



Impact Report 2020-21

Plymouth Marjon University

A thank you to our community

This is the first impact report from Marjon, celebrating the achievements of our community of staff and students in 2020-21 and our positive partnerships with the wider community.

We have all come through a most extraordinary year, in which Covid and lockdowns were a continuous threat over the life of every university and indeed all of humankind. Our senior management team always considers students our top priority, and so it was with Covid. Having moved online in the first lockdown, our staff made strenuous efforts to put students first in our teaching, assessment, personal support, and skills training.

181 years ago, in 1840, Sir James Kay-Shuttleworth founded St John's College, and a year later, St Mark's College was founded by Reverend Derwent Coleridge. With their decisive action, our founders took revolutionary and pioneering steps to fight inequality, and to make a difference to their communities. 180 years later, we are still making a difference.

Our anniversary year was, in the end, more memorable not for reflecting on our past but for the extraordinary present times we are all living through. We congratulate all of our students and staff for their fortitude and achievements in this most unusual of years, and we offer our sincere thanks to our friends and stakeholders for their ongoing support of all that we do.

We are proud to be at the heart of the Plymouth community, where we have been for almost 50 years, and grateful to you for all the support we receive to make a difference to individual lives.



Professor Robert Warner
Vice-Chancellor



Supporting students through Covid

The last academic year was experienced in the midst of varying phases of national lockdown and impacts on both social activities and teaching.

Our academic staff showed incredible ingenuity to create a wide range of experiences which we now know will serve students well in their future careers. These included online theatrical performances, online health and wellbeing consultations, and online events for our students to keep them motivated and connected.

Our efforts were recognised in the Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2022, which ranked us:



This was based on the way our students responded to the National Student Survey.





Focused on student success

We have continued to focus on supporting local young people into higher education, despite the complexities of outreach work in this environment. In July 2021, we started a new programme called Marjon Scholars with local Year 7 pupils taking part in a six-week online programme to help to develop their curiosity about higher education. We were delighted to finally welcome them to the campus this Autumn in person.

Our Year 12-13 summer school, supporting students who wish to become teachers, has run online for two years, maintaining persistent excitement and enthusiasm from young people.

This has been a complex time for students to gain work experience, as businesses close and reopen. We have accelerated our own development of work experiences for students.

We offered work to 169 students in 2020, with students working on our Welcome Desk, in our labs, as IT assistants, in our Sports & Health Centre, in our Coronavirus Support Team and Covid test centre, as Change Maker project managers, as research partners as well as Student Ambassadors. Many new graduate internship roles have also been developed, reflecting our desires to provide a springboard for our graduates at the start of their careers, and to put the student voice right at the heart of our decision-making.

Whilst travel and study abroad became impossible at certain times, our Futures team have ensured that students could still access high quality, horizon-widening activity, supporting students through our Going Places fund with extra qualifications and experiences within the UK to launch their graduate careers.

Our annual awards ceremonies have now run online for two years, with record nominations as staff and students recognised achievements in such exceptional circumstances, and much larger audiences.

Research and Knowledge Exchange

Our research has gone from strength to strength as we continue to grow our postgraduate research community, and move towards applying for Research Degree Awarding Powers in 2022-23. Our first PhD student has completed his doctoral award, and more are moving towards completion.

The breadth of our academic expertise is also growing, and this year we submitted in the Research Excellence Framework for the first time. Work was submitted from 30 of our researchers and academics, and we will hear the results in 2022, which will make a significant impact on our league table rankings.

In 2020 we were awarded a £250,000 grant to research our students' involvement in our Health & Wellbeing clinics. The grant will enable us to research the positive impact on students of our model, so that other institutions might follow suit.



At the forefront of health developments

Marjon Health & Wellbeing plays an integral role in the local healthcare system, including developing and delivering clinics which support patients with long term conditions. All approaches are person-centred, meaning support and care is given which recognises the individual circumstances of each patient and finds ways to help them manage their conditions. Over 50 people a week take part in these clinics, which are at the forefront of practical research into new ways to manage health for long-term conditions.

Throughout Covid our health clinics continued to run, either online or in person. Marjon Health & Wellbeing's person-centred approach was adapted to online formats to minimise the debilitating affects of isolation. Our patients with cancer, chronic pain, leg ulcers and long-term conditions benefited from online exercise videos, weekly Q&A drop-in sessions, and individualised home prehab exercise programmes for those about to undergo surgery. This presented MHW with an opportunity to increase access and engagement for hard-to-reach patients in more deprived areas of the community.

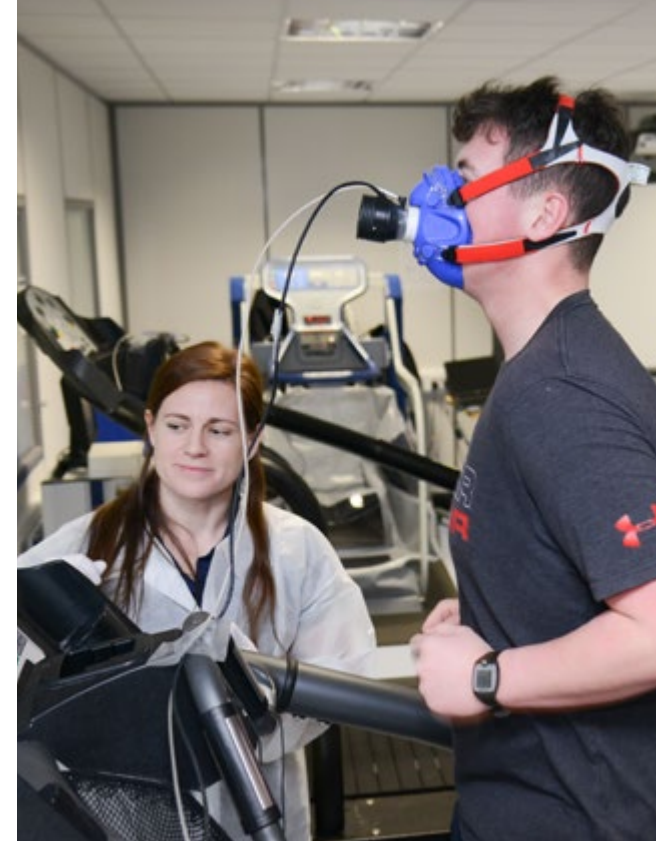
The team have continued to deliver Osteopathic Medicine treatments throughout the pandemic supporting the people of Plymouth and maintaining the highest quality education for our students during this challenging time.

Our July 2021 national stakeholder event 'Working together for Healthcare Excellence' brought together stakeholders from across the region in a one-day event delivered both online and in person, to gather as many views and insights as possible.

We continue to strengthen our research and knowledge exchange activity in health & wellbeing in partnership with Livewell Southwest, Sentinel Health and Wellbeing, Macmillan Mustard Tree, NHS Hospital's Trust, Devon & Cornwall Police and the Environment Agency. Marjon has embarked on an exciting education and development programme to increase the number of healthcare professionals needed on the front line and we are committed to researching new approaches in authentic and accessible healthcare for all.

In a development currently being piloted, Marjon Health and Wellbeing staff and students are delivering a new long Covid rehabilitation programme from the campus, in partnership with Plymouth NHS Hospital Trust physiotherapists.

We celebrated 25 years of training Speech and Language Therapists in 2019, and our course has been scored at over 90% student satisfaction every year in the last 5 years. It also ranks first in the UK for student satisfaction in the Complete University Guide.



50%

growth in postgraduate research students

2019-20 to 2020-21



Promoting sport and physical activity in the community

Marjon Sport & Health Centre welcomes over 300 children each week for football training, and around 400 children come for swimming lessons. In addition the centre is home to training for hockey, basketball, rugby, wheelchair basketball, netball, football, badminton and tennis.

An FA Women's High Performance Football Centre is based at Marjon, and works with talented girls and women from across Devon and Cornwall.

We are also home to training for the Plymouth City Patriots professional basketball team.

Meanwhile, our sports-based courses are consistently ranked highly by our students. We are the only sport science lab accredited by the British Association of Sport and Exercise Sciences in the South West. Our Sport and Exercise Science course is ranked 6th in England and 1st in the South West by the Complete University Guide 2021. And our student satisfaction has been over 90% for the last three years.



Developing the arts

Marjon Arts Centre is the cultural hub of North Plymouth; a multi-use and inclusive space designed to bring the community together.

The Arts Centre is home to The Actor's Wheel theatre company which trains students in acting and musical theatre. It also hosts exhibitions and many performances from leading stand-up comedians as well as weekly drama workshops for children.

In the coming year, Marjon Arts Centre will also host performances from different local theatre companies and Plymouth Symphony Orchestra. The Arts Centre aims to be a space with something for everyone to enjoy.

Our professionally kitted space The Workshop, former home of the BBC studios in Plymouth and located right on the same site as their new building, provides incredible learning opportunities for our journalism students. We have been delighted to welcome many expert journalists as lecturers and guests to our course. Students ranked our journalism courses 100% in the National Student Survey 2021.

Supporting local education

Our education and teacher training provision is recognised nationally and internationally for the quality of our teaching. Each year we train around 200 new teachers, most of whom go into schools in the South West. We have partnerships with more than 650 schools across the country, offering our trainees an incredible variety of placements.

Our BEd (Hons) Primary Education has been rated over 90% satisfaction for the last five years by our students in the National Student Survey. Our Education courses overall are ranked 2nd in England by the Complete University Guide for satisfaction, and we are also 2nd in England for the same guide when students are asked "I am on track with my future career plans".



MARJON ZERO

Zero Carbon by 2030

The race to zero is well underway

MarjonZero represents our goal to move our campus to zero carbon emissions by 2030. This goal has made great progress since its launch in December 2019, at a student-led climate conference. By mid-2022 we will have reduced our carbon emissions on campus by 60% in just two years.

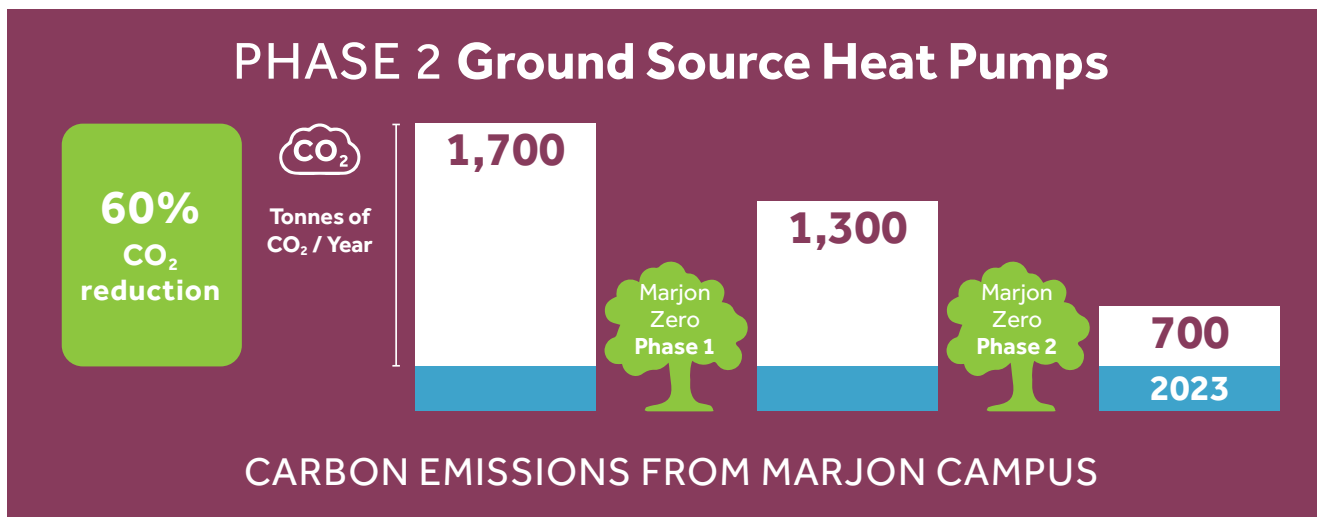
This has been delivered in two key phases, providing the campus with some of the cleanest and most renewable ways to heat our buildings and some of our accommodation.

Phase 1 of Marjon Zero was completed in early 2021, when we installed approximately 2000 solar panels, saving 300 tonnes of carbon per year saved (tCO₂e). In Phase 1 we also switched our lighting to energy efficient LEDs and installed five electric vehicle charging stations.

Phase 2 of the project is now underway, involving installing 120 ground source heat pumps. This will save 617 tonnes of carbon per year (tCO₂e); equivalent to the energy use from 65 homes, or burning 1260 barrels of oil or charging 66 million smartphones.

Marjon is the first university to implement a ground source heat pumps project of this size, meaning Marjon, its community and the surrounding areas are at the forefront of new sustainability initiatives in the race to net-zero carbon. The project is enabled by grants from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, to the value of £1.8m for solar panels and £3.5m for ground source heat pumps.

In November 2021 a second climate emergency conference was held on campus, recommitting us to our goal to be carbon neutral by 2030.



Promoting our wild campus

Marjon is part of a wildlife zone that stretches from the airport and down to the Science Park and into the Forder Valley Nature Reserve. The deer herd which ranges this area are frequently seen from our student houses, on our sports pitches, and even sleeping in the safety of our grassy quad.

More recently Marjon has collaborated with Pollenize Plymouth, and the campus is now home to a colony of bees. Pollenize are creating a network of community funded research apiaries stocked with European Dark Honey Bees. The aim is to conserve and extend the local populations of our threatened native dark honey bee.

The bees will be monitored weekly by the experts from Pollenize, and in spring next year, we will be installing cameras into the hive to live stream their activity. There will also be a chance for students to express their creativity and paint their hive.



Newly Appointed Staff

Claire Langman, Healthcare Education Strategic Advisor

Claire was appointed as the Strategic Advisor for Healthcare Education in August 2021, having worked both in the NHS and private sector for the past 20 years and her area of clinical specialist practice is vestibulopathy. Her role at Marjon will focus on leading our professional, statutory and regulatory body approval across a range of healthcare course developments. She has worked at the Universities of Bristol, Aston, Anglia Ruskin and Tianjin University in China. Claire holds a number of postgraduate qualifications including a Master's degree in Medical Education. Her current academic focus is on her Professional Doctorate. She is very passionate about practice-based learning as well as the widening participation agenda.

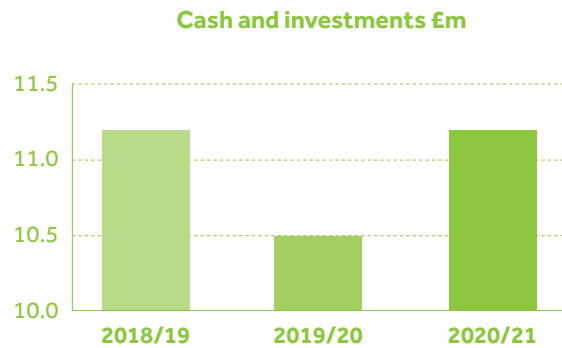
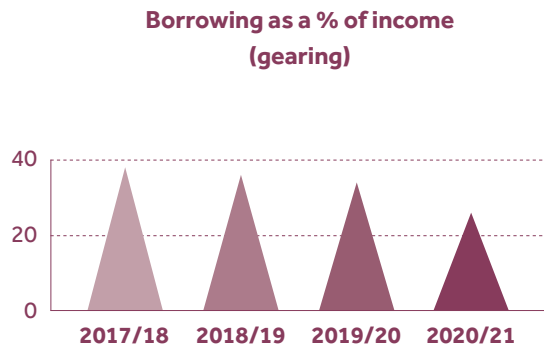
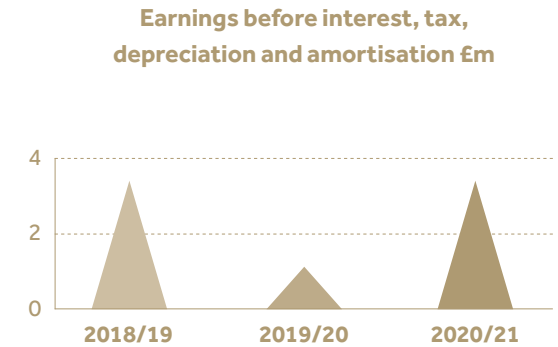
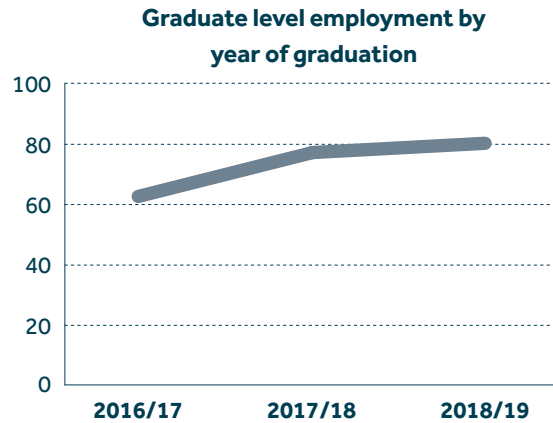
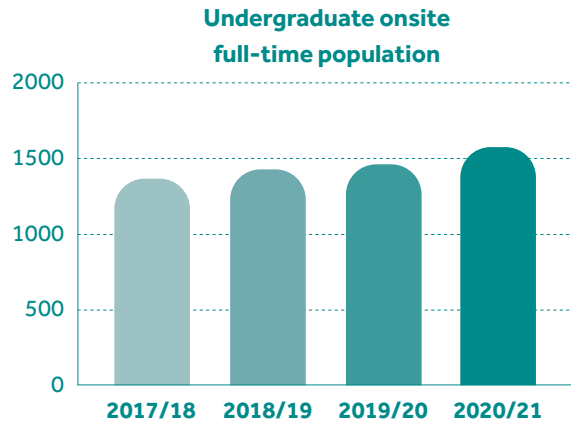
Professor Gary Kinchin, Dean of Marjon Teacher Education Partnership

Professor Gary Kinchin joined Plymouth Marjon University in September with 28 years' experience in higher education. Gary is a former Marjon student, having gained a First Class Honours degree and then completing his Master's and PhD in Physical Education Teacher Education at The Ohio State University. Gary has previously held academic positions at Illinois State University and De Montfort University and most recently as an Associate Professor in the Education School at the University of Southampton. As a former Deputy Head of School (Education) at Southampton, Gary brings extensive teaching and leadership experience across Undergraduate, Initial Teacher Education, PCAP, Masters and Doctoral Research Training and he has supervised over 20 doctoral students to completion. As an experienced examiner of doctoral degrees, Gary's principal research is in Sport Education and in teacher education. He has published widely in peer-reviewed journals and presented at national and international conferences.

Ellie Warnes, Head of Student Support

Over the past 20 years Ellie has gained wide experience working with children and young adults as a teacher and educator in the UK and abroad and more recently as a social prescriber in the NHS. Ellie completed an MA Education in Special Educational Needs and Disability in August 2020 with research into inclusive education for children with special educational needs and disability. Ellie is conducting research as a visiting specialist at the University of Plymouth and the University of Exeter and is studying for a BACP Level 4 Diploma in Therapeutic Counselling. Her professional areas of interest are special educational needs and disability, the wellbeing and mental health of students and physical education.

Key performance indicators for a sustainable future



4.2%
Mean gender pay gap

-3.4%
Median gender pay gap

17%
Sector mean gender pay gap

Recognition in 2020-21

In a testament to our students and staff, we have achieved some incredible accolades during the last year.

Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey 2021

Rankings vs sector (88 institutions)



Contact with staff
(in person and virtual)
(98%)



Support (84%)



Assessment
(89%)



Overall (88%)



Education courses
(100%)



Teaching
(86%)

Recognition for Undergraduate Student Experience

Position amongst c. 120 English universities



in England for **learning community**

(National Student Survey 2021)



in England for **teaching quality**

(Good University Guide 2022)



in England for **student voice**

(National Student Survey 2021)



in England for **social inclusion**

(Good University Guide 2022)



in England for **student satisfaction**

(Complete University Guide 2022)



in England for **students' union**

(National Student Survey 2021)



in England for **learning opportunities**

(National Student Survey 2021)



in England for **pandemic response**

(Good University Guide 2022)



in England for **teaching on my course**

(National Student Survey 2021)



**Top 5 universities in England and
No 1 in South West**

(On 12 out of 27 NSS questions, National Student Survey 2021)

“Knowing that I could be the person who might be changing someone’s life for the better - it inspires me every day.”

Marlies Maczejka,
Marjon graduate class of 2020

