

The Back Page Interview

This edition's Back Page Interview is with Professor David Greenaway, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Nottingham.

■ What is a typical day in your job as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Nottingham?

One of the great things about my job is that there are no 'typical days'. Being Vice-Chancellor of a university as large and comprehensive as Nottingham, with its international campuses in China and Malaysia and our excellent community engagement at home makes the job endlessly varied.

■ What are the key challenges you are facing currently?

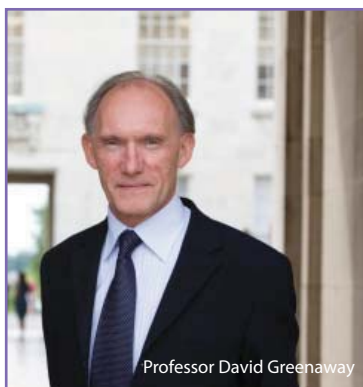
The global financial crisis and recession it triggered, has brought in its wake a dramatic increase in public debt in the UK. In addressing that, public expenditure on higher education will be squeezed and we will need to adjust. That said, it has been obvious for a couple of years this was coming, so we got on with ensuring we are operating efficiently and alert to opportunities to diversify our income streams. My biggest challenge will be to ensure we continue to invest in our university over a period of declining public investment. I am confident we can do that.

■ What does the University of Nottingham have to offer U21? What does it/you hope to get from it?

Nottingham is not new to internationalisation and the many benefits it brings. This is the key reason we signed up as a founding member of U21. It is an outstanding collection of universities from across the world which offers us real opportunities to benchmark, exchange staff and students and collaborate in curriculum development, staff enrichment and research. We can offer the network a gateway to an international university embedded in three countries, with links to many others, as well as our enthusiasm and commitment

■ What are your favourite parts of your job?

Comprehensive research intensive universities are remarkable places with endless opportunities for stimulus from the huge array of creative work that takes place on a daily basis. There are lots of ways of being exposed to this, from chance conversations with colleagues, through visits to schools and attendance at public



Professor David Greenaway

lectures. More specifically, I greatly enjoy student engagement of one form or another. I continue to teach a Year 1 class in Current Issues in Economics, which remains stimulating, despite having taught undergraduates for decades. Alumni engagement is also very rewarding. I see great affinity for Nottingham and am proud of that.

■ What does 'internationalisation' mean to you?

The last 30 years have seen a remarkable increase in globalisation in all areas of economic activity. Higher education is a welcome part of that process. It brings more and more opportunities for student and staff mobility, research collaboration and curriculum development as well as giving us access to a wider pool of ideas and innovations. We embrace this by recruiting international students from around 150 countries and a quarter of our faculty are international. This enriches our university and city. Increasingly we embed internationalisation in the curriculum and promote staff and student mobility.

And of course we have committed to the University of Nottingham, Ningbo China and University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus. These are unique institutions which deliver all of the above, but also give us real insights into the region which is rapidly becoming the world's economic centre of gravity.

■ What are your hobbies/how do you switch off from academic life?

I hugely enjoy the company of family and friends. I am also something of a sports nut and watch a lot, football and rugby in particular. I have held a season ticket for Nottingham Forest for a long time. I continue to play football on a weekly basis, at the university, with PhD students, Post-Docs and faculty. When I am travelling I read a lot, lay person's science and history, and modern fiction

■ What's on your ipod at the moment?

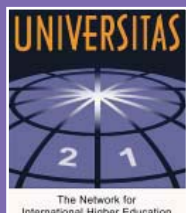
Wild Beasts – Two Dancers; Noah and the Whale – The First Day of spring; Elbow – Seldom Seen Kid; Broken Bells – Broken Bells; Amy MacDonald – This is the Life.

■ What or where was your most memorable holiday/business trip/lecture?

Most memorable holiday: Jordan, a wonderfully varied country in every sense, with charming and hospitable people. Most memorable business trip: Helmand Province in Afghanistan, as Chairman of the Armed Forces Pay Review Body, visiting people doing a remarkable job in a remarkable environment. Most memorable lecture: at Umea University in Sweden, where I thought I was going to examine a PhD 'British style', and learned with 10 minutes notice that the event was public and I had to deliver a lecture on the subject area of the PhD dissertation.

■ How would you like to be remembered?

Just being remembered would be fine.



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The deadline for receiving articles for the next newsletter is Wednesday 30 June 2010. Please send any text, photos or ideas to Sheila Raby (s.raby.1@bham.ac.uk) in the Secretariat.