# Annual Review 2022/2023

## Welcome

“We’ve been described as a ‘go-ahead institution with ambition for our students’, and that commitment has not wavered during the last 12 months with a string of awards and accolades to reaffirm our dedication to our students, staff, partners and community.

The University is celebrating its highest-ever position of 35th in the 2024 Guardian University Guide. This year’s result is the first time the University has reached the top third of the annual league table, which judges criteria including student satisfaction and spend per student.

Edge Hill was also listed top four in the North West in the recent Complete University Guide 2024, another of the most prestigious league tables for universities in the UK.

This year, we’re celebrating 90 years at our stunning Ormskirk Campus, and in that time, we’ve inspired minds and changed futures. In 90 years, we've surpassed our goals and exceeded expectations.

Edge Hill is a special, surprising place and our ethos of putting students at the heart of everything we do remains our number one priority.

Do come and see for yourself one of the very best University campuses in the country.”

Dr John Cater Vice-Chancellor.

“Edge Hill is a University whose values, mission and vision I’m absolutely aligned with. The fact that Edge Hill was the first non-denominational teacher training college for women was really important. To be building on the work of pioneers is an absolute privilege.

I love the fact that the University continues to explore themes of social justice in its research and public engagement. And I love the fact that Edge Hill has a higher percentage of first in family members coming to the University than the average.

Edge Hill’s motto, ‘opportunity through knowledge’, and their ambition to inspire minds and change futures says it all – the University is expanding the horizons of thousands of young people year after year and I can’t wait to be part of that.”

New Chancellor Dawn Airy, Sport and media executive and diversity champion.

## Employability

We apply real world knowledge to our teaching. Educating students to know exactly what employers are looking for in competitive job markets.

95.6% of our students are employed or in further study 15 months after graduating, according to Graduate Outcomes data released in 2023.

We’re proud to be educating tomorrow’s workforce. No university trains more teachers, and Edge Hill is now amongst the top half-dozen providers of health and social care professionals to the NHS.

## Facilities

We are 1st in the UK for our accommodation, voted by students in the Uni Compare rankings 2023.

3rd in the UK for university facilities, Whatuni Student Choice Awards 2023.

## Green

Our campus is recognised as one of the UK’s best green spaces and has been awarded Green Flag status for the 12th year running, with a Gold Tier award for our commitment to being green in the USwitch rankings.

## Student Support

We gave out over £635k in scholarships, bursaries, awards, recognising some of the University’s most talented and motivated students.

6,005 free breakfasts given away to our commuting students to help with the cost of living as part of a bumper package of support.

## Business support

Our SME Productivity and Innovation Centre’s Leading Lancashire Programme has helped over 900 employees from 340 SMEs - 500 of whom were female leaders - to develop their leadership skills. This was recognised with a Community Engagement Award at the Educate North Awards 2023.

## Community

We brought together more than 90 community groups and organisations across Lancashire to explore ideas and set out new collaborative plans around climate action at our first ever Lancashire Community Action Forum. The event reaffirmed the University’s commitment to play our part in helping Lancashire advance its climate action efforts. A new network has been established to ensure the community voice feeds into the ambitious Lancashire 2050 plans.

## Research

We have been awarded more than £2.1m over the last year which will enable us to continue our research to support healthy populations and create sustainable futures.

This included our leading researchers working closely with Everton in the Community (EitC) to support the creation of the People’s Place in Liverpool. The multi-million-pound hub adopts a unique ‘one-stop shop’ approach grounded in their findings. This will provide a blueprint for future community mental health and well-being services in other areas.

In another research win, for the first time, the University has received sought-after funding from the Academy of Medical Sciences for a major new project looking into how to prevent heart conditions from damaging the brain. It will be led by emerging researcher neuroscientist Dr Adjanie Patabendige.

## Campus

£52.3m has been earmarked to advance the University’s ambitious growth plans. The investment will be used to build a new state-of-the-art Life Sciences building to enhance the teaching environment; 232 residential rooms in response to high demand for accommodation on campus; and a new Students’ Union to enhance the student experience.

## Inclusion

Inclusion and a sense of belonging is at the heart of the Edge Hill experience. In recognition of our work in this area we scooped the Social Mobility Award at the Educate North Awards 2023 for our Student Advisory Panels initiative. The panels allow students to play a full role in guiding University events, policy and projects, while also boosting diversity and inclusion.

## New Professors

We have welcomed seven new Professors to our academic community, with expertise spanning artificial intelligence, molecular cell biology and musculoskeletal research to health, education and psychology. We host inaugural lectures to celebrate their achievements. Keep an eye out for dates, where you can meet our new Professors [www.edgehill.ac.uk/events](http://www.edgehill.ac.uk/events).

## Partnerships

Our Faculty of Health, Social Care and Medicine won Partnership of the Year at the 2023 Student Nursing Times Awards for their work with Sefton Training Hub. The award recognised their hugely successful project highlighting the importance of placing learning disability specialist students in primary care.

## Teaching Excellence

We hosted our 26th Centre for Learning and Teaching and SOLSTICE international conference celebrating our commitment to excellence in learning and teaching. Delegates across the globe were able to discuss diverse topics from AI, student engagement and employability to teacher education.

## Economic Impact

Edge Hill contributes a huge £175.9m to the economy each year and is the biggest employer in West Lancashire. The figures, published in May 2022, demonstrate our key role in driving economic growth and job creation and show how our 14,600+ students also make a significant contribution to the economy through student spend and activities such as volunteering.

## New Courses

Our portfolio has been expanded and diversified to meet the needs of the future workforce and includes Engineering, Biochemistry, Medicine and Politics. New courses that we’ll offer from 2024/25 to expand our STEM offering include Mathematics, Physics, and Chemistry.

We have also partnered with Wigan and Leigh College to offer a new teaching degree course in the town. The part-time BA (Hons) Primary Education with QTS course provides residents from Wigan and the surrounding area an opportunity to study a teaching degree locally.

## Collaboration

We unveiled a new North West Imaging Academy (NWIA) on campus during 2022, which aims to transform the NHS imaging workforce. It is a collaboration between a wide range of key partners including the North West School of Radiology, NHS trusts and universities, and coordinated through the Training Hub at Edge Hill’s Medical School.

## Graduations

17 ceremonies, 3,843 graduates, 3 new honorary doctors and a new Chancellor later, it was a bumper celebration to mark graduations in July. The University officially installed sport and media executive and trailblazer Dawn Airey as our new Chancellor. Award-winning journalist Clive Myrie and business leaders James Timpson OBE and Sir Terry Leahy.

Congratulations to the Class of 2023.