



## **Preface from the Vice-Chancellor**

Welcome to the University of Buckingham Handbook 2012.

Buckingham is Britain's only independent university, created over thirty years ago to show that independence provided a better education than did direction from the state. In 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 the University was voted top of the National Student Survey, a national poll of undergraduate students conducted on behalf of the Government by the independent research organisation Ipsos MORI. The survey is important for us because it is an indicator of the satisfaction levels of our students. Being voted into first place for five consecutive years is an endorsement of the value of a University of Buckingham degree and, most importantly, it is our students' view of the quality of life at the University.

This Handbook provides essential information on our programmes of study and is packed with useful general information about the additional support available to students and staff. It also provides some insight into the range and diversity of activity at the University. However young and dynamic we may be, we are – rightly – bound by our Royal Charter to operate within a system of governance that ensures that our activities are conducted to the highest standards and that interactions between members of the University are conducted to high levels of probity, transparency and equity. The Handbook contains details of our committees and our regulations.

This is one of a series of Handbooks published by the University, which includes the Governance Handbook, Research Degrees Handbook, New Students' Welcome Handbook and a range of Codes of Practice, all of which are available to students, staff, members of Council and, of course, to our representatives abroad. These are supplemented by Programme Booklets made available to their students by our Schools of Study.

Buckingham is unique in Britain, and very special, and I hope that you not only find this Handbook useful but that, through its thickets of information, it also conveys to you our vision of a caring and professional institution.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which reads "Terence Kealey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Professor Terence Kealey  
Vice-Chancellor