LSBU: IT ADDS UP

LSBU’s Accounting and Finance division has leapt to 4th place
(The Guardian University League Table)

UK university for graduate employment and further study*
(Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education (DHLE) 2015/16)

UK university for graduate prospects
(The Sunday Times League Table 2017)

UK modern university for graduate starting salaries
(The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2018)

* Over 82%, compared to UK average of 75%
LONDON’S ENTERPRISING UNIVERSITY

Employer partners, supporting nearly 7000 students
(LSBU 2015/16)

41% of LSBU students study part-time*
(LSBU 2015/16)

Modern universities in London for Research Impact**
(2014 Research Excellence Framework)

1,000

TOP 3

*more than any other modern university in London | **73% of projects rated 3* or 4*
This year we celebrated the 125th anniversary of the Borough Polytechnic Institute, and the 25th anniversary of the creation of London South Bank University.

We are proud to be a modern university. But we are also proud of our history, and of our mission, which remains as relevant today as it was 125 years ago.

The Borough Polytechnic was established in 1892 to “promote the industrial skill, general knowledge, health and well-being of young men and women”. We’re still committed to that goal today, with a focus on professional and technical education and of course on student employability, which underpins all we do.

We were therefore particularly delighted to be named University of the Year for Graduate Employment by The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide: testament to the achievements of LSBU graduates. Our graduate salaries rank alongside those of their counterparts from Durham, Oxford, St Andrew’s and UCL. LSBU also remained in the Top 25 of all UK universities for graduate employment and further study, again alongside some of the UK’s most prestigious universities.

“London South Bank University has an outstanding record for graduate employment. It is a shining example of all the best qualities held by the modern university sector”
The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2018

Remarkably, this is achieved alongside our long-held commitment to providing access to everyone we believe can benefit from an LSBU education, even those who haven’t met traditional educational standards. LSBU invests heavily in providing top quality support for students. This year The Economist magazine ranked LSBU 32nd amongst all UK universities and one of the top London universities for “value added” to students.

These achievements explain why so many UK and international employers trust LSBU to provide their staff with the education and skills they need.

Nearly 1000 employers send around 7000 students to LSBU and we now have nearly 400 higher and degree apprentices studying on LSBU programmes. This focus on employability also extends to the academies we have created and to our international partnerships. The British University in Egypt now houses nearly 4,000 LSBU students, making it the largest site for UK transnational education in the Middle East and North Africa region.

Our holistic approach brings together teaching, applied research and enterprise. Over the last 18 months LSBU’s success in each of these areas has been widely recognised. We gained a silver rating in the government’s Teaching Excellence Framework, and the University Academy of Engineering South Bank was rated “Good” by Ofsted. In research, we have established a second research centre on the Cambridge Technology Park. And in enterprise, LSBU was named Entrepreneurial University of the Year in The Times Higher Education Awards 2016 and is also London’s largest provider of European-funded business support.

These achievements reflect our determination to create an academic environment in which our students can flourish. We help them acquire the knowledge and skills that make them so highly regarded by employers, with an entrepreneurial mindset that sets them up for a lifetime of opportunities and success.

This year has been a milestone in LSBU’s history. It marks the beginning of an even more exciting future.
STUDENT SUCCESS

We equip our students with the technical and professional skills employers need, unleashing their potential and fostering success.

Teaching excellence
LSBU has been awarded a silver rating in the Teaching Excellence Framework, set up by the government to recognise and reward high quality teaching and help students make an informed decision on where to study. The University was praised for its focus on personalised learning and for supporting graduates into employment.

No. 1 in the Bloomberg investment challenge
MSc International Finance student Harishangaran Krishnamoorthy took first prize in Bloomberg’s prestigious annual Investment Challenge competition, with fellow LSBU student Taoulant Bekolari in fourth. LSBU were first overall with a projected profit of more than £22 million.

On track for success
LSBU engineering students were among 2,000 students from 24 countries competing at the Formula Student competition held at Silverstone in July. “Most teams have around 25 students, and we had just 13 students, so we did well to get close to qualifying,” says student engineer Magdalena Grzybek. “Our focus was being the first LSBU team to get to the competition and hopefully inspire future students to build on the work we started.”
Shaping the future

Three groups of LSBU engineering students were shortlisted for the semi-finals of the Engineering for People Design Challenge with one – made up of chemical and process engineers Morteza Etesami, Deborah Diogo, Alex Vanegas and Mohammed Khudadad – going to the grand final, with their design for a clay pot that could turn salt water into clean drinking water for people in developing countries. “Our students worked so hard, it’s wonderful to see that being recognised by such an esteemed panel of judges,” says Alessio Corso, a senior lecturer in the School of Engineering. “Employers and industry want modern engineering education to encompass global issues and creative problem-solving. Universities like LSBU are helping to shape the future.”

Design for life

LSBU’s product designers were once again recognised for the quality of their designs this year. Alan Rallings, who graduated in 2017, scooped the Innovate Product Design award at New Designers 2017 in Islington for the Cyclopic, a child’s bike that folds away into a bag while current student Kristen Tapping took first prize at the Student Starpack Awards for her Poly Pack, a compact waterproof backpack kit for victims of natural disasters.

To address this challenge I put myself in the position of somebody who had just experienced a natural disaster and possibly lost a home, was carrying a handful of random belongings, and had children to care for. This person would be highly distressed and in need of a familiar tool they already know how to operate. I designed the packaging as a roll top backpack so it could accommodate disaster relief kits of all sizes as well as the end user’s personal belongings.

Applied thinking is in our DNA. Our success in delivering an industry relevant curriculum and building partnerships with business is demonstrated through our impressive track record of winning funding for our research and recognition for the quality of our work.
Taking the lead in apprenticeships

This year’s intake of 185 new apprentices from more than 85 employers brings the total number at LSBU to nearly 400 across the Schools of Engineering, Built Environment and Architecture and Health and Social Care. With further enrolments planned throughout the year – including in the School of Business – the total should soon exceed 500, giving LSBU one of the biggest cohorts of apprentices in the university sector.

Research round-up

LSBU’s research activity in 2017 covered topics ranging from child protection to sustainable tourism to the link between video games and war. Our new London Doctoral Academy is the hub for all research activities on campus. Our research centres are now involved in 12 projects with external funding worth £3.3 million. Major projects include:

• London Urban Sub-Terrain Energy Recovery: This 18-month long joint project between LSBU and UCL aims to identify and quantify the potential for heat energy recovery from London’s sewers, railways and tunnels.

• Modelling the Mechanics of Animal Whiskers: This multidisciplinary project, funded by the EPSRC, explores how whiskers work – and how that knowledge can be applied in engineering.

• Feeling sexual inside and out – bodies and boundaries in forensic mental health: This project explores sexuality among service users in secure and community forensic mental health settings.

• Everclean: LSBU’s ARCTIC research centre is co-ordinating this 24-month EU Horizon 2020 project which aims to bring to market a transparent, durable, cost-effective and permanent self-cleaning solution for solar panels.

Releasing potential in the NHS

Efficient planning is vital to making the most of limited resources in the NHS. LSBU’s Professor Alison Leary is drawing on her expertise in workforce modelling to explore ways of using specialist nurses to improve the quality and efficiency of care. “Specialist nurses can play a major role in not only delivering care, but also in enabling patients to manage their own,” she says. “The aim is to help employers to make the most of their talent and release the potential of the specialist advanced practice workforce to help meet demand.”

The quiet life

Experts Dr Stephen Dance and Dr Luis Gomez-Agustina from LSBU’s Acoustics team have been working with three London councils and local residents to explore the impact of noise from the Battersea heliport. The study, which ran throughout spring and summer 2017, included monitoring noise levels at people’s homes and gathering qualitative data. The information can now be used to help shape policy that will limit noise nuisance and improve quality of life.

A fair hearing

A team from LSBU’s Division of Mental Health and Learning Disabilities is leading a ground-breaking collaborative research pilot to help people with autism or intellectual disabilities who are going through the court system. “An increasing number of individuals with autism are ending up in prison due to a failure of the system to identify them and recommend a more appropriate and less restrictive option,” says project lead Dr Eddie Chaplin. “The information we are gathering will help us to start to piece together how widespread this problem is within our courts, and to identify how we can better support those in need.”
Understanding gang culture
LSBU is working with a team from the London Borough of Waltham Forest – which has been at the forefront of gang interventions for more than a decade – to explore the nature and reach of local gangs, in an attempt to reduce criminal activity and violence and promote greater community cohesion.

Setting the standard
Lack of clarity over titles within the nursing workforce is confusing the public, medical professionals and healthcare commissioners – and could even put patients at risk, according to a study published by LSBU’s Dr Alison Leary. Dr Leary found that specialist nurses alone use around 600 job titles and that a small but significant proportion of posts were actually being filled by non-qualified workers. In her conclusions she called for greater clarity and better regulation of professional standards and qualifications, so that nurses’ expertise is properly recognised and valued.

Focus on innovation
2017 was a year of growth for our two innovation centres, based at The Welding Institute in Cambridge. The London South Bank Innovation Centre secured more than £700,000 in funding for five Innovate UK projects and published six papers, while the Advanced Resins and Coatings Innovation Centre launched two major projects in spring 2017. The two centres to date have attracted projects worth over £10m.

Support for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs)
LSBU is now in the delivery phase of five projects funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), including:

- A2i – supporting the development of low carbon technologies by SMEs
- SimDH – helping SMEs who are developing health technologies access facilities and expertise
- The Dek Growth Programme – mentoring, workshops and consultancy for high growth potential SMEs in the creative, business services and social enterprise sectors
- Enterprise Steps – supporting SMEs and pre start-ups in low enterprise activity areas and under-represented groups
- LAFIC – helping agri-food SMEs develop innovative products, processes and services.

Two more projects are at final application stage.

Putting patient safety first
LSBU is leading a new pan-London network in partnership with the South London Health Innovation Network. Its aim is to promote and disseminate best practice in the early recognition and management of deteriorating patients and reducing avoidable deaths. The network meets biannually to bring together clinicians from all over London from all sectors of healthcare.
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Alistair McCall, Editor, The Sunday Times Good University Guide
Meet the family

LSBU is setting up a new Family of Educational Providers. It’s aim is to enable learners to access the education and skills they need, in the learning style that best suits them, at the time they need it. The Family includes the South Bank Engineering Academy and the South Bank Engineering UTC, as well as a new Institute for Professional and Technical Education, set to open in 2018.

Sports report

LSBU’s Academy of Sport continues to strengthen links with the community, both locally and globally. A new initiative is giving members of The Albert Residents’ Association in Southwark unlimited access to LSBU’s fitness facilities, while the University’s men’s rugby team travelled to Zhuhai, southern China, on a cultural exchange programme arranged by the British Council and the Federation of University Sport China with the aim of boosting the sport’s profile in China. The Academy organised a fitness event to mark Black History Month in October, with a full day of culturally inspired exercise and dance classes.

“...we’ve lit a match, the sparks are there and now we must keep going to deliver impact locally and internationally.”

A special relationship

This year marked the first anniversary of the partnership between LSBU and Ryerson University, Toronto. Five joint projects are currently under way, including on how millennials differentiate between real and fake news, the nature of empathy within virtual reality and the efficacy of self-organised female protest. “Forging these kinds of strategic links is key to fostering funding opportunities and staying at the forefront of policy innovation,” says Professor Janet Jones, Dean of the School of Arts and Creative Industries. “We’ve lit a match, the sparks are there and now we must keep going to deliver impact locally and internationally.”

Through our strong links with local, national and international partners we are making a positive contribution to the wider community, building capacity and opening up access to education.
**Global reach**

This year we continued to build strong international partnerships aimed at enriching the student experience, engaging the community, promoting research and creating new enterprise opportunities:

- Our partnership with the British University in Egypt is now the largest site for transnational education in the Middle East and North Africa region, with more than 4,000 undergraduate and 76 postgraduate students. A conference held in October celebrated the partnership and looked ahead to how universities can work together to address the challenges of the future.

- LSBU featured in The Times Higher Education World University Rankings for the first time. We also achieved a 4-star rating in the QS World Rankings 2017-18 with 5 stars for “Internationalisation”.

- The Confucius Institute for Traditional Chinese Medicine marked its 10th anniversary in 2017. The biggest such institute in the world, it currently supports over 50 London schools with the teaching of Mandarin and Chinese culture as well as providing international placements for our students.

- Our Global Challenges Institute marked its first anniversary. Throughout the year, a packed programme of lectures, events, workshops and research tackled topics including Brexit, physical fitness for older people and the challenges facing migrants and refugees, all in the context of the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals.

**Armed Forces pledge**

LSBU has signed the Armed Forces Covenant (AFC), making a public commitment to supporting the armed forces community. “Signing the Covenant represents a formal promise that the University will do all it can to ensure that those who sign up are treated fairly and not disadvantaged in their day-to-day lives; be they our staff, students or stakeholders,” says Pro Vice Chancellor Professor Paul Ivey.

**Creative thinking**

LSBU is leading a collaboration supporting creative and digital industries to grow. The project is part of Leading Places, an initiative by the Higher Education Funding Council for England and the Local Government Association which supports local councils, universities and others to work together to meet key challenges in their community.
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Creating a healthy workplace
LSBU’s programmes to assist staff with mental health and wellbeing, alcohol and substance misuse, exercise and healthy eating have earned #teamLSBU an Excellence award in the London Healthy Workplace Charter, a scheme backed by the Mayor of London’s office. LSBU is the first university to receive the highest level of the award. “We are delighted to have achieved this accreditation,” says Head of HR Business Services Ed Spacey. “We believe that the wellbeing of our valued employees is key to running a successful and productive organisation.”

An engaged, energised and empowered workforce is key to helping us achieve our goals, which is why we are committed to making LSBU a great place to work for everyone.

The Three Cs
LSBU’s new Environmental and Ethical Sustainability Policy goes beyond environmental issues to focus on three pillars: Campus, Community and Curriculum. A recent review under the curriculum pillar – our current top priority – assessed all courses against criteria set out in the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals. BSc Data Science student Nav Dhuti has created the Elephant App, a free-cycling app in partnership with the Sustainability Team. Sustainability was embedded into the curriculum in a way that benefits the LSBU community and addresses one of major challenges facing the world today, efficient resource and waste management. LSBU has also cut its carbon emissions by more than 43 per cent since 2005, meeting its HEFCE 2020 target three years early.

Stop the hate
LSBU has received funding worth £49,000 from HEFCE for our “Stop the hate trait” campaign. This aims to tackle hate crime and online harassment by encouraging staff, students and local organisations to work together to challenge violence. The funds will be used to support a range of projects developed with students, including training and awareness-raising, digital innovation and new approaches to the prevention and reporting of hate crimes. This follows another successful HEFCE Catalyst Fund bid for £43,000 earlier in 2017 - “Stand Up-Speak Out” – which aims to raise awareness of preventing sexual assault.

A GREAT PLACE TO WORK

An engaged, energised and empowered workforce is key to helping us achieve our goals, which is why we are committed to making LSBU a great place to work for everyone.

Connecting
Be Active
Be Aware
Keep Learning
Give
FINANCIAL SUMMARY