

30 years of university status



2022 marks 30 years of university status – and we're #BUProud of how far we have come over this time. We've achieved a lot and created a lot of change. Our timeline celebrates this, bringing together 30 milestones and highlights.

> [Watch our celebration video](https://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/30-year-video) [https://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/30-year-video]

1992: granted university status



Becoming Bournemouth University in 1992 marked a turning point for us – we were able to validate our degrees for the first time and we've grown steadily ever since. But our history goes back further. We've been educating in Dorset since the 1970s as a college of technology. While we've come a long way since then, one thing has always stayed constant – our determination to create change.

> [More about our history](https://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/about/regional-engagement/our-history-heritage) [https://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/about/regional-engagement/our-history-heritage]

1992: Design and Engineering Show started

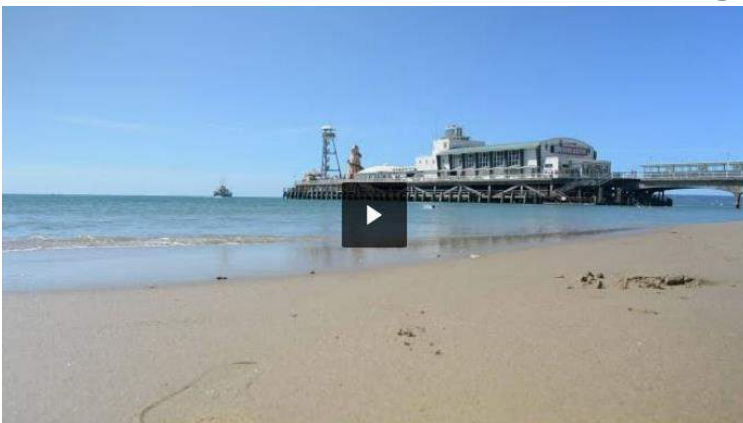


> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a-uV9kpizzw>

For 30 years, we've been celebrating the work of our Design and Engineering students. Fast forward to the present day and the Festival of Design and Engineering (as it's now known) continues to showcase final year students' designs, models and prototypes – many of which aim to improve people's lives and tackle societal issues.

> [View students work](https://fodt.bournemouth.ac.uk/student-projects/) [https://fodt.bournemouth.ac.uk/student-projects/]

1994: over 9,000 students studying with us



> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TwhwY2sszVg>

Just two years after gaining university status, over 9,000 UK and international students had joined BU. Today, over 16,500 students from around the world study with us. And once their BU journey has finished, lots of our graduates continue to call Bournemouth their home, enjoying successful careers with a life by the coast

> [Read graduates' stories](https://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/why-bu/graduate-student-stories/alumni-profiles) [https://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/why-bu/graduate-student-stories/alumni-profiles]

1994: first SUBU Summer Ball



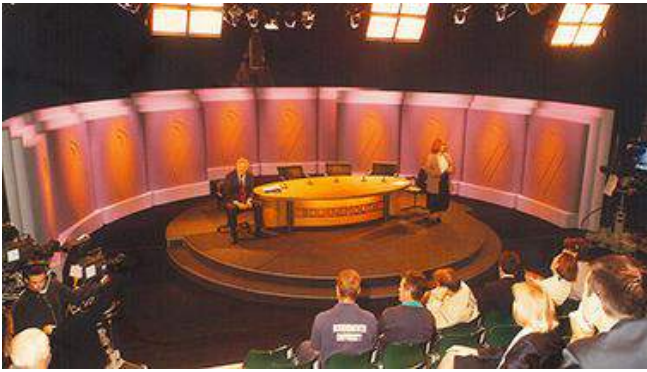
> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lXzsdOz9m24>



Firmly established as the UK's biggest student party, SUBU's Summer Ball sees thousands of BU students, with many in fancy dress, celebrate the end of their degree in style. From live music to funfair rides, DJs to roaming entertainment and food stalls galore, there's lots for everyone to enjoy.

> [More about SUBU](https://www.subu.org.uk/) [https://www.subu.org.uk/]

2006: host Question Time



On air for over 40 years and still going strong, Question Time – the BBC current affairs programme – arrived at BU in 2006. Hosted by the legendary David Dimbleby, the Sports Hall on Talbot Campus was transformed into a TV studio as members of the general public posed their questions to panel members.

2007: The Sir Michael Cobham Library opens



The late Sir Michael Cobham, a BU Honorary Doctorate and former Chairman and Life President of Cobham plc, made a significant difference to BU – and this was recognised when the Library and Learning Centre was renamed in his honour.

Today, The Sir Michael Cobham Library remains at the heart of our Talbot Campus and is a hub for learning and support.

> [Take a virtual tour](https://virtualtour.bournemouth.ac.uk/explore/talbot-campus/sir-michael-cobham-library/ground-floor) [https://virtualtour.bournemouth.ac.uk/explore/talbot-campus/sir-michael-cobham-library/ground-floor]

2009: Executive Business Centre opens



The official opening of the Executive Business Centre (EBC) in 2009 marked the start of the transformation of our Lansdowne Campus. For over 10 years, the EBC has been a centre for students, academics and the local business community, where ideas and knowledge can be exchanged, and new partnerships are formed.

> [Take a virtual tour](https://virtualtour.bournemouth.ac.uk/explore/landsdowne-campus/executive-business-centre/cafe-3) [https://virtualtour.bournemouth.ac.uk/explore/landsdowne-campus/executive-business-centre/cafe-3]

2010: Professor John Vinney appointed Vice-Chancellor



For 12 years, Professor John Vinney (himself a BU graduate) has led the university as Vice-Chancellor. During his time, BU has most recently risen to a top 70 global university in the Times Higher Education Young University Rankings 2022, among many other achievements. Professor Vinney supersedes three BU Vice-Chancellors: the late Dr Bernard McManus, Professor Gillian Slater and Sir Paul Curran.

> [Read John's profile](#)

[<https://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/about/governance/leadership/university-executive-team/vice-chancellor-professor-john-vinney-dl>]

2010: Professor Tim Darvill awarded an OBE



> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gvigsmR_oJM



From undertaking pioneering research into the history and development of Stonehenge to the archaeology of early farming communities in northwest Europe and much more, the work of BU's Professor Tim Darvill has certainly made an impact. This was recognised in the 2010 Queen's Birthday Honours list when he was awarded an OBE.

> [Discover more](#) [<https://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/research/research-action/stonehenge-origins>]

2010: Partner with Dorset HealthCare NHS Trust



> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fv23nzi_Y6I

When Dorset HealthCare NHS University Foundation Trust was given university status, this marked the beginning of our partnership. As with any partnership, its evolved over time (as has the name – it's now called University Hospitals Dorset NHS Foundation Trust). The collaboration continues to benefit both university and hospital students, graduates and staff – and ultimately promotes better patient outcomes.

> [Find out more](https://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/collaborate/university-hospitals-dorset) [https://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/collaborate/university-hospitals-dorset]

2011: BU awarded the Queen's Anniversary Prize



Over the years, our National Centre for Computer Animation (NCCA) has become one of the most established and regarded centres for computer graphics and animation education and research. In 2011, this was formally recognised when the NCCA was awarded the Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education.

> [Explore the NCCA](https://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/about/our-faculties/faculty-media-communication/national-centre-computer-animation) [https://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/about/our-faculties/faculty-media-communication/national-centre-computer-animation]

2012: BU graduate Andy Lockley wins an Oscar



To be awarded an Oscar is the ultimate industry accolade. And Andy Lockley, who graduated from BU in 2000 with an MA in Special Digital Effects, has achieved just that, picking up a total of three Oscars to date. In 2012, Andy picked up the Best Visual Effects award for his work on Inception, the Special Visual Effects award for Interstellar in 2015 and Best Visual Effects for Tenet in 2021.

> [Read a Q&A with Andy](https://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/news/2015-02-09/oscar-qa-interstellar-winner-andy-lockley) [https://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/news/2015-02-09/oscar-qa-interstellar-winner-andy-lockley]

2012: Princess Anne visits BU



‘Following BU being awarded the Queen’s Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education, Princess Anne met with students from the Media School (now the

Faculty of Media and Communication) to celebrate their achievements and learn more about their work. This included taking part in a live TV chat show about the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and exploring the latest technological developments.'

> [More about the Faculty](https://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/about/our-faculties/faculty-media-communication) [https://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/about/our-faculties/faculty-media-communication]

2012: first Festival of Learning



> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ALEZ8kpJo7A>



In 2012, we launched our Festival of Learning – a programme of free activities and events for all ages, designed to bring learning to life. Over the six years that the Festival ran, our Talbot Campus was transformed into a hub of hands-on exploration, and off-campus activities extended across Bournemouth and Poole. In 2016, the first Global Festival of Learning took place, putting BU on the international stage.

2013: signed partnership with AFC Bournemouth



> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v8HSgDVY4qI>





BU has been the official higher education partner of AFC Bournemouth for nine years – a relationship that benefits BU students, staff, supporters, and the local community. From player appearances on our campuses to students working on live campaigns and the opportunity to become a matchday ambassador, there are lots of ways to get involved.

> [Read more](https://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/collaborate/afc-bournemouth) [https://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/collaborate/afc-bournemouth]

2013: BU generates more than £1 million a day spending



> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gzQ_LZxeMi4

The publication of the BU Economic Impact Study 2013 marked a turning point for us. At a headline level, the study found that BU, its students, and staff were bringing more than £1 million a day spending to the South West Region. This demonstrated the impact that we were making – and continue to make – to the local economy.

2013: Cycling against Hip Pain programme launched



> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UPfZE2mwbEU>



As we've developed over the last 30 years, so has our research in helping people to live better lives for longer. One of the ways in which we're doing this is through our ground-breaking Cycling against Hip Pain (CHAIN) programme. For nine years, CHAIN has helped people suffering from hip arthritis to live pain-free lives – and this looks set to continue.

> [Discover more](https://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/research/projects/cycling-against-hip-pain) [https://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/research/projects/cycling-against-hip-pain]

2015: Praised by the Prime Minister in Parliament



> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_43pypyM00c&t=8s

Following success for BU graduates at the 2015 BAFTAs, then Prime Minister David Cameron commended BU in Parliament, demonstrating the reputation that we were building for our computer animation and visual effects courses. He said, “Bournemouth University plays a very important part because of its training of some of our digital effects specialists [and] because many of our creative people – [are] an absolutely key part of this vital and growing industry.

> [Read more](https://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/news/2015-02-12/prime-minister-praises-bu-parliament) [https://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/news/2015-02-12/prime-minister-praises-bu-parliament]

2015: Big Dig uncovers Iron Age town



> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=36-454alfDU&t=16s>



Every now and then, archaeological excavations reveal significant finds. In 2015, BU students and academics uncovered a previously unknown prehistoric town near Winterbourne Kingston in Dorset. Remains of sixteen Iron Age roundhouses were examined and a geophysical survey in fact revealed at least 150 roundhouses. To date, this is one of the largest townships to be discovered in Britain.

> [Read the story](https://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/news/2015-07-12/dig-unearths-prehistoric-town) [https://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/news/2015-07-12/dig-unearths-prehistoric-town]

2015-16: three new buildings open







Throughout 2015-16, we invested in three new buildings across our campuses – The Student Centre, BU International College and The Fusion Building – so that we could continue to offer our students a great university experience. The Fusion Building is a physical manifestation of our 'Fusion' approach, where we combine research, education and practice to enable our students to excel.

> [Take a virtual tour](https://virtualtour.bournemouth.ac.uk/explore/talbot-campus/the-fusion-building/fusion-building) [https://virtualtour.bournemouth.ac.uk/explore/talbot-campus/the-fusion-building/fusion-building]

2016: became a member of the Race Equality Charter





BU is home to a diverse community, and we're committed to creating an inclusive culture. For the last six years, we've been a member of the Race Equality Charter – an initiative that exists to improve the representation, progression and success of under-represented groups within higher education – and undertake a range of initiatives to advance racial equality.

> [Read about our work](https://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/black-history-month-2022-beyond) [https://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/black-history-month-2022-beyond]

2016: Reality of financial scamming highlighted



Through our research, education and practice, we're helping to protect vulnerable people in society – many of whom are at risk of financial scamming. Led by BU's Professor Keith Brown, who co-ordinated research around preventing financial scamming, an awareness raising event took place at the House of Commons. This marked the start of a campaign and a 'call to arms' that society must take the matter seriously.

> [Read the news story](https://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/news/2016-03-11/reality-financial-scamming-uk-highlighted-during-parliament-event) [https://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/news/2016-03-11/reality-financial-scamming-uk-highlighted-during-parliament-event]

2019: Kate Adie appointed Chancellor



> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=McOch_L2MS4



In January 2019, Kate Adie CBE became BU's fifth Chancellor. Kate is well known for her role as the BBC's Chief Correspondent, which she held for 14 years, covering major international events. She is also a prolific author on a range of subjects and presents on BBC Radio 4. Previous BU Chancellors include Baroness Caroline Cox, Baron John Taylor, Lady Dione Digby, and Lord Nicholas Phillips.

> [Read the news story](https://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/news/2019-01-07/broadcaster-author-kate-adie-begins-tenure-new-bu-chancellor) [https://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/news/2019-01-07/broadcaster-author-kate-adie-begins-tenure-new-bu-chancellor]

2019: awarded Athena SWAN Bronze Award



Our Athena SWAN Bronze Award recognises our commitment to strive for a gender inclusive culture. Since 2019, a number of Departments have also received the Bronze Award, demonstrating that progress is being made throughout our community.

> [Find out more](https://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/news/2021-11-29/bu-s-department-design-engineering-achieve-athena-swan-award) [https://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/news/2021-11-29/bu-s-department-design-engineering-achieve-athena-swan-award]

2019-20: Gateway Buildings open



2019-2020 marked a further period of estates development, with the opening of the Poole Gateway Building on Talbot Campus and the Bournemouth Gateway Building on Lansdowne Campus. Both have been designed to give students and staff access to the latest industry-standard equipment and facilities, so that they can get hands-on and in the case of students, hit the ground running when they graduate.

> [Take a virtual tour of the Poole Gateway Building](https://virtualtour.bournemouth.ac.uk/explore/talbot-campus)

[<https://virtualtour.bournemouth.ac.uk/explore/talbot-campus>]

> [Take a virtual tour of the Bournemouth Gateway Building](https://virtualtour.bournemouth.ac.uk/explore/landsdowne-campus)

[<https://virtualtour.bournemouth.ac.uk/explore/landsdowne-campus>]

2022: BU becomes a top 70 global university



2022, our 30th year of university status, got off to a great start. In February, the Times Higher Education (THE) Young University Rankings 2022 were announced – and we were thrilled to find out that we had been placed, for the first time, in the top 70 global universities aged 50 years old or younger.

> [Read the news story](https://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/news/2022-02-15/bu-rises-15-places-young-university-rankings-2022) [<https://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/news/2022-02-15/bu-rises-15-places-young-university-rankings-2022>]

A man with grey hair, wearing a black face mask and a grey jacket, is crouching in a field of dry grass. He is holding a clipboard and looking towards the camera. The background shows a hilly landscape under a clear sky.



> [Read the news story](https://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/news/2022-04-27/bu-has-risen-42nd-globally-impact-rankings-2022) [https://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/news/2022-04-27/bu-has-risen-42nd-globally-impact-rankings-2022]

2022: 94% of research internationally-recognised



And the celebrations didn't stop there! In May, the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2021 results were published. We pride ourselves on research that makes a real difference to the world around us – and this was acknowledged in the results. 94% of our research was found to be internationally-recognised or above, with 95.7% of the research delivering considerable impact or above.

> [Find out more](https://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/news/2022-05-12/bournemouth-university-research-assessed-high-quality-ref-2021) [https://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/news/2022-05-12/bournemouth-university-research-assessed-high-quality-ref-2021]

2022: Big Dig unearths human remains



> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RDueoLuYzak>



Seven years after BU students and staff discovered one of the largest Iron Age townships in the UK, this year's Big Dig uncovered further significant remains: 2000-year-old human remains and animal sacrifices. The team, made up of 65 students, discovered the bodies of women and men, as well as animal body parts, providing fascinating new clues into the Iron Age lifestyle.

> [Discover more](https://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/news/2022-07-01/2000-year-old-human-remains-animal-sacrifices-found-dorset) [https://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/news/2022-07-01/2000-year-old-human-remains-animal-sacrifices-found-dorset]

2022 and beyond: our story continues



> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E5_nOLQR1FA

In our time as a university, we have come a long way. We're proud of our successes, the change we've initiated and the impact we've made – but we're always focused on the future. We will keep playing our part in tackling global challenges head on, as we strive for more a sustainable, inclusive and healthy society. Here's to the next 30 years and beyond.

> [Discover our story](https://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/why-bu/learn-change) [https://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/why-bu/learn-change]