

Help it **grow**

Cirencester Fund 2015

Royal
Agricultural
University
Cirencester



The RAU continues to go from **strength to strength**

We may be the UK's smallest publicly-funded university but this year's *Times Good University Guide* named the RAU 'University of the Year' for student retention and fourth best overall in the South West of England.

We also top the chart in terms of graduate employability, with over 98% of RAU undergraduates going into employment or further study within six months of leaving us. That makes us third, nationally.

Clearly, we punch well above our weight.

This is because students are our heart and soul. Every year we ask alumni, friends and well-wishers to give to the Cirencester Fund, so we can support and enhance their university experience.

Our students go on to be the custodians of the land and the leaders of land-based industries worldwide.

They set the standards. They are our pioneers in new technologies and systems.

By supporting the RAU's students through the Cirencester Fund, you are also sowing the seeds for a strong, successful future for the sector.

Every gift helps the fund grow and enables us to do more.





University
of the Year
for Student
Retention



University
of the Year

Top 25% of
UK universities
and colleges
for student
satisfaction

Top
25%

Ranked **FOURTH**
best university
in the
South
West



4th
Best

Top 10 in the UK
for academic and
facilities spend

TOP
10

This year we have **two lead projects**

Tourtalk

Unlike most universities, our students don't spend all their time in the lecture hall. We need to get out in all kinds of environments and in all weathers – and that brings unique challenges.

Tourtalk is a portable wireless audio system which we hope to start using at Harnhill this year. It is a hands-free presenting system that enables lecturers to be clearly heard across a field, yard, or riding ring.

Tourtalk can be used for teaching up to 100 students outdoors in a hailstorm in February, in a lambing shed, or in a milking parlour. It means students won't miss a word and lecturers don't have to shout – making it a versatile and valuable teaching tool.

The RAU is in the top five of UK universities in terms of the number of students with dyslexia and other learning challenges that it supports.



This system, with its personal volume controls for each user, will help to make speakers clear and intelligible, aiding concentration and understanding.

**The Cirencester
Fund hopes to raise
£14,000 to pay for
Tourtalk.**

**If just over thirty
people gave us ten
pounds a month
for three years,
we could fund
Tourtalk.**



MSc Agritech Bursaries

In 2016 we will be launching a new MSc in Agritechology, specifically designed to equip young people with the scientific and technical knowledge, as well as the business acumen, to support emerging technologies and new markets in the fast moving area of agritech.

Our aspiration is to encourage as much 'home grown' RAU talent as possible to move straight from their undergraduate degree onto the MSc programme. Adding an extra year of

study can be prohibitive for many, so we already offer a 20% discount for alumni – but on top of that we plan to offer five £1000 cash bursaries for those enrolling on this flagship programme.

The Cirencester Fund hopes to raise £5,000 to develop five of our own students as pioneers with an MSc in Agritechology.

Just ten people can make this happen by giving £33.00 a month.



We can raise £5,000 with just 40 people giving us just £100 each – or just over £10 per month.



Academic Support Grants

The academic support fund provides grants to support students encountering extra overheads related to their course of study, such as fieldwork, travel or equipment.

The Cirencester Fund hopes to raise £5,000 to provide small academic grants ranging in value from £50 to £200.

Unforeseen Hardship Funds

Our hardship fund exists to support those facing unforeseen need. Sometimes, even with the most rigorous budgeting, crises arise and we want to be able help students weather the storm, so they don't have to worry about immediate bills but can continue to focus on their studies.

The Cirencester Fund hopes to raise £10,000 to support hardship grants.

£10,000 is equivalent to 10 people giving £270 a year, or £22.50 per month, for three years.

Thank you

Over the last two years, the Cirencester Fund has begun making a real difference around campus and to the lives of many of our students. We look forward to speaking to you about helping us grow the Cirencester Fund very soon.





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