on action, reflected through work by students and graduates.

A world without coffee? Aspiring filmmaker and photographer Hedvika Michnova explored the possibility in her new documentary *It's Bean Too Hot*. The Marine & Natural History Photography BA(Hons) graduate exposed how the climate emergency is having an impact on coffee farmers in Tanzania and Costa Rica – and how smallholders are fighting to reverse the damage.

Falmouth's MA Architecture students partnered with Brickfield, a community brickworks based in a disused clay pit in St Austell, to learn sustainable craft skills. The students helped to connect local residents with the history and heritage of brick making in the area by building experimental pavilions to test brick-building technologies.

Projects that create sustainable uses for extraction waste are highly valued, since every tonne of usable china clay that is mined creates nine tonnes of waste.

Textile Design graduate Jane Gray's sustainable artwork was showcased by the Craft Council's Future Edit. Her beautiful and biodegradable Mottainai paper structures, produced by weaving dried plants into Japanese paper yarn, were inspired by walks along local beaches and through wooded areas. She said:

"Nature is a therapy and a balance for life's stresses."



Architecture students test brick-building technologies

SHAPING STUDENT EXPERIENCE

A world-class environment

Spread across two campuses, Falmouth's dynamic facilities have been carefully designed to help students succeed in their chosen profession. Over the past year we've invested £5m to further transform the student experience across both sites, creating high-quality, flexible learning spaces and vibrant social environments.

The Exchange Courtyard Building at Penryn is a brand-new development that features 16 shared teaching zones and larger communal study areas. We've opened a new bar café and also the Sustainability Café, creating a range of enticing options for learning or downtime.

Further developments include facilities for life drawing and prosthetics, a robotics lab and a Games Academy teaching suite. Additions to the Design Centre include a costume wardrobe, archive and shop, as well as increased collaboration spaces, while students of the School of Film & Television can now access twice the number of post-production suites and stop-motion facilities. For aspiring underwater photographers, we opened a new dive store.

At the Falmouth campus, we created additional studio spaces to accommodate the growth of our School of Architecture, Design & Interiors.



There was much to celebrate on our return to campus in March, from the development of our world-class facilities to new wellbeing and support measures to ease staff and students back to university life.



Student support

We're proud of our university environment, but we recognised that a return to campus could prove challenging after such unsettling times. With this in mind, we launched Springboard Studios – a free, guided programme of creative activities to help students destress and find confidence.

As part of our RealWORKS employability services, and funded by the European Social Fund, the programme comprises engaging, uplifting, creative sessions designed to give focus, reduce worry and stimulate curiosity. Available live online or as pre-recorded sessions, the activities range from learning to draw to developing confidence in delivering presentations, pitches or interviews.





A helping hand

With the uncertainties and upheavals prompted by the pandemic, a few bumps in the road back to normality were only to be expected. Students returning to university or starting their first year were offered a little extra help with the introduction of a proactive Learning and Teaching Student Advisor Service, which was planned prior to the pandemic and launched in November.

More than a third of the student population benefited from the service, which joined up the support already available and focused on students whose circumstances affected their ability to engage with their studies. From anxiety to sleeplessness and other student life concerns, they can access reassurance and guidance for a range of issues.

After receiving support through the new service, one student commented: "To you it may not seem like much, but it has helped me a lot."



THE JOURNEY AHEAD

As we reflect on the year's events, the role of creativity in a time of crisis becomes ever more apparent. It is essential to our wellbeing and our engagement with the world, and of significant value to the recovery and future growth of the economy.

Falmouth's commitment to keeping our people creative, connected and courageous will continue, as we work on the delivery of our 2030 strategy.

From our cutting-edge course portfolio and the development of our impactful research and innovation, to the embedding of sustainability across our curriculum, we're motivated to make change through creative thinking, imagination and collaboration.

“The creative arts are not luxuries or diversions, they are the hallmark of a civilised society and how we learn to be proper, interesting, unique humans.”

Dawn French, Chancellor



