

# Introduction

## Background to the University

With revenues of around £50m and employing some 700 staff, St. Mary's is based in and around Twickenham in South West London and currently educates around 6,000 students through four academic Schools, being the School of Education, Theology and Leadership, the School of Sport, Health and Applied Science, the School of Arts and Humanities and the School of Management and Social Sciences.

The first two Schools each account for around 30% of income, whilst the latter two Schools each account for around 20% of income.

The University is well known for teacher training (being one of only two London and South East based universities to be rated by Ofsted as Outstanding for both primary and secondary education) and has a strong reputation for sports and sports-related subjects. The University is ranked the 8th highest for graduates in employment or further study and achieves 90% student satisfaction for both its undergraduate and post graduate teaching.

The University has been growing its student numbers in recent years and this growth has been underpinned by significant investment in staff and facilities. Staff numbers have increased by 25% over the past three years, whilst recent investments include a £6m new library development, a new state-of-the-art Strength and Conditioning Facility and the refurbishment of the Media Centre.

## Mission and Values

The Mission of the University is to:

*Prepare its students for flourishing lives, successful careers and social commitment through excellent research enriched teaching in a strong community of mutual respects based on our Catholic ethos and identity.*

The mission is underpinned with four institutional values, being:

- Generosity of spirit
- Respect
- Excellence
- Inclusiveness

## **Current Developments**

Under its new Vice Chancellor (Francis Campbell) St. Mary's is undergoing a period of significant change as it addresses the 'new world' of higher education represented by fixed UK undergraduate tuition fees, non-restricted student recruitment, more demanding students and more intense levels of competition.

To address this new, competitive environment, St. Mary's is currently putting together a new Corporate Plan 2025, key elements of which include a strengthened commitment to enterprise, increased public engagement, stronger internationalisation, better organisational effectiveness, and improved student outcomes and research (in addition to the more traditional areas of scholarship and teaching and learning). The new corporate plan will be launched in September 2016.

Further information about the University can be found at their website: [www.stmarys.ac.uk](http://www.stmarys.ac.uk).

## **The Opportunity**

The new corporate plan calls for very substantial investment in the University's facilities. Such investment includes a significant increase in University student accommodation; a complete remodelling of the Strawberry Hill campus; investment in staff; and an increase in the level of investment in Technology.

To finance this investment, the University will use internally-generated cash flow, funds raised from philanthropic donors and by raising new finance.

The Finance Director will be expected to take a leading role in the raising of this new finance. In addition, the Finance Director will be responsible for monitoring the financial elements of the Corporate Plan and tracking the performance and financial returns from the new investments made as part of this. This will be especially needed around the substantial estates investment the University is contemplating.