

Pro-Chancellor

Peter Long is an entrepreneur with a track record of success in the leisure industry. He is currently the joint Chief Executive of TUI Group – the world's largest tour operator with 70,000 staff – and he became Chairman of Royal Mail in September. He has served on the Boards of many well-known companies including the RAC, Debenhams and Rentokil, and yet still finds time to go windsurfing with his 3 sons and 5 grandchildren.

Peter was a bit of a rebel at school and he loved the competitive nature of sport, particularly cycling, running and rugby. Peter gained an HND in Business Studies from Southampton before studying for his accountancy qualifications part-time, and by the age of 23 he had already decided that his ambition was to create and run his own company.

Peter's drive and ambition have made him a very successful Chief Executive and non-executive Director. After a number of years working for others, he did indeed create his own travel company which he ran and then sold to Thomas Cook in 1996. He has since been credited for ensuring the success of its competitor TUI - a FTSE 100 Company. Despite his success, Peter says that humility is an essential characteristic for entrepreneurs. He notes that something will always go wrong in big business unless you are being too cautious, and that you must always get up and try again.

Peter is also the President of The Family Holiday Association, a charity which provides short breaks for disadvantaged children and their families. He has been involved with the charity for over 20 years and passionately believes in making a difference to the lives of thousands of children. Peter is always looking forward to the next chapter and the next challenge, but he also stresses the importance of balance in life. He credits his loving wife of 42 years, and his family, for keeping his feet on the ground.

Pro-Chancellor, I have the honour to present Peter Long, and I ask you to confer upon him the degree of Doctor of Business Administration, honoris causa.