

Vision and principles

The University was founded in 1976 as Britain's first independent university in conscious imitation of the outstanding independent universities in the United States and elsewhere. We remain committed to independence and academic freedom and intend to maintain and develop the tradition of liberal, open-minded, independent scholarship and teaching at one of the finest small universities in the world, building on a great past while anticipating the needs of the future.

Grounded in the historic and beautiful market town of Buckingham from inception, we will build on these links and establish new ones with our growing campuses in Milton Keynes, London, elsewhere in Britain and across the world.

Mission

We are committed to achieving academic excellence in all that we do seeking to become one of the leading academic and research universities in the UK. We believe in our academics as first class teachers and first class researchers. We aim to continue to offer the best teaching available anywhere at British universities.

Our University is Britain's first 'Positive University' which enshrines the principles of Positive Psychology in all that we do, building on human strengths, developing capacity and capability, enabling students, alumni, staff and associates to be the best they can at every stage of their life journey. We are a deeply pastoral university. Our students and staff have a profound passion for the institution, and ensuring that they are looked after to the very high standards is core to our mission.

We aim to develop in our graduates a sense of personal responsibility encouraging them to look primarily to their own resources for getting on in life.

We want to build on our excellence in entrepreneurialism to ensure that all our students have the chance to develop their entrepreneurial and holistic skills to optimise the opportunities the 21st century will offer them.

Values

Responsible, realistic & sustainable – recognising our role and place in the wider community; working within our means and improving societal and holistic wellbeing

Respectful, inclusive & supportive – providing equality of opportunity for all to fulfil their potential in a supportive, caring environment; being respectful of the dignity of others and practising solidarity in our community

Honest, accountable & open-minded - understanding the premium to be gained by approaching opportunities and setbacks with integrity, humility and acceptance

Innovative and creative – championing enterprise and creating value, working together to share ideas, take risks and learn from mistakes; inducing and welcoming change; working together in the face of challenge