



**Report and
Financial Statements**
31 July 2023

Ravensbourne University London

Higher Education Corporation
and Subsidiary Undertaking

Buzzacott LLP, London

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Chair's and Vice-Chancellor's reports



Chair's report

It has been very good to see the way in which our students and staff have bounced back over the last year post-pandemic and we have been very pleased to welcome record numbers of undergraduate and postgraduate students to the University this year. We have also welcomed a record number of new staff who are bringing their knowledge, creativity and enthusiasm to help pursue the University's aims.

We remain committed to ambitious plans to grow the University over the next five years and have continued to invest in our growth. Financially we show a small surplus and remain cash positive. We plan to continue growing our student numbers, through international student recruitment and new partnerships. We are a specialist university, designed to transform industry and what we offer has never been more relevant to the growth of the economy and to the skills required in an increasingly uncertain world.

The creative industries and the technology industries will continue to be major drivers of growth in the UK and internationally and are essential for improving the quality of life. Ravensbourne aspires to develop the capabilities of people from diverse backgrounds to meet the challenges in these sectors and develop their ability to contribute to society.

During the year, Professor Helen Higson retired as Deputy Chair and we thank her for the outstanding service she has given to the University during her seven years as a governor. We have been very pleased to welcome Dr Markos Koumaditis as governor and chair of the newly formed People & Culture Committee and also Dr Penny Haughan and Professor Lisa Stansbie as new governors.

The political landscape and the economic outlook are challenging for all universities but I remain confident that Ravensbourne University London is well positioned to meet these challenges and to strengthen its role as a leading provider of specialist digital, media, design and business education and in developing the creative leaders of the future.



Andrew Summers CMG
Chair of Board of Governors
15 November 2023

Vice-Chancellor's report

Introduction

As this review reports on the academic year 2022/23, it gives me an opportunity to reflect on all that we have achieved over the past year. It pleases me greatly to say that, despite many challenging circumstances, 2022/23 has been an incredibly positive year overall.

Finances

From a financial perspective, we have continued to manage our finances prudently whilst remaining focused on growth and diversifying our income streams. As a result of these actions, we have seen a significant increase in our income from £28 million in 21/22 to £40 million in 22/23. This has enabled us to increase investment in our staff and infrastructure and lay the foundations for further new initiatives which we anticipate will bring us into surplus next year.

Growth

We are continuing to grow, both in terms of our staff and student body. Our new international recruitment partnership has been very successful, as have the franchising activities that we have undertaken. We have widened our portfolio of courses into the digital technology and business management disciplines, to meet the needs of industry and our ever-evolving student community, with new courses that are appealing to both home and international students.

Student experience

Last year was the first year of our new common academic framework alongside having a new academic leadership team in place. This renewed focus and energy has helped us to deliver some pleasing results. In addition to the curriculum improvements we moved to a semester-based calendar, allowing for September, January, and May intakes for the first time and enabling us to manage our student recruitment more effectively and provide a more tailored education to our students.

Positive results

We are delighted to see an 8% rise in our NSS overall positivity score this year, and we are now second in the country for our quality of teaching, according to the recent Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES) results. This is very good news and gives us confidence as we look to rapidly increase our postgraduate cohort in the years ahead. Adding to these fantastic results, we successfully retained our silver TEF award which is a reflection of both our excellent teaching and employability of our graduates. There is still a need for improvement but these achievements are evidence of how we have solidified our foundations to enable us to build on further.

This year we had a wonderful graduation ceremony in December, where we awarded honorary doctorates for the first time in our history – to Idris Elba and Tinker Hatfield respectively – an experience that none of us will forget.

Student successes

Our students continue to perform exceptionally well across all areas and this last year they raised the bar even higher. The list of their accomplishments includes, but is not limited to, New Blood Awards for Design and Advertising; the Creative Conscience Awards for Product Design; and the Gensler scholarship for Architecture. Our students entered the Kopparberg competition – now in its second year – and the winner's designs are currently on sale in supermarkets globally. Meanwhile, we had students hosting the NaSTA awards ceremony in our own building, while their peers travelled to Egypt to film the COP27 conference. Our degree show took on a new format this year, with shows across London at various galleries and pop-up locations; all the work received such great praise, and our Fashion students made their mark at the infamous London Fashion Week in front of some big names from industry. It is truly inspiring to witness the creativity and uniqueness of our student community and we are so proud to see them pushing boundaries; showing enthusiasm to enter competitions; welcoming new experiences; and having their work showcased on the biggest stages.

Vice-Chancellor's report (continued)

Culture

We were keen to focus on our value and organisational culture this year and I genuinely believe we have made significant progress in this area. We have created a new department for People and Culture, enhanced our systems and processes to ensure cohesion in how we conduct ourselves, and significantly invested in the important areas of equality, diversity, inclusion and sustainability.

This focus also applies to how we represent ourselves externally and we have begun working with a PR agency, Speed, to build our reputation and gain greater exposure for the fantastic stories we produce at Ravensbourne.

Closing comments

There is no doubt it has been a difficult time for universities and the sector as a whole. The cost-of-living crisis and inflation have caused many issues, particular for London universities like us, and we continue to find ourselves in a difficult policy environment. This makes the positive results we have achieved even more pleasing.

Looking forward

The year ahead will be exciting as we continue to deliver our ambitious plans. In 2024 we will be expanding our campus into new premises and occupying additional space for learning and teaching; which will help to build our presence on the North Greenwich Peninsula. We will aim to build on the momentum we have achieved this past year, continuing to grow and improve the experience for all of our students.



Andrew Cook
Vice-Chancellor
15 November 2023

Operational and financial review



Objectives and strategies

The Governors present their report and the audited group financial statements for the year ended 31 July 2023.

Legal Status

Ravensbourne University London ('Ravensbourne') is an independent corporation, established as a university under the terms of the Education Reform Act 1988 and the Further and Higher Education Act 1992. The University is an exempt charity for the purposes of the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements comprise the consolidated results of the University and its subsidiary, Ravensbourne Limited.

Ravensbourne Limited undertakes activities which, for legal, commercial or tax reasons, are more appropriately channelled through a limited company. These activities are principally in the field of broadcasting short courses, facilities hire and commercial partnerships. The company makes a donation under Gift Aid from its taxable profits to Ravensbourne.

Ravensbourne is a creative university designed for industry.

Our mission

- To develop people ideas and innovation in collaboration with industry.

Our vision

- We will influence the world through creativity and technology in learning, research and business.
- We will inspire a highly diverse range of people, valuable to and valued by the world beyond university.
- We will innovate as a resilient, agile and future-facing organisation, to extend our reach and relevance.

Our values

Connection

We value what happens together and we collaborate to achieve our collective goals. We build our community of students, staff & alumni to connect with individuals, institutions and communities across the creative economy to make a lasting difference.

Dynamism

We embrace every opportunity to adapt and optimise. We become inspired by possibilities, with the courage and creativity to do things differently and embrace change with open minds..

Inclusion

We celebrate our diversity and we embrace difference as a source of strength. We strive for an inclusive Ravensbourne community, removing barriers and challenging exclusionary and discriminatory practice.

Professionalism

We aim for quality in everything we do and take pride in our work. Through our passion, skills and commitment we strive to deliver with competence, reliability and effectiveness.

Objectives and strategies (continued)

Strategic plan

The University's current corporate plan covers the period from 2021 to 2026. The strategy refresh reflects the following aims:

- To provide a provocative, dynamic learning environment where students are challenged to become visionary professionals of the future. Working collaboratively and purposefully, we approach our endeavours with a mind-set that is open and receptive to challenge.
- To value a rich and sustained engagement with our industry partners. Driving our practice-based approach to learning and teaching, research, and knowledge exchange. We support creative leadership and innovation through partnerships, conversations and connections with industry, and the diversity of our governing body.
- To take pride in a culture that anticipates, supports, and celebrates equality. Reflecting the diversity of our local community, we are proactive and holistic in our approach to promoting social mobility, internationalisation, and inclusion. Enabling change beyond Ravensbourne, to the socio-economic and ethnic profile of practitioners in the creative industries.
- To equip our graduates with the core knowledge employers and the wider economy and society seek by integrating and attuning our course content to the changing needs of our industry partners. Our students will also leave with the wider skills, mindsets and network of contacts needed to thrive in their careers and in their lives more broadly.
- To foster a collaborative and mutually beneficial relationship with our industry partners. We will continue to play our part as an essential participant in the wider creative sector, including actively strengthening our alumni network.
- To exploit our natural strength in industry engagement through integrated working practices with industry and welcome our partners' people to our institution to apply their expertise to creative projects.

Notable achievements in line with the strategic plan during the 2022/2023 academic year include:

- Ravensbourne University London continues to enjoy strong employability figures, with 83% of students in employment or further study following graduation.

These results from the national Graduate Outcomes Survey demonstrate that Ravensbourne students are highly employable and sought after.

- We have seen an 8% rise in our NSS scores this year and are now ranked 2nd in the country for our quality of teaching, according to recent PTES results.
- Ravensbourne received a Silver award in the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) 2023.
- A successful graduation ceremony where we handed out honorary doctorates for the first time in our history to Idris Elba and Tinker Hatfield.
- High profile partnerships we have made are continuing to grow, with well-known brands such as Nike, Kopparberg, BBC, Amazon, Sky Creative, The Tate Modern, Givenchy, Barclays, Marks & Spencer, and Burberry, with our students being awarded placements at many of these among others.
- Our students have continued to impress us all with their outstanding achievements over the last year, many of which have been celebrated nationally and even globally. This list of accomplishments includes, but is not limited to: New Blood Awards for Design and Advertising; the Creative Conscience Award for Product Design; and the Gensler Award for Architecture.
- Our students entered the Kopparberg competition – now in its 3rd year – and the winner's designs are on sale in supermarkets globally. Meanwhile, we saw our students host the NaSTA awards ceremony in our very own building while their peers travelled to Egypt to film the COP27 conference.
- The Ravensbourne Degree Show took on a new format this year, with shows across London at various galleries and pop-up locations; all our students' work received great praise and our Fashion students made their mark at the infamous London Fashion Week in front of some big names from industry
- Ravensbourne alumni have been making the headlines for their work across various industries. Designer Claire Waight Keller collaborated with global retail giant Uniqlo to create a modern and effortless new collection. Charlotte Regan wrote and directed the film 'Scrapper' which premiered in cinemas last month and has already won the Grand Jury Prize in the 'world cinematic dramatic' category at the 2023 Sundance Awards.

Objectives and strategies (continued)

Strategic plan (continued)

- The 2022/23 academic year was the first year utilising our new Common Academic Framework structure, alongside having a new academic leadership team in place. Students studying three modules a semester encourages a focused way of working and allows individuals to fully immerse themselves in collaboration, community building and developing key skills through tailor-made modules and interdisciplinary practice.
- We moved to a semester-based calendar, allowing for September, January, and May intakes, and enabling us to manage our student numbers more effectively and provided a more tailored education to our students.
- Our international recruitment partnerships have been very successful as have the franchising activities that we have undertaken.
- We have expanded our course portfolio into the technology, digital and business management spaces to meet the needs of our ever-evolving student community, with new courses that are appealing to both home and international students.

Statement on public benefit

In setting our objectives and planning our activities our Governors have considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and to its supplementary public benefit guidance on advancing education.

The students of Ravensbourne are the primary beneficiaries and are directly engaged in learning or research. However, beneficiaries also include employers and businesses in the creative industries sector as well as school children and alumni of Ravensbourne who may attend educational events organised by the University and use the academic facilities.

We do not believe that Ravensbourne causes any detriment or harm from carrying out its mission and we are not aware of views among others that such detriment or harm might arise.

Ravensbourne's public benefit activities are viewed and can be categorised under our corporate plan which reflects the University's aims for 2021–2026. To elevate and enhance Ravensbourne's physical and digital presence locally, nationally, and internationally to provide greater opportunities for positive change.

Ravensbourne will be a leader for social mobility, inclusion, and equality of opportunity, in both higher education and the creative industries, ensuring that every member of our community can succeed, regardless of their background, allowing them to forge and maintain dynamic relationships with our UK and international partners in industry, higher education, and the cultural sector, the local community, and our alumni.

- Source for students and graduates who are advocates for positive change and who have the necessary skills to tackle real-world problems.
- A creator of research, ideas and knowledge which benefit wider society.
- An active contributor to environmental sustainability.
- An initiator of change in our local area, helping to develop a creative, diverse, and prosperous local community.

Objectives and strategies (continued)

Statement on public benefit (continued)

Our recruitment and outreach programme continues to grow, including progression agreements with schools and colleges across the UK. We continue to explore overseas progression agreements. These progression agreements will ensure that post-16 students and international students will experience higher education taster workshops, holiday schools, and UCAS/application support workshops. This also provides an excellent opportunity for our current students to act as mentors.

Our agreement with the Bergh's School for Communication was renewed last year, with an expansion of the courses offered, and we anticipate a further cohort of students to join us in January 2024. In 2022, we chose Oxford International Education Group (OIEG) to provide student application processing services. OIEG's Education Services has assisted growth in Ravensbourne's international student cohorts and helps students enjoy an even smoother application journey.

As part of the University widening access programme, we provide skills development and attainment raising opportunities for young people least represented in Higher Education. These opportunities include; subject specific masterclasses and taster days, portfolio building projects, information, advice and guidance workshops on what future careers in the CreaTech industries look like, and holiday schools. We also deliver workshops providing advice and support to students in younger years (primary and key stage 2–3) as well as mature learners on Access courses, to better inform learners before selecting key stage 4 GCSE options. We have continued to provide a varied programme of activities and events during challenging times, expanding our collaborative work with London and more regional outreach networks. During 2022–23 academic year, our APP widening access programme engaged with 1,594 learners; of which 7% were from the lowest postcodes of HE representation (TUNDRA Q1), 50% were from the global majority, 5% were mature learners, 18% were recipients of free school meals, 17% were in the care of the local authority, 9% declared a disability and 47% would be the first in their family to go to university.

Ravensbourne partnered with FutureLearn at the beginning of 2022, to offer an innovative, ground-breaking expert track, supported by CreativeUK. Head of Creative Lab – Derek Yates – created the courses, utilising the expertise of award-winning creatives who are revolutionising the industry. Individuals can learn how to create cohesive communication around a brand and how to structure campaigns to effectively utilise social media. The courses explore how to work with influencers and think about the possibilities in the immersive technologies that are evolving around the metaverse. The course is relevant for a range of creatives.

Ravensbourne continues to contribute to the Design District's programme of events, as they frequently showcase a collection of installations and exhibitions which students and the community can partake in. This year that included Ravensbourne's involvement in the Urban Village Fete. We are working towards expanding on community opportunities with our neighbours, such as with TFL and the O2 centre.

The Ravensbourne campus is going to be expanding, as we occupy additional space for learning and teaching; this will also help to build our presence on the North Greenwich Peninsula. We plan to build on the momentum achieved over the past year, continuing to grow and improve the experience for our students.

Financial position

Results

The financial statements for the year ended 31 July 2023 have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) Accounting for Further and Higher Education 2019,

Reporting Standard FRS102 and the accounts direction issued by the Office for Students.

The surplus, before the actuarial gain in respect of the Local Government Pension Scheme, for the year ended 31 July 2023 is £120,683 (2022: deficit £1,238,079).

Liquidity

Cash and short-term cash deposits as at 31 July 2023 totalled £25,874,322, an increase of £6,430,878 from the position at 31 July 2022. Cash balances continue to reflect the University's strong liquidity position. During the year ended 31 July 2023 the University continued with repayments of its 25 year loan facility and made the agreed capital repayments on the Salix loan drawn down during 2021/22.

Capital repayments and loan balances outstanding

Loans	Original Loan £	Term Years	Outstanding 1 August 2022 £	Repayment £	Outstanding 31 July 2023 £
Barclays plc 25-year loan	5,000,000	25	3,500,837	(179,339)	3,321,498
Salix Loan	236,982	5	236,982	(47,397)	189,585
	5,236,982		3,737,819	(226,736)	3,511,083

Interest is payable at a fixed rate of 5.5 per cent per annum on the Barclays loan.

The Salix Finance loan is interest free.

Financial position (continued)

Reserves

The University continues to maintain healthy reserves of £42,736,221 (2022 £41,036,538). After adjusting for balances in respect of non-current assets, loan financing, the pension scheme liability and deferred capital grants, the University's free reserves total £16,450,079 (2022 £15,618,443). Ravensbourne reserves provide reassurance to support loan obligations and fund future investment opportunities as noted below;

- In the summer of 2021 Ravensbourne opened the Institute for Creativity and Technology, offering a digital destination for postgraduates, researchers and incubated businesses to experiment, exploit and discover new emerging skills that underpins and supports the future of digital media and design.
- Ravensbourne plans to launch a Digital Academy, offering new courses and specialism in the application of digital technology for the creative design and media industries. This new blueprint will overlay the traditional teaching model to blend and reshape the portfolio offer.

The Board of Governors and senior management of the University are currently implementing a strategic plan to 2026 but also looking beyond that point to identify the reserves to meet future needs and ensure financial sustainability.

Cash flows

The net cash inflow from operating activities for the year ending 31 July 2023 was £7,246,441. During the year the University made capital payments in respect of bank and other loans of £179,339 and paid interest of £189,959. As of 31 July 2023, cash and balances held on short-term deposit amounted to £25,874,322 an increase of £6,430,878 against the position as at 31 July 2022.

Principal risks and uncertainties

Effective risk management is synonymous with good management and good governance. The University continues to review risk assessment and risk management arrangements to safeguard its interests and reputation as part of its strategic plan.

The Higher Education Sector is undergoing a paradigm cultural shift with students viewing themselves as consumers. This shift has brought an increased level of scrutiny and requires universities to demonstrate value for money for the quality of education received for the tuition fees paid. Ravensbourne recognises this challenge and strives to strike the right balance between financial sustainability and maximising its continued investment in high quality and affordable education.

The Corporate Risk Register is regularly reviewed by the Executive to identify opportunities and threats: likelihood of occurrence; potential impact; and active management of mitigating actions and is reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Governors annually. In addition, both the Audit Committee Chair and the Vice-Chancellor draw any significant emerging risks to the attention of the Board as soon as is practical. Operational Risk Registers are reviewed by the executive member of staff responsible for that operational area, with significant risks escalated to the Corporate Risk Register as appropriate.

The main risks to the effective delivery of the University's strategy and the responses to them are:

Common Academic Framework

Following an institution-wide review of its curriculum the University has successfully implemented a new Common Academic Framework. The Framework will transform the student experience and promote student success and interdisciplinarity. It will deliver a pioneering, creative educational offering, unconstrained by traditional assumptions and will encourage students to embrace and exploit the digital technologies available to them. Ravensbourne as a university built around access, inclusion and diversity, will continue to reach students from all backgrounds to ensure a rich and diverse experience is received by all students. As well as the positive benefits to the student experience, the Framework presents opportunities for the University to introduce economies of scale and to better manage the quality and consistency of the student experience.

Financial position (continued)

Principal risks and uncertainties (continued)

Students

Student recruitment remains a key priority for the University as it continues its ambitious growth strategy. Key risks to this include the increased competition for international students, reducing the overall pool of students, as well as higher student achievement at Level 3 enabling students to enter high-tariff Universities. Despite this, Ravensbourne remains committed to its widening participation agenda and is seeking to diversify its portfolio to ensure it can continue to grow. Through the new Common Academic Framework, we will be offering our courses in different ways to support student choice and to access working adults. The University continues its development of new courses and in September 2022 launched undergraduate and postgraduate courses in Computer Science and Business and Management, enhancing the attractiveness of our portfolio to a broader range of students. Through the curriculum of those courses, we will continue to stay true to our core ethos of creativity.

Infrastructure and technology

The University is committed to offering an exceptional student experience, supported by first-class learning and teaching facilities.

Having occupied our main building for over 10 years, as some IT and estates infrastructure reach end of life, there is an increasing risk of service failure and/or down time. To mitigate this, the University has a phased capital implementation programme over five years to ensure the current provision is well maintained and developed in alignment with future organisational requirements. The capital investment plan is approved annually as part of the budget cycle to ensure investment reaches the most critical areas.

Ravensbourne continues to invest in its digital infrastructure and has moved to a more secure and better-connected Microsoft Office 365 platform with enhanced collaborative functionality and more flexible ways of working.

Ravensbourne's Institute for Creativity and Technology opened in summer 2021 and boasts a prototyping laboratory and a dedicated collaboration area for our postgraduate students, research teams and incubatees. Nestled within London's Design District, it is hoped that this new creative space will inspire ground-breaking research, theorised and marketed

for commercial success, and impactful solutions for future generations.

Ravensbourne continually monitors cyber threats, actively promoting IT security awareness to staff and students. The University has a dedicated Cyber Security Officer, has established a cyber security improvement programme to rapidly develop its organisational capability and has implemented an information system to autonomously monitor and control system events, to identify suspicious activity and protect its digital world.

Cost Inflation

The tragic events unfolding in Ukraine and the loss of life is appalling. This conflict is likely to have far reaching consequences for many years to come with two of the foremost concerns being the potential for a global food crisis and an unprecedented increase in global energy prices which have both pushed up inflation rates across the world.

The Office for National Statistics in the UK reported that the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) rose by 6.8% in the twelve months to July 2023, down from 7.3% in June 2023. In real terms, inflation reduces the purchasing power of money as more is required to purchase the same items. Very high price inflation such as that currently being witnessed within the UK is a serious concern as it makes planning and investment decisions harder, and at a macro level, it can lead to cutbacks in spending and staff unrest if wages are not seen to keep pace with price increases.

The University is taking active steps to protect itself from rising costs, including increased pay, pensions and non-pay costs, particularly of utilities. New posts continue to be scrutinised by a weekly Cases for Staff review. Electricity prices are fixed until October 2025 via a green supplier and the University will continue to place greater reliance on its biomass boiler over the coming winter. Departmental budgets continue to be scrutinised on a monthly basis with People & Culture and Finance business partners working hand-in-glove with Delegated Budget Holders to help advise, monitor and control spending.

For our students, we are concerned that cost inflation makes it much more challenging for them to be able to afford Further or Higher Education in the first place

Financial position (continued)

– particularly disadvantaged students – and to stay the course with us and complete their studies through to graduation. With this in mind we are re-doubling our efforts to succeed in our one million pounds Access and Participation Plan (APP). We partner with Aspire Cash to make it easier for disadvantaged students to access the hardship grants we provide them and are expanding our investment in mental health, counselling and Student Union activities.

Strategic Partners

To overcome a rising cost base and a capped undergraduate tuition fee we have actively grown and diversified our income streams to maintain our overall financial sustainability.

Strategic partnerships in international recruitment and franchise activities have been delivered. We have invested in the careful management of these new relationships and their inherent quality and remain committed to increasing student numbers through additional partnerships where we see an opportunity to innovate and deliver new courses that are appealing to both a home and an international market.

Financial key performance indicators

The University continues to refine key performance indicators (KPIs) to facilitate the oversight of all its business affairs at a strategic level by the board of Governors. The critical financial KPIs monitored during the year were:

KPI	Description	Target	5Y Av.	Current
Profitability	Historic cost surplus as % of total income	2.0	0.1	1.8
Reserves	Discretionary reserves as % of income	>120	119	105
Borrowings	Borrowings as a % of income	<20	12.6	8.9
Liquidity	Net cash flow as a % of income	>10	11.2	18.2
Liquidity	Net liquidity days	>200	260	254
Covenants	Debt service cover	>150%	810%	1,877%
Covenants	Operational leverage	<500%	161%	155%

Financial KPIs, although important, represent only one aspect of the University's business. Other KPIs include for example student recruitment numbers, National Student Satisfaction (NSS) review feedback, destination of leavers data, staff qualifications, staff diversity in terms of ethnicity, disability and gender and staff turnover.

Stakeholder and disability considerations

In line with other colleges and universities Ravensbourne has many stakeholders. These include:

- Students;
- Alumni;
- Local, regional and national employers;
- Local community organisations;
- Staff past and present;
- Creative industry networks;
- Commercial partners serving the creative industries; and
- Other higher and further education institutions.

We recognise the importance of all stakeholder relationships and facilitate and nurture these through various channels: intranet, email communications, digital and social platforms, partnership agreements and in-person meetings.

As the University does not employ any trade union representatives there is no time cost to the University, so there is nothing to disclose in relation to the Trade Union (Facility Time Publication Requirements) Regulations 2017.

Equal opportunities and employment of disabled persons

Ravensbourne is an equal opportunities employer. As such, the University considers all applications for employment from disabled persons, bearing in mind the aptitudes of the individuals concerned. Where an existing employee becomes disabled, every effort is made to ensure that employment with the University continues. The University's policy is to provide training, career development and opportunities for promotion, which are, as far as possible, identical to those for other employees.

Disability statement

The University seeks to achieve the objectives set down in the Equality Act 2010.

Disabled staff policy and procedure

The University recognises and is committed to meeting its responsibilities towards its staff and the community at large to ensure that disabled people are afforded equal opportunities to enter employment and progress within the University.

As such, the University has established the following policy and procedures to ensure this is achieved:

- The University aims to be recognised by the community as an employer which provides good employment opportunities for disabled people, and we would like individuals who apply to us for employment to know that they will receive fair treatment and be considered solely on their ability to do the job. Ravensbourne abides by the Two Ticks Scheme which ensures all candidates who have a disability and meet the essential requirements of the role are given an interview.
- If an employee becomes disabled during the course of their employment with the University, all reasonable steps will be taken to accommodate the individual's disability by making reasonable adjustments to working practices and arrangements, or by offering redeployment and appropriate retraining to enable them to remain in employment with the University wherever that is possible. All disabled employees are offered the opportunity to meet with a member of the People and Culture department on an annual basis to discuss any reasonable adjustments they may require.
- All staffing policies have been reviewed to ensure that the policies, procedures and practices are supportive of disabled staff at the University and its disability management process. Impact assessments are carried out on an annual basis and on changing or introducing new policies to ensure there are no negative impacts on staff with a disability.
- The University aims to continue to raise awareness of disability throughout the organisation in order to promote equality and positive attitudes towards disabled people. For example, the University will continue to provide staff training on disability awareness for all staff involved in recruitment and selection processes and managers are briefed on their responsibilities in relation to equal opportunities, which includes issues relating to disability.

Stakeholder and disability considerations (continued)

Services for students with disabilities

As a smaller specialist University, we pride ourselves on being able to respond to individual students' requirements flexibly and effectively. Student Services are the first point of contact for any student with a disability who might wish to discuss any requirements they have. Student Services is also the main point of contact for prospective students who wish to discuss any learning requirements prior to coming to Ravensbourne. The service is confidential and offers help and advice on a range of other matters including:

- Providing equipment where appropriate
- Co-ordinating the provision of additional support services such as non-medical helpers and note-takers
- Providing assistance with applications for the Disabled Students' Allowance
- Co-ordinating access to additional learning support and building accessibility
- Providing general advice on concerns or difficulties should they arise
- Facilitating advice from external agencies to help resolve any difficulties and concerns. For example, referral to a disabled person support group.

Disabled students will be provided with the opportunity to review any support at least once per year in a formal way and as often as required informally.

Disclosure of information to auditors

The members of the Board of Governors who held office at the date of approval of this report confirm that as far as they are each aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the University's auditors are unaware; each member of the Board of Governors has taken all the steps that he or she ought to have taken to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the University's auditors are aware of that information.

Approved by order of the Board and signed on its behalf by



Chair of the Board of Governors
15 November 2023

Professional Advisers

Bankers

Barclays Bank PLC
1 Churchill Place
Canary Wharf
London E14 5HP

Santander UK PLC
2 Triton Square
Regent's Place
London NW1 3AN

Nationwide Commercial
1 Threadneedle Street
London EC2R 8AW

Internal Auditor

KPMG LLP
15 Canada Square East
Canary Wharf
London E14 5GL

External Auditor
Buzzacott LLP
130 Wood St
London EC2V 6DL

Solicitors

Eversheds LLP
85 Queen Victoria St
London EC4V 4JL

Statement of corporate governance and internal control



Introduction

Ravensbourne University London is an independent corporation, established as a university under the terms of the Educational Reform Act 1988 and the Further and Higher Education Act 1992. It is an exempt charity for the purposes of the Charity Act 2011. The University title was approved by the Privy Council in May 2018.

The University's objects, powers and framework of governance are set out in the Instrument and Articles of Government, which were updated and approved by the Privy Council in May 2018. The Articles of Government require the University to have a Board of Governors and an Academic Board, each with clearly defined functions and responsibilities, to oversee and manage its activities.

Governance

The Board of Governors applies the HE Code of Governance (the CUC Code) in its entirety and is confident that the six key elements as set out in the code are met as well as adhering to the HE Senior Staff Remuneration Code. Adherence to both Codes is monitored by the Governance and Nominations Committee and Remuneration Committee respectively on an annual basis.

An internal review was undertaken by the University Secretary against the September 2020 HE Code of Governance which determined that the overall corporate governance arrangements at the University are effective and in line with the Code. The University has commissioned a governance review with externality which will be delivered in the coming year.

Over the past year, the Board has considered a wide range of matters, including, but not limited to:

- Student outcomes and the student experience, including the commissioning of a new Virtual Learning Environment for delivery in 23/24;
- The University's strategy, including the portfolio of courses, international student growth and income diversification; and
- Financial sustainability, including consideration of the University budget and key risks.

The University is committed to best practice in all aspects of its corporate governance and to conducting its affairs in a responsible and transparent way. This statement takes into account the requirements of the Office for Students (OfS), the UK Corporate Governance Code as it applies to higher education, and the Higher Education Code of Governance. Its purpose is to help the reader of the financial statements understand how the principles have been applied.

The Board of Governors

The Board of Governors is the governing body of the University, responsible for the finance, property and staffing of the University. It is specifically required to determine the educational character and mission of the University and to set its general strategic direction. The Board has adopted a Statement of Primary Responsibilities, and delegates day-to-day management responsibility to the Vice-Chancellor, as the Accountable Officer to the OfS, for maintaining a sound system of internal control that supports the achievement of the University's policies, aims and objectives.

All members of the Board are strongly committed to the University's values of creativity, integration with industry and inclusivity. All members are expected to observe the highest standards of corporate governance in exercising their responsibilities, including the Seven Principles of Public Life: selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.

The Board of Governors has a majority of independent members appointed in accordance with the University's Instrument and Articles of Government and the Chair and Deputy Chair are appointed from its external members.

There is provision for the appointment of co-opted members, some of whom are members of the staff of the University, and for representatives of the academic staff and of the student body. All members of the Board may claim reasonable expenses but none receive regular remuneration for their role as governors.

The University maintains a Register of Interests of members of the Board and senior officers which is available on the website, and declarations of any conflicts of interest are made at the start of each Board and committee meeting.

Ravensbourne University London

The members who served on the Board of Governors during the year and up to the date of signature of this report are listed below:

Board of Governors

Independent and Co-opted Governors

Dr Andrew Summers CMG (e,f,p,n)	Chair of the Board, Chair of Governance and Nominations Committee
Dr Kion Ahadi (a)	Resigned August 2023
Mr Zaid Al-Zaidy	Resigned September 2023
Ms Shoku Amirani (p,r)	
Mr Richard Bee (f,p,r)	Chair of the Finance Committee
Professor Lizbeth Goodman	
Ms Kate Gregory (f,a)	
Dr Penny Haughan (n,a)	Appointed May 2023
Professor Helen Higson OBE (p,n)	Deputy Chair, resigned March 2023
Dr Markos Koumaditis (p,r)	Chair, People and Culture Committee, appointed February 2023
Mr Paul O’Grady (f)	
Ms Noeline Sanders (a)	Chair of the Audit Committee
Professor Lisa Stansbie (p)	Appointed May 2023
Mr Lee Wilkinson	
Mr Stephen Woodford (a,n)	

Ex-Officio

Mr Andrew Cook (f,n,p)	Vice-Chancellor
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Professional Services Staff Governors

Mr Chiwueze Nwaosu (n)	
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Academic Staff Governors

Mr Alberto Villanueva (p)	
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Student Governors

Ms Zahra Shahsavari (n)	Student Union President, resigned September 2023
Ms Esther Gbogboade	Acting Student Union President, appointed August 2023

Ravensbourne University London (continued)

External member of committees

Ms Gerry Murphy (a)

Other Principal Officers regularly in attendance

Ms Margaret Bird	Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development, resigned August 2022
Mr Christopher Costigan	University Secretary and Director of Strategic Delivery
Mr Anthony Croudass	Director of Information Technology, appointed January 2023
Ms Karen Ingram	Director of People and Culture, appointed January 2023
Mr Lawrence Lartey	Director of Innovation, Industry and Enterprise
Mr Phil MacDonald (f)	Director of Finance
Ms Stephanie Power	Interim Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development, appointed August 2022, resigned January 2023
Mr Andrew Rees	Dean
Professor Simon Robertshaw	Deputy Vice-Chancellor
Mr Andrew Robinson	Director of Projects and Operations, resigned December 2022
Ms Emma Shailer	Chief Operating Officer, appointed January 2023 (formerly Director of Student Recruitment and Success)
Ms Maureen Skinner	Interim Clerk to the Board of Governors, resigned January 2023

a – Member of the Audit Committee

f – Member of the Finance Committee

p – Member of the People and Culture Committee

n – Member of the Governance & Nominations Committee

r – Member of the Remuneration Committee

e – Member of the Emergency Committee

Registered Office

Ravensbourne University London,
6 Penrose Way,
Greenwich
London
SE10 0EW

Board of Governors, delegation and control

Much of the Board's detailed work is initially handled by committees, the decisions and recommendations of which are reported to the Board in accordance with the agreed formal Scheme of Delegation.

The Vice-Chancellor

The Vice-Chancellor is the Head of the University, and has a general responsibility to the Board of Governors for the organisation, direction and management of the University. Under the terms and conditions of the Office for Students' funding agreement, the Vice-Chancellor is the Accountable Officer of the University.

As the Chief Executive, the Vice-Chancellor exercises considerable influence upon the development of University strategy, the identification and planning of new developments and the shaping of the University ethos. The senior academic and administrative officers contribute in various ways, but the ultimate responsibility for what is done rests with the Vice-Chancellor.

The Academic Board

Subject to the overall responsibility of the Board of Governors, the Academic Board has oversight of the academic affairs of the University and draws its Membership from the staff and the students of the University. The Academic Board is particularly concerned with general issues relating to the teaching and research work of the University and is chaired by the Vice-Chancellor. Two members of the board are regularly in attendance.

Committees of the Board of Governors

Much of the Board's detailed work is initially handled by committees, the decisions and recommendations of which are reported to the Board in accordance with the agreed formal Scheme of Delegation, as adopted by the Board in June 2015 and reviewed regularly. The last review took place in March 2023.

During the year, the Organisational Development and Remuneration Committee was disbanded and replaced by two new committees: People and Culture; and Remuneration.

The Board's sub-committees are as follows:

Audit Committee

Responsible for:

- Ensuring effective systems for accounting, financial record keeping, payments to employees and creditors.
- Receiving the draft financial statements and reporting to the Board with recommendations.
- Keeping under review all matters (including governance, management, quality, reputation and finance) with potential for impact on the University's financial position and viability, and its capacity to achieve its strategic and operational objectives.
- Advising the Board on the appointment and remuneration of internal and external auditors, considering and advising the Board on external audit reports and management letters, and reviewing and agreeing the scope and priorities of the annual internal audit plan.
- Reporting annually to the Board on the adequacy and effectiveness of the internal financial and risk monitoring and risk control system, arrangements to deliver value for money, the management and quality of data provided to agencies, and implementation of recommendations by internal and external auditors.

Board of Governors, delegation and control

(continued)

Finance Committee

Responsible for:

- Safeguarding the financial solvency of the University on behalf of the board.
- Considering the budget, financial forecasts and financial statements in detail and recommending them to the Board of Governors.
- Overseeing the University's treasury policies and insurance arrangements.

Remuneration Committee

Responsible for:

- Determining the remuneration of senior post holders (Vice-Chancellor, and University Secretary and Director of Strategic Delivery).
- Ensuring compliance with HE Senior Staff Remuneration Code.

Governance and Nominations Committee

Responsible for:

- Seeking out, considering, and making recommendations to the board upon nominations for membership of the board, in accordance with agreed criteria and priorities.
- Organising reviews of the Board's effectiveness and for overseeing the implementation of any recommendations arising from such reviews.
- Determining policies and processes related to membership of the board of Governors, i.e. induction, training and development, and appraisal.
- Compliance with the HE Code of Governance.

People and Culture Committee

Responsible for:

- Ensuring organisational strategy and culture are aligned;
- Determining workforce strategy and policy;
- Monitoring the implementation of people and culture strategies;
- Equality, diversity and inclusion in the University.

Emergency Committee

Responsible for:

- Considering and forming a response to any matters of urgency (the matter will be set up in writing following an initial meeting of the Committee).

Statement of internal control

The University's Board of Governors is ultimately responsible for the University's system of control and for reviewing its effectiveness. Such a system is designed to manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve business objectives and can only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss.

An ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the University's significant risks is in place. As well as the Executive, the Finance Committee, the Audit Committee and the Board of Governors consider the key risks regularly and actively monitor the actions that are being taken to mitigate them. Ravensbourne's risk management framework covers the areas of student recruitment, retention and satisfaction, business continuity, finance, regulatory and legislative compliance, data protection and academic quality. The principal strategic risks, for example student recruitment and student satisfaction, are also covered by substantive agenda items as appropriate throughout the year.

The adequacy of the control environment and the risks being addressed are regularly reviewed by the Executive and corrective action taken where necessary.

The internal auditors perform an annual programme of work overseen by the Audit Committee and the Audit Committee considers review reports from Internal Audit at every meeting on key aspects of the University's business. The Audit Committee reports annually to the Board of Governors, assuring it of the adequacy and effectiveness of governance and risk management processes and internal control, value for money and management and quality of data.

The key elements of the University's system of internal controls include the following:

- Clear definitions of the responsibilities of, and the authority delegated to, heads of academic and administrative departments.
- A comprehensive medium and short-term planning process, supplemented by detailed annual income, expenditure, capital and cash flow budgets.
- Regular defined and formalised requirements for approval and control of expenditure, with investment decisions involving capital or revenue expenditure being subject to formal detailed appraisal and review according to approval levels set by the governing body which are reviewed annually.

- Comprehensive Financial Regulations, detailing financial controls and procedures, approved by the Audit Committee and the Finance Committee.
- A professional Internal Audit team whose annual programme is approved by the Audit Committee and endorsed by the governing body and supports the University's internal control system and the delivery of value for money
- A professional External Audit team who scrutinises the University's internal controls and assists in delivering value for money.

Ravensbourne University London's statement of internal control covers the period 1 August 2022 to 31 July 2023 and up to the date of approval of the audited financial statements. No issues relating to weaknesses or failures of internal control have been identified during this period.

Going Concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Board of Governors considers that the University has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For these reasons, it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.



Christopher Costigan
University Secretary & Director of Strategic Delivery
15 November 2023

Statement of responsibilities of the Board of Governors

The financial statements for the year ended 31 July 2023 have been prepared on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor and ultimately the board of Governors by the Director of Finance. It is reviewed by the Finance Committee and Audit Committee and informed by the opinion of the external auditors. The financial statements confirm that:

- Suitable accounting policies are selected and applied consistently in accordance with UK generally accepted accounting principles and the 'Statement of recommended practice: Accounting for further and higher education', and relevant legislation.
 - Judgements and estimates are made that are reasonable and prudent.
 - Applicable accounting standards have been followed subject to any material departures which would be disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
 - Financial statements are prepared on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that Ravensbourne University London will continue in operation. The Board of Governors are satisfied that the University has adequate resources to continue in operation for the foreseeable future. For this reason, the going concern basis continues to be adopted in the preparation of the financial statements.
- The Board has taken reasonable steps, from the assurance received through its committees and the Vice-Chancellor to ensure:
- Public funds are used only in accordance with the Terms and Conditions of Funding as issued by the OfS or any other conditions that the OfS or other funding bodies may from time to time prescribe
 - Reasonable discretion is exercised in the use of public funds and account taken of any relevant guidance on accountability, sustainability or propriety
 - The establishment and monitoring of systems of control and accountability, including financial and operational controls, with ultimate responsibility for the effective and efficient use of resources
 - Safeguarding of the assets of the University and establishment of systems for prevention and detection of fraud, bribery and wider corruption
 - The University is delivering Value for Money (VfM) from public funds.

Independent auditor's report to the Board of Governors at Ravensbourne

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Ravensbourne University London (the 'University') and its subsidiaries (the 'Group') for the year ended 31 July 2023 which comprise the group statement of comprehensive income, the group and the University balance sheets, the group statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting for Further and Higher Education.

In our opinion

- The financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Group as at 31 July 2023 and of its surplus of income over expenditure, gains and losses changes in reserves, funds and cash flows for the year then ended.
- The financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice and the Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting for further and higher education and relevant legislation.
- In all material aspects, funds received from whatever source administered by the University have been applied only for the purposes for which they were received and managed in accordance with relevant legislation.
- In all material aspects, funds from the Office for Students, the Education and Skills Funding Agency and the Department for Education administered by the University have been applied only for the purposes for which they were received.
- The requirements of the OfS Accounts Direction have been met.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Office for Students requires us to report to you, if in our opinion:

- The University's grant and fee income, as disclosed in note 5 to these accounts has been materially misstated.
- The University's expenditure on access and participation activities for the financial year has been materially misstated.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report.

We are independent of the group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Governors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the University's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Governors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Independent auditor's report to the Board of Governors at Ravensbourne (continued)

Other information

The Governors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the memorandum of assurance and accountability issued by the Higher Education Funding Council for England and the accounts direction issued by the OfS requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- Proper accounting records have not been kept by the University;

or

- The University's financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns;

or

- We have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of the governors

As explained more fully in the statement of responsibilities of Members of the Governors, the Governors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Governors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the governors are responsible for assessing the Group's and the University's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Governors either intends to liquidate the Group or the University or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Independent auditor's report to the Board of Governors at Ravensbourne (continued)

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
 - we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the University through discussions with management, and from our knowledge and experience of the sector;
 - we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the University, including the Further and Higher Education Act 1992, funding agreements with the ESFA and associated funding rules, ESFA regulations, data protection legislation, anti-bribery, safeguarding, employment, health and safety legislation, some conditions of OfS registration;
 - we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence; and identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.
- We assessed the susceptibility of the University's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by
- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
 - considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

Independent auditor's report to the Board of Governors at Ravensbourne (continued)

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions; and
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates set out in the accounting policies were indicative of potential bias.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reviewing the minutes of Governors' meetings;
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims; and
- reviewing any available correspondence with HMRC and the University's legal advisors (although none was noted as being received by the University).

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the Board of Governors and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Governors, as a body. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Governors those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the University and the Governors as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Buzzacott LLP
Statutory Auditor
130 Wood Street,
London EC2V 6DL

05 December 2023

Financial Statements

Year ended 31 July 2023



Consolidated statement of comprehensive income

Year ended 31 July 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Income			
Tuition fees & education contracts	2	35,044,544	23,947,353
Funding body grants	3	3,355,634	2,483,564
Other income	4	669,262	1,095,409
Investment income	6	609,850	88,322
Total income		39,679,290	27,614,648
Expenditure			
Staff costs	7	17,266,849	16,929,660
Other operating expenses	8	20,241,163	9,883,170
Depreciation	12	1,867,299	1,707,925
Interest & other finance costs	9	218,959	331,972
Total expenditure		39,594,270	28,852,727
Surplus/(deficit) before other gains and losses and taxation		85,020	(1,238,079)
Profit on disposal of fixed assets		35,663	-
Surplus/(deficit) before taxation		120,683	(1,238,079)
Taxation	10	-	-
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	11, 20	120,683	(1,238,079)
Actuarial gain in respect of pension scheme	17, 19	1,803,000	9,216,000
Total comprehensive income for the year		1,923,683	7,977,921
Income and expenditure reserves at 1 August		41,036,538	33,058,617
Total comprehensive income for the year		1,923,683	7,977,921
Income and expenditure reserves at 31 July		42,960,221	41,036,538

All income and expenditure relates to unrestricted reserves. There are no revaluations of balances and all amounts are presented in accordance with the historic cost convention. As a result, all changes in reserves are detailed above and no statement of changes in reserves is presented. The income and expenditure reported above is in respect of continuing operations.

Group consolidated balance sheet

31 July 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Non-current assets			
Tangible assets	12	47,309,621	48,167,702
Investments	13	4,839	4,936
Total non-current assets		47,314,460	48,172,638
Current assets			
Debtors	14	4,266,603	907,451
Investments		12,000,000	12,000,000
Cash and cash equivalents		13,874,322	7,443,944
Total current assets		30,140,925	20,351,395
Creditors			
Amounts due within one year	15	(14,431,143)	(5,462,701)
Net current assets		15,709,782	14,888,694
Total assets less current liabilities		63,024,242	63,061,332
Creditors			
Amounts due after more than one year	16	(19,908,665)	(20,644,123)
Provisions	17	(155,356)	(1,380,671)
Net Assets		42,960,221	41,036,538
Reserves			
Income and expenditure – unrestricted	20	42,960,221	41,036,538
Total reserves		42,960,221	41,036,538



Andrew Summers CMG
Chair of the Board of Governors



Andrew Cook
Accountable Officer, Vice-Chancellor

These Financial Statements were approved
by the Governing Body on 15 November 2023.

University balance sheet

31 July 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Non-current assets			
Tangible assets	12	47,309,621	48,167,702
Investments	13	4,939	5,036
Total non-current assets		47,314,560	48,172,738
Current assets			
Debtors	14	4,341,282	956,564
Investments		12,000,000	12,000,000
Cash and cash equivalents		13,868,258	7,439,352
Total current assets		30,209,540	20,395,916
Creditors			
Amounts due within one year	15	(14,426,923)	(5,427,824)
Net current assets		15,782,617	14,968,092
Total assets less current liabilities		63,097,177	63,140,830
Creditors			
Amounts due after more than one year	16	(19,908,665)	(20,644,123)
Provisions	17	(155,356)	(1,380,671)
Net Assets		43,033,156	41,116,036
Reserves			
Income and expenditure – unrestricted	20	43,033,156	41,116,036
Total reserves		43,033,156	41,116,036



Andrew Summers CMG
Chair of the Board of Governors



Andrew Cook
Accountable Officer, Vice-Chancellor

These Financial Statements were approved by the Governing Body on 15 November 2023.

Consolidated statement of cash flows

Year ended 31 July 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Cash flow from operating activities			
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		120,683	(1,238,079)
Adjustments for non-cash items			
Release of deferred capital grants	18	(498,076)	(498,077)
Depreciation	12	1,867,299	1,707,925
Profit on disposal of fixed assets		(35,663)	–
(Increase)/decrease in debtors		(3,323,489)	67,414
Increase in creditors		8,957,796	350,693
Decrease in provisions		(6,315)	(4,863)
Loss on investments		97	55
Pension costs less contributions payable		584,000	1,767,000
Adjustments for investing or financing activities			
Investment income	6	(609,850)	(88,322)
Interest payable	9	189,959	197,972
Net cash provided by operating activities		7,246,441	2,261,718
Cash flow from investing activities			
Payments made to acquire fixed assets	12	(1,009,218)	(590,902)
Investment income	6	609,850	88,322
Net cash used in investing activities		(399,368)	(502,580)
Cash flow from financing activities			
Interest paid	9	(189,959)	(197,972)
New loan drawdown		–	236,982
Repayments of amount borrowed:			
Bank loan		(179,339)	(171,325)
Other loan repayments		(47,397)	–
Net cash used in financing activities		(416,695)	(132,315)
Increase in cash in the year		6,430,378	1,626,823
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 August		7,443,944	5,817,121
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 July		13,874,322	7,443,944
Increase in cash in the year		6,430,378	1,626,823

Consolidated statement of cash flows

Year ended 31 July 2023 (continued)

	2023 £	2022 £
Reconciliation of movements in investments and cash and cash equivalents as stated in the group balance sheet.		
At 1 August		
Investments	12,000,000	12,000,000
Cash and cash equivalents	7,443,944	5,817,121
	19,443,944	17,817,121
At 31 July		
Investments	12,000,000	12,000,000
Cash and cash equivalents	13,874,322	7,443,944
	25,874,322	19,443,944

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 July 2023



1. Accounting policies

Basis of Preparation

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP): Accounting for Further and Higher Education 2019 (“2019 FE HE SORP”) and in accordance with Financial Reporting Standards (FRS102). The University is a public benefit entity and therefore, has applied the relevant public benefit requirement of FRS102. The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention.

Basis of Consolidation

The consolidated financial statements incorporate the financial statements of the University and its subsidiary undertakings for the year ended 31 July 2023.

The University has taken advantage of the exemptions provided in FRS 102 1.12 and the 2019 Further and Higher Education SORP 3.3, and has not included a separate statement of its own cash flows. These cash flows are included within the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows, and the University balance sheet discloses cash at both the current and preceding reporting dates.

Going Concern

The activities of the University, together with the factors likely to affect its future development and performance are set out in the Governors’ Report. The financial position of the University, its cash flow, liquidity and borrowings are presented in the Financial Statements and accompanying Notes. The University currently has £3.5m of loans outstanding and £25.9m of cash, cash equivalents and cash on deposit.

The University’s forecasts and financial projections indicate that it will be able to operate within this existing facility and associated covenants for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, the University has a reasonable expectation that it has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future, and for this reason will continue to adopt the going concern basis in the preparation of its financial statements.

Recognition of Income

Grant Funding

Government Grants – Government revenue grants are received from the Office for Students and the Education and Skills Funding Agency. These grants are recognised in income as they become due or as the relevant expenditure is incurred. Government grants to acquire tangible fixed assets are credited to income over the estimated useful life of the individual assets concerned. The portion of such grants, which have not yet been amortised, are included as deferred income within creditors and allocated between creditors due within one year and creditors due after more than one year as appropriate.

Non-Government Grants – (Grants from non-governmental sources) are recognised in income when the University is entitled to the income and when any performance requirements to receive the income have been met. Income received in advance of any performance requirements being met is recognised as deferred income within creditors on the balance sheet and released to income as the conditions are met.

Tuition Fees

Tuition fees are accounted for on an accruals basis and are payable on enrolment or on a termly or monthly basis for those electing to pay by instalments. Where fees are paid through tuition fee loans payments are normally received in three instalments in October, February and May. Where a fee waiver has been granted, the fee income has been stated net of the waiver to reflect the actual fee charged to the student.

1. Accounting policies (continued)

Pension Scheme Arrangements

The University has fully implemented FRS102 Retirement Benefits in these financial statements and recognized its share of the pension scheme deficit in the Local Government Pension Scheme in its balance sheet. Gains and losses in the scheme have been recognised in the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income.

Under the definitions set out in FRS102 the Teachers' Pension Scheme is a multi-employer pension scheme. The University is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and consequently the scheme has been accounted for as if it were a defined-contribution scheme.

Enhanced Pension

The actual cost of any enhanced ongoing pension to a former member of staff is paid by the University monthly. An estimate of the expected future costs of any enhancement to the ongoing pension of a former member of staff is charged in full to the University's income and expenditure account in the year of retirement. In subsequent years a charge is made based on actuarial principles.

Employment Benefits

Short term employment benefits such as salaries, accrued holiday entitlement and compensated absences are recognised as an expense in the year in which the employees render service. Any unused benefits are accrued and measured as the amount the University expects to pay.

Termination Payments

Compensation payments for loss of office are accrued where, prior to the reporting date, the staff concerned have been consulted and the University irrevocably committed to the arrangement. Where costs cannot be determined accurately an estimated approach is used.

Borrowing Costs

Borrowing costs are recognised as expenditure in the period in which they are incurred.

Tangible Fixed Assets

Additions to fixed assets are those assets with an individual cost greater than £3,000 and a useful economic life in excess of one year.

Donated assets are capitalised at current value on receipt and are depreciated in the same way as purchased assets. The value of donated assets are credited in full to the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income and Expenditure in the year that the assets were donated. The policy is therefore consistent with a donation being received and then being used to purchase a fixed asset. Fixed asset additions are included at cost. Government capital grants are shown as deferred income in the balance sheet within creditors due within one year and creditors due after more than one year as appropriate.

Non-government capital grants are recorded as deferred income until performance conditions have been met. Fixtures, fittings and equipment are depreciated by equal annual instalments over their estimated useful lives, commencing from the date that they are brought into use, as follows:

Leasehold land and buildings length of lease, subject to a maximum of 50 years

Building fit out costs 20 years

Leased assets period of lease

Other fixtures, fittings and equipment 3–10 years

Computer Software and Systems 5–10 years

Fit out costs for leased premises period of lease

Depreciation charged to expenditure on assets acquired by government capital grants is funded from the release of the related deferred credits.

A review of the impairment of a fixed asset is carried out if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value of any fixed asset may not be recoverable.

Shortfalls between the carrying value of fixed assets and their recoverable amounts are recognised as impairments. Impairment losses are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

1. Accounting policies (continued)

Investments

Investments in subsidiaries are accounted for at cost less impairment in the individual financial statements. Cash deposits for more than three months have been disclosed as current asset investments.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash includes cash in hand, deposits repayable on demand and overdrafts. Deposits are repayable on demand if they are in practice available within 24 hours without penalty. Cash deposits for less than three months have been disclosed as cash and cash equivalents.

Debtors

Debtors are recognised at their settlement amount, less any provision for non-recoverability. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid. They have been discounted to the present value of the future cash receipt where such discounting is material.

Creditors

Creditors are recognised when there is an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are recognised at the amount the University anticipates it will pay to settle the debt. They have been discounted to the present value of the future cash payment where such discounting is material.

Financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are classified according to the substance of the financial instrument's contractual obligations, rather than the financial instrument's legal form. All loans, investments and short-term deposits held by the University are classified as basic financial instruments in accordance with FRS 102. These instruments are initially recorded at the transaction price less any transaction costs (historical cost).

Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the University has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required to settle the obligation and a reliable estimate can be made of the obligation.

Operating leases

Costs in respect of operating leases are charged on a straight-line basis over the lease term to the statement of comprehensive income.

Foreign currency translation

Transactions denominated in foreign currencies are recorded using the rate of exchange ruling at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the rates of exchange ruling at the end of the financial period with all resulting exchange differences being taken to the income and expenditure account in the period in which they arise.

Taxation status

The University is an exempt charity within the meaning of the Charities Act 2011 and as such, is a charity within the meaning of Section 506 (1) of the Taxes Act 1988.

Accordingly, the University is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively for charitable purposes. The University receives no similar exemption in respect of Value Added Tax.

Student Union

The University's student union activities are undertaken entirely by the University and not through any separate entity. Included under "Other operating expenses" is the cost to the University of the Student Union activities during the year.

1. Accounting policies (continued)

Judgements in applying accounting policies and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In preparing these financial statements, management and the Governing Body have made the following judgements:

- Determining whether leases entered into by the University either as a lessor or a lessee are operating or finance leases. These decisions depend on an assessment of whether the risks and rewards of ownership have been transferred from the lessor to the lessee on a lease by lease basis.
- Determining whether provisions are required in respect of trade debtors. The amount of provisions recognised in the financial statements is based on the University's assessment of the expected recoverable amount.

Other key sources of estimation uncertainty were as follows:

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are depreciated over their useful lives taking into account residual values, where appropriate. The actual lives of the assets and residual values are assessed annually and may vary depending on a number of factors. In re-assessing asset lives, factors such as technological innovation and maintenance programmes are taken into account. Residual value assessments consider issues such as future market conditions, the remaining life of the asset and projected disposal values.

Local Government Pension Scheme

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost of pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 19, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore, a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 July 2022. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

Accrual for outstanding staff holiday

The accrual for staff holiday is made as a best estimate of the value of holiday entitlement based upon pay rates and outstanding leave at the balance sheet date.

2. Tuition fees and education contracts

	2023	2022
	£	£
Students paying home fees	28,434,679	21,197,016
International students	6,609,865	2,750,337
	35,044,544	23,947,353

3. Funding body grants

	2023	2022
	£	£
OfS – main allocation	824,531	863,006
– other	412,276	59,968
Research England	552,313	253,667
ESFA – main allocation	1,416,644	1,155,013
– other	52,050	54,090
	3,257,814	2,385,744
Deferred grants released in year (note 18)		
Buildings	39,640	39,640
Equipment	58,180	58,180
	97,820	97,820
	3,355,634	2,483,564

4. Other income

	2023	2022
	£	£
Non grant income	339,478	546,355
Grant income		
Deferred capital grants released in year – Buildings (note 18)	400,257	400,257
Revenue grants received	(70,473)	148,797
Total grant income	329,784	549,054
Total grant and other income	669,262	1,095,409

5. Details of grant and fee income

	2023	2022
	£	£
Grant income from the OfS	1,236,807	922,974
Grant income from other bodies	2,021,007	1,462,770
Total grant Income	3,257,814	2,385,744
Fee income for taught awards	35,044,544	23,947,353
Total grant and fee income	38,302,358	26,333,097

6. Investment income

	2023	2022
	£	£
Income from short-term deposits	609,850	88,322

7. Staff costs

	2023 No.	2022 No.
The average number of persons employed by the University during the year expressed as full-time equivalents.		
Academic staff	116	105
Administrative and technical staff	158	156
	274	261

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries, social security and pension costs		
Wages and Salaries	13,184,518	12,085,800
Social Security costs	1,386,089	1,267,391
Pension costs	2,144,205	1,936,571
	16,714,812	15,289,762

Other staff costs		
Adjustment to contribution to reflect defined benefit pension scheme service costs (note 19)	501,000	1,595,000
Apprenticeship Levy	51,037	44,898
	552,037	1,639,898
Total staff costs	17,266,849	16,929,660

	2023 £	2022 £
Analysis of wages and salaries, social security and pension costs		
Academic staff	8,471,002	7,266,728
Administrative and technical staff	8,243,810	8,023,034
	16,714,812	15,289,762

7. Staff costs (continued)

	2023 £	2022 £
Compensation paid to former staff		
Included within staff costs are amounts paid as compensation to former personnel for loss of office	162,498	392,455
	2023 No	2022 No
Number of personnel receiving payment	11	22

The University has given regard to the guidance in decisions taken about severance payments published by the Committee of University Chairs.

	2023 No	2022 No
Key management personnel		
The number of key management personnel expressed as full-time equivalents	9.0	7.8
	2023 £	2022 £
Costs of key management personnel	1,303,577	1,143,620

	2023 No	2022 No
Remuneration of higher paid staff, including the Vice Chancellor, earning over £100,000, excluding employer pension and social security costs.		
£100,000–£104,999	1	–
£105,000–£109,999	2	–
£130,000–£134,999	1	–
£170,000–£174,999	–	1
£175,000–£179,999	1	–

7. Staff costs (continued)

	2022 £	2021 £
Vice-Chancellor's remuneration		
Basic Pay	179,504	172,981
Contribution to defined benefit pension scheme	25,490	24,563
	204,994	197,544

In reviewing the salaries of senior post holders who fall directly within its remit the HR & Remuneration Committee considers performance in year, internal salary relativity, benchmarking data and affordability in determining any increase.

The HR & Remuneration Committee agrees arrangements for the Vice-Chancellor's remuneration which, in common with most of the sector, consists of base remuneration and a bonus payment. The Committee sets clear performance targets, aligned to Ravensbourne's strategy, which, if reached, trigger the release of a bonus payment.

In determining the level of termination payments made to senior staff, the University has given regard to the 'Higher Education Senior Staff Code' published by the Committee of University Chairs.

As at 31 July 2023, the Vice-Chancellor's basic salary is 3.7 times (2022: 3.7 times) the median pay of staff, where the median pay is calculated on a full-time equivalent basis for all staff contracted with an annual salary. Including payments for performance related pay the Vice-Chancellor's total remuneration at 31 July 2023 is 3.7 times (2022: 3.7 times) the median total remuneration paid to all staff contracted on an annual salary basis.

8. Other operating expenses

	2023 £	2022 £
Direct course costs	466,111	491,462
Academic services	2,531,769	2,293,679
Premises	3,572,916	2,784,069
Student bursaries	841,524	832,085
Examination and validation expenses	53,280	48,190
Staff recruitment and temporary support	812,495	628,987
Payments to franchisee and agents	6,776,412	75,075
Other administration expenditure	5,186,656	2,729,623
	20,241,163	9,883,170

Included within other administration expenditure are amounts payable to the University's auditors in respect of:

Audit fees	60,468	52,440
Other services	3,936	3,720
	64,404	56,160

9. Interest and other finance costs

	2023 £	2022 £
Interest payable	189,959	197,972
Pension scheme finance costs (note 19)	29,000	134,000
	218,959	331,972

10. Taxation

There was no United Kingdom corporation tax payable on the surplus of the group in the current or prior year.

11. Surplus/(deficit) for the year

	2023 £	2022 £
University's surplus/(deficit) for the year	114,120	(1,231,191)
Ravensbourne Limited		
Profit/(loss) for the year	6,563	(6,888)
Gift aid distribution	–	–
	6,563	(6,888)
Group surplus/(deficit) for the year	120,683	(1,238,079)

12. Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold land and building	Fixtures, Fittings Equipment and Projects	Total
	£	£	£
Group and University			
Cost			
At 1 August 2022	58,491,187	13,532,954	72,024,141
Additions	15,983	993,235	1,009,218
Disposals	–	(360,844)	(360,844)
At 31 July 2023	58,507,170	14,165,345	72,672,515

Accumulated depreciation			
At 1 August 2022	13,152,725	10,703,714	23,856,439
Charge for the year	1,295,250	572,049	1,867,299
Adjusted for disposals	–	(360,844)	(360,844)
At 31 July 2023	14,447,975	10,914,919	25,362,894

Net book Value			
At 31 July 2023	44,059,195	3,250,426	47,309,621
At 31 July 2022	45,338,462	2,829,240	48,167,702

The depreciation charge has been funded by:	2023	2022
Group and University	£	£
Deferred capital grants released (note 18)	498,077	498,077
General income	1,369,222	1,209,848
	1,867,299	1,707,925

13. Non-current investments

	Group		University	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
COIF Memorial Trust				
255 ordinary shares – at market value	4,839	4,936	4,839	4,936
University				
Ravensbourne University London owns 100% of the called-up share capital of Ravensbourne Limited, a company registered in England and Wales whose principal activity is the provision of short courses.				
100 ordinary shares of £1 each	–	–	100	100
	4,839	4,936	4,939	5,036

14. Debtors

	Group		University	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Student debtors	3,242,794	70,395	3,242,794	70,395
Trade debtors	165,564	324,335	164,628	323,399
Amounts due from subsidiary undertakings	–	–	75,615	50,049
Interest receivable	182,538	33,637	182,538	33,637
Other debtors	2,244	6,676	2,244	6,676
Prepayments	673,463	472,408	673,463	472,408
	4,266,603	907,451	4,341,282	956,564

15. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Group		University	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Bank and other loans:				
Bank Loan	189,986	179,339	189,986	179,339
Salix Loan	47,396	47,397	47,396	47,397
	237,382	226,736	237,382	226,736
Other amounts falling due within one year:				
Trade creditors	1,908,097	1,663,272	1,908,097	1,663,272
Other creditors	656	54	656	54
Staff benefits compensation	618,035	543,833	618,035	543,833
Deferred tuition fee income	8,654,688	797,541	8,654,688	797,541
Payments due to franchise partners	901,526	–	901,526	–
Other accruals (see below)	964,355	1,131,109	960,135	1,096,232
Tax and social security	648,327	602,079	648,327	602,079
Deferred government capital grants (note 18)	498,077	498,077	498,077	498,077
	14,193,761	5,235,965	14,189,541	5,201,088
	14,431,143	5,462,701	14,426,923	5,427,824

The balance outstanding in respect of bank and other loans represents the current portion of long-term debt (note 16). Included within other accruals is deferred revenue grant income of £nil (2022: £55,197), which will be credited to the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income when the University is entitled to the income or where performance conditions have been met.

Under the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) Accounting for Further and Higher Education 2019 and Financial Reporting Standard FRS102 the University has utilised the “accruals method” in the accounting for deferred capital government grants at 31 July 2023 and 31 July 2022.

Staff benefits compensation relates to a provision in respect of the accrued costs of unutilised staff benefits.

16. Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Group and University		
Bank loan		
– between one and two years	201,145	189,985
– between two and five years	673,535	638,391
– over five years	2,256,832	2,493,122
	3,131,512	3,321,498
Salix Loan		
– between one and two years	47,396	47,396
– between two and five years	94,793	142,189
	142,189	189,585
Total long-term loans	3,273,701	3,511,083
Deferred government capital grants (note 18)		
– between one and two years	498,077	498,077
– between two and five years	1,494,230	1,494,230
– over five years	14,642,657	15,140,733
Total deferred grants	16,634,964	17,133,040
	19,908,665	20,644,123

The bank loan represents a long-term loan facility. Interest is payable on this loan at a fixed rate of 5.5 per cent per annum.

The Salix loan is interest free.

Under the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) Accounting for Further and Higher Education 2019 and Financial Reporting Standard FRS102 the University has utilised the “accruals method” in the accounting for deferred capital government grants at 31 July 2023 and 31 July 2022.

17. Provisions

	Enhanced Pension Provision	Pension Scheme Provision under FRS102	Total Pension Provisions
	£	£	£
Group and University			
At 1 August 2022	(161,671)	(1,219,000)	(1,380,671)
Net payments in year	17,149	–	17,149
Adjustment to pension provision (see below)	(10,834)	–	(10,834)
Service costs (note 7)	–	(501,000)	(501,000)
Pension finance costs (note 9)	–	(29,000)	(29,000)
Administration expenses	–	(54,000)	(54,000)
Actuarial gain (note 19)	–	1,803,000	1,803,000
At 31 July 2023	(155,356)	–	(155,356)

Enhanced pension provision

The actual cost of enhanced ongoing pension payments to former employees is paid by the University monthly. During the year the University has reviewed the expected cost of providing these pensions and based on current life expectancy, taking into account the current age of the pensioner and projected increases in the Consumer Prices Index, concluded that an additional provision of £10,834 is required. This amount has been charged to the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive income as other administration expenditure (note 8).

Pension scheme provision under FRS102

Under Financial Reporting Standard FRS102 the University has recognised its share of the pension scheme deficit in the Local Government Pension Scheme in its balance sheet. Financing, servicing costs and gains and losses in the scheme have been recognised in the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income (note 19).

18. Deferred capital grants

	2023 £	2022 £
Group and University		
At 1 August		
Buildings	17,155,985	17,595,882
Equipment	475,132	533,312
Total	17,631,117	18,129,194
Released to income and expenditure		
Funding council grants (note 3)		
Buildings	39,640	39,640
Equipment	58,180	58,180
Other grants (note 4)		
Buildings	400,257	400,257
Total	498,077	498,077
At 31 July		
Buildings	16,716,088	17,155,985
Equipment	416,952	475,132
Total	17,133,040	17,631,117

As at 31 July 2023 and 31 July 2022 all balances relate to government grants. Under Financial Reporting Standard 102 the “accruals method” has been applied in respect of these grants, and the amount of deferred

capital grants have been treated as deferred income and included in creditors, amounts falling due within one year and creditors, amounts falling due after more than one year, as below:

Group and University		
Due within one year (note 15)	498,077	498,077
Due after more than one year (note 16)	16,634,963	17,133,040
	17,133,040	17,631,117

Group and University		
Released against depreciation charges	498,077	498,077

19. Pension costs and obligations

The University's employees belong principally to two pension schemes, the Teachers' Pensions Scheme for academic staff and the London Borough of Bromley Superannuation Scheme for non-academic staff. Both are defined benefit schemes; the assets being held in separate trustee administered funds.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014. These regulations apply to teachers in schools, colleges and other educational establishments. Membership is automatic for teachers and lecturers at eligible institutions. Teachers and lecturers are able to opt out of the TPS.

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and members contribute on a 'pay as you go' basis – these contributions, along with those made by employers, are credited to the Exchequer under arrangements governed by the above regulations. Retirement and other pension benefits are paid by public funds provided by Parliament

Under the definitions set out in FRS 102 (28.11), the TPS is a multi-employer pension plan. The University is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the plan.

Accordingly, the University has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS 102 and has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined-contribution plan. The University has set out below the information available on the plan and the implications for the University in terms of the anticipated contribution rates.

The valuation of the TPS is carried out in line with regulations made under the Public Service Pension Act 2013. Valuations credit the teachers' pension account with a real rate of return assuming funds are invested in notional investments that produce that real rate of return.

The latest actuarial review of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2016. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education (DfE) in April 2019. The valuation reported total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £218 billion, and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £196 billion, giving a notional past service deficit of £22 billion.

As a result of the valuation, new employer contribution rates were set at 23.68% of pensionable pay from September 2019 onwards (compared to 16.48% during 2018/19). The Department for Education has agreed to pay a teacher pension employer contribution grant to cover the additional costs during the 2019/20 academic year.

A full copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation can be found on the Teachers' Pension Scheme website.

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £1,331,716 (2022: £1,176,105).

19. Pension costs and obligations (continued)

London Borough of Bromley Superannuation Scheme

The London Borough of Bromley Superannuation Scheme is valued every three years by a professional qualified independent actuary, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Superannuation Regulations, the rates of contribution payable being determined by the actuary.

The employer's contribution rate was 14.20% throughout the period.

Employer contributions payable to the scheme during the year were £812,489 (2022: £760,466)

For the purposes of meeting the requirements of reporting standard FRS 102, retirement benefits, the actuary has used the triennial valuation dated 31 March 2019 to assess the assets and liabilities of the scheme as at 31 July 2023.

19. Pension costs and obligations (continued)

The financial assumptions used by the actuary were:

	2023	2022	2021
	% per annum	% per annum	% per annum
Rate of increase in Consumer Price Index	2.7	2.6	2.6
Rate of increase in salaries	4.2	4.1	4.1
Rate of increase in pensions and prices	2.8	2.7	2.7
Discount rate	5.1	3.5	1.6

Life expectancy assumptions used by the actuary were:

		2023	2022
Current pensioner age 65			
	Males	21.7 years	22.8 years
	Females	24.0 years	25.3 years
Future pensioner age 65 in 20 years' time			
	Males	22.7 years	24.6 years
	Females	25.7 years	27.2 years

The estimated asset allocation for the University is as follows:

	31 July 2023		31 July 2022	
	Allocation of Investments	University Share of fund	Allocation of Investments	University Share of fund
	%	£'000	%	£'000
Equities	62.8	17,161	62.4	16,741
Government Bonds	2.4	656	2.5	671
Bonds	8.0	2,186	8.0	2,146
Property	6.1	1,667	7.2	1,932
Cash/liquidity	2.6	711	2.3	617
Other	18.1	4,946	17.6	4,722
	100.0	27,327	100.0	26,829

19. Pension costs and obligations (continued)

Net liability in balance sheet

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Fair value of scheme assets	27,327	26,829
Present value of funded obligations	(22,542)	(28,048)
Net asset/(liability)	4,785	(1,219)
Adjustment (see below)	(4,785)	-
Net liability in balance sheet	-	(1,219)

Financial Reporting Standard FRS102, only permits a pension scheme asset to be recognised where the surplus can be recovered either by reduced contributions or through contributions refunds. Since the Local Government Pension Scheme does not permit refunds and future contributions are determined by the position at the next triennial valuation which cannot be predicted, it does not necessarily mean that the future contributions will be reduced. For this reason, the net liability in the balance sheet is reported as £nil.

Reconciliation of assets and liabilities

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Defined benefit obligation at 1 August	28,048	36,237
Service cost	1,265	2,370
Interest cost	975	586
Past service cost	-	-
Actuarial (gain)/loss	(7,408)	(11,779)
Estimated benefits paid (net of transfers in)	(739)	224
Contributions by scheme participants	401	410
Defined benefit obligation at 31 July	22,542	28,048
Fair value of scheme assets at 1 August	26,829	27,569
Expected return on scheme assets	946	452
Actuarial (loss)/gain	(820)	(2,563)
Administration expenses	(54)	(38)
Contribution by employer	764	775
Contributions by scheme participants	401	410
Estimated benefits paid (net of transfers in)	(739)	224
Fair value of scheme assets at 31 July	27,327	26,829

19. Pension costs and obligations (continued)

Reconciliation of assets and liabilities

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Deficit in scheme at 1 August	(1,219)	(8,668)
Movement in year		
Employer service cost (net of employee contributions)	(1,265)	(2,370)
Employer contributions	764	775
Past service costs	–	–
Finance costs on pension scheme liabilities	(29)	(134)
Administration expenses	(54)	(38)
Actuarial gain	6,588	9,216
Surplus/(deficit) in scheme at 31 July	4,785	(1,219)

As stated, the pension liability as at 31 July 2023, has been reported in the University's balance sheet as £nil.

Analysis of the amount credited/charged to the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income.

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Service costs		
Employer service costs (net of employee contributions)	1,265	2,370
Employer contributions	(764)	(775)
Past service cost	–	–
Total operating costs (note 7)	501	1,595
Pension finance costs		
Expected return on pension scheme assets	946	452
Interest on pension liabilities	(975)	(586)
Pension scheme finance costs (note 9)	(29)	(134)
Administration expenses		
Included within other administration expenditure (note 8)	(54)	(38)

19. Pension costs and obligations (continued)

Analysis of amounts charged to the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income in respect of the actuarial gain in the pension scheme.

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Actuarial losses in pension scheme		
Changes in assumptions underlying the present value of the scheme liabilities	7,408	11,779
Actuarial return less expected return on pension scheme assets	(820)	(2,563)
Total recognised gains for the year	6,588	9,216
Adjustment to recognised gain for the year (see below)	(4,785)	–
Total recognised gains for the year reported in the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income	1,803	9,216

Financial Reporting Standard FRS102, only permits a pension scheme asset to be recognised where the surplus can be recovered either by reduced contributions or through contributions refunds. Since the Local Government Pension Scheme does not permit refunds and future contributions are determined by the position at the next triennial valuation which cannot be predicted, it does not necessarily mean that the future contributions will be reduced. For this reason, the total recognised gains for the year have been adjusted to in order to report the net liability in the balance sheet as £nil.

History of experience gains and losses

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000	2021 £'000	2020 £'000	2019 £'000
Defined benefit obligation	(22,542)	(28,048)	(36,237)	(31,940)	(26,250)
Scheme assets	27,327	26,829	27,569	22,279	19,870
Surplus/(deficit) in pension scheme	4,785	(1,219)	(8,668)	(9,661)	(6,380)
Experience adjustments on scheme liabilities	–	–	–	–	–
Percentage of scheme liabilities	–	–	–	–	–
Experience adjustments on scheme assets	(820)	(2,563)	4,139	1,283	1,234
Percentage of scheme assets	(3.0%)	(9.6%)	15.1%	5.8%	6.2%

As stated, the pension liability, as at 31 July 2023, has been reported in the University's balance sheet as £nil.

19. Pension costs and obligations (continued)

Sensitivity analysis at 31 July 2023

	Central	Sensitivity 1 +0.5% pa discount rate	Sensitivity 2 +0.25% pa inflation	Sensitivity 3 +0.25 pa pay growth	Sensitivity 4 +1 year Increase in life expectancy
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Liabilities	22,542	20,546	23,612	22,614	23,016
Assets	(27,327)	(27,327)	(27,327)	(27,327)	(27,327)
Deficit/(Surplus)	(4,785)	(6,781)	(3,715)	(4,713)	(4,311)
Projected service cost for next year	664	535	736	664	685
Projected net interest cost for next year	(264)	(399)	(209)	(260)	(240)

20. Reserves

	Group £	University £
Income and expenditure reserve		
At 1 August 2022	41,036,538	41,116,036
Actuarial gain in respect of pension scheme (note 19)	1,803,000	1,803,000
Deficit for the year	120,683	114,120
At 31 July 2023	42,960,221	43,033,156

21. Financial commitments

At 31 July the University had commitments under non-cancellable operating leases

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Due within one year	504,103	455,983
Due between two and five years	2,017,794	209,201
Due in more than five years	1,238,851	–
	3,760,748	665,184

22. Access and participation expenditure

Total Investment	2023			2022		
	Staff Costs	Non-Pay Costs	Total Costs	Staff Costs	Non-Pay Costs	Total Costs
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Access Investment	393,717	61,284	455,001	359,293	58,434	417,727
Financial Support	–	645,838	645,838	–	558,210	558,210
Support for disabled students	149,395	295,921	445,316	131,229	244,825	376,054
Research and evaluation	82,932	–	82,932	75,923	–	75,923
	626,044	1,003,043	1,629,087	566,445	861,469	1,427,914

Included within the above, are investments made by franchise partners

Franchisee Investment	2023			2022		
	Staff Costs	Non-Pay Costs	Total Costs	Staff Costs	Non-Pay Costs	Total Costs
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Access Investment	64,440	–	64,440	–	–	–
Financial Support	–	–	–	–	–	–
Support for disabled students	–	74,369	74,369	–	–	–
Research and evaluation	25,982	–	25,982	–	–	–
	90,422	74,369	164,791	–	–	–

Amounts incurred directly by Ravensbourne University London in respect of Staff costs and Non-Pay costs are included respectively within the University's total staff costs (note 6) and total other operating expenses (note 8). Investments made by partners are incurred directly by the partner institution and are not included within these financial statements.

The Access and Participation Plan for Ravensbourne University London can be found at:
www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/the-register/search-for-access-and-participation-plans/#/AccessPlans/provider/10005389

23. Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the University's operations and the composition of the Board of Governors being drawn from local public and private sectors organisations, it is inevitable that transactions will take place with organisations in which a member of the Board of Governors may have an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the University's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures.

During the year ended 31 July 2023 £nil was paid to Tower View Consulting (2022: £2,600), a sole trader entity operated by Professor Helen Higson. At 31 July 2023 there were no balances outstanding and unpaid, (2022: £nil). Professor Helen Higson resigned from the Board in March 2023.

No Governor receives payment in respect of their duties; however, trustees are entitled to claim expenses and payments totalling £1,776 were made to four trustees (2022; £821 to three trustees).



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