



## PRESS RELEASE

25 November 2021

### **COVID-19 and climate change work recognised in The Queen's Anniversary Prizes for Higher and Further Education 2020-2022**

- 21 universities and colleges announced as Prize-winners at St James's Palace
- Highest level of applications in a decade

Her Majesty The Queen has approved the award of The Queen's Anniversary Prizes to twenty-one higher and further education institutions in the most recent (14<sup>th</sup>) round of the independently-reviewed scheme. This prestigious award is the highest national honour available to universities and FE colleges across the UK.

In a period where COVID-19 and climate change have become the most prominent issues of our time, the final list of Prize-winners reflects the strong contribution of universities and colleges in these areas. Among those honoured are two universities (Imperial College; Oxford) whose efforts delivered vitally important data modelling and the design and creation of a COVID-19 vaccine respectively. This work was notably completed at an unprecedented speed and helped reduce loss of life worldwide from coronavirus. Leading work in virology and epidemiology at the University of Glasgow and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine has also been recognised.

A number of Prize-winning applications also addressed climate change (universities of Aberdeen, Leeds, Reading; LSE) as well as broader environmental issues. Prize-winners were also announced for important work in digital skills training, mental health, heritage and advanced precision engineering and manufacturing.

Despite the added challenges of making an application during the pandemic, the number of entries in the Prizes scheme was the highest for a decade. Round 14 also reflects the highest number of FE colleges awarded a Prize since the scheme began in 1994, illustrating the critical work taking place across the sector to train young people for employment in the new green economy.

"The colleges and universities honoured on this list are testament to the rich and impactful work being done at our educational institutions day in, day out – particularly in the face of challenges that have forced them to adapt so rapidly," stated Sir Damon Buffini, Chairman of the Royal Anniversary

Trust. He added: "This round saw the highest number of entries in a decade. It is rewarding to witness the scheme's continued growth in profile in recent years, and the relevance and positive effect each winner's work is having both within its field and beyond. Huge congratulations to the latest Prize-winners!"

The Queen's Anniversary Prizes recognise outstanding work by UK colleges and universities which demonstrates excellence and innovation and delivers real benefit to the wider world. These honours are granted by The Queen every two years, and entry to the scheme is open to all recognised UK colleges or universities offering full-time programmes. Entries are subjected to rigorous specialist and technical assessment through a process managed by the Royal Anniversary Trust, a charity independent of government. Recommendations for HM The Queen's approval are made on the Prime Minister's advice.

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Note to editors:

#### **14<sup>TH</sup> ROUND PRIZE-WINNERS 2020-2022:**

##### **UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN**

World-leading research and teaching in soil science promoting the control of greenhouse gas emissions and sustainable food production

##### **ANGLIA RUSKIN UNIVERSITY**

Innovative work in music therapy with a main focus on the wellbeing of people with dementia and influencing policy at community and national level

##### **UNIVERSITY OF BRADFORD**

Scientific techniques in archaeology revealing the story of major UK sites and enabling virtual rebuilding of heritage destroyed by conflict

##### **CHICHESTER COLLEGE GROUP**

A UK and internationally recognised leader in craft skills training in high quality woodwork and furniture, with a large and diverse apprenticeship programme and support for start-ups

##### **EXETER COLLEGE**

An outstanding track record in digital skills training bringing data analytics to a wide range of courses from primary to PhD and acting as a Microsoft showcase and a national demonstrator in educational technology

##### **UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW**

Advanced virology research to combat diseases such as Hepatitis C and dengue, and leading expertise in the secure handling of samples and testing antivirals

##### **GRIMSBY INSTITUTE OF HIGHER AND FURTHER EDUCATION**

A national leader in digital curriculum and learning innovation, forecasting demands from the new economy and delivering skills in a region where jobs are at special risk

**HERIOT-WATT UNIVERSITY**

World-class laser and photonics technology in complex manufacturing, from healthcare and communications to national defence

**UNIVERSITY OF HUDDERSFIELD**

Advanced metrology for smart and carbon-neutral manufacturing, product verification, digitalised processes and machining

**IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON**

World-class expertise in data modelling and real-time analysis, supporting a holistic response to Covid-19 in UK and internationally

**UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS**

Research in climate and extreme weather, aiding vulnerable communities in the global south with new forecasting and warning systems

**LONDON SCHOOL OF HYGIENE AND TROPICAL MEDICINE**

A world leader in the prevention of infectious diseases, in Africa and other countries, through an extensive network of highly trained alumni

**THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE**

A leading international role in the economics, investment policy and legislation essential for the implementation of practical measures addressing climate change

**THE MANCHESTER COLLEGE**

One of the UK's largest inner city colleges, with a mission to improve young people's aspirations and support social mobility with career-oriented training, co-delivered with leading employers in an exceptional range of partnerships

**NOTTINGHAM TRENT UNIVERSITY**

Digitisation and imaging technology applied to the preservation and conservation of iconic cultural heritage artefacts and sites in the UK and other countries

**UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD**

Large-scale multidisciplinary research expertise in antibodies combining to enable rapid design and production of an effective vaccine against Covid-19 saving millions of lives

**UNIVERSITY OF READING**

New modelling work on the interaction of earth climate and local weather systems to build risk assessment, community preparedness and action to tackle climate change

**SOUTH WEST COLLEGE, Tyrone and Fermanagh**

An outstanding leader in environmental sustainability for the region providing training for the employment of young people in a low-carbon green economy

**UNIVERSITY OF STRATHCLYDE**

A leader in applied advanced manufacturing research in UK with applications in energy, pharma and transportation, and driving innovation and job creation

**SWANSEA UNIVERSITY**

Transformational work in integrated steel and solar cell technology for low-carbon buildings construction, heat storage and renewable energy

**WARWICKSHIRE COLLEGE**

A leading provider of engineering apprenticeships in the Midlands, working with world-class companies and geared to respond rapidly to changing supply-chain needs in industry, from repair and maintenance to new power systems

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