

Professor Graham Henderson
Vice Chancellor
Teesside University
UK

Title of Keynote

Leading a Flexible, Responsive and Engaged University – A Perspective on Our Journey to becoming UK ‘University of the Year’

Abstract

Although Teesside University celebrated its 80th birthday this year it has only enjoyed University status since 1992. From its relatively humble roots as a modest ex-Polytechnic with c.8,000 students p.a. it has grown over the last 18 years to become a significant institution (with over 2,000 staff and a student intake of c.29,000 students p.a.), which is now recognised as one of UK’s leading Universities in terms of widening access to higher education and engaging effectively with business and its community.

Professor Henderson will describe how, within the UK’s diverse HE system, Teesside has developed its portfolio of academic activities, and its supporting systems, structures and ethos, to enable it to effectively pursue its mission as an energetic, innovative, business focused institution with a growing reputation for the quality and standards of its work – culminating in the University currently enjoying recognition as the Times Higher Education’s ‘University of the Year’.

In particular, Professor Henderson will discuss the way in which the nature of the relationship between Universities and employers has changed over time, as some Universities (not least Teesside) have actively positioned themselves to support the future development of the local, regional and national economy, and how this has served to change, and shape, the ‘nature of the academic offer’, ‘the role of the academic’ and the focus of much of the under-pinning research and scholarship within the University.