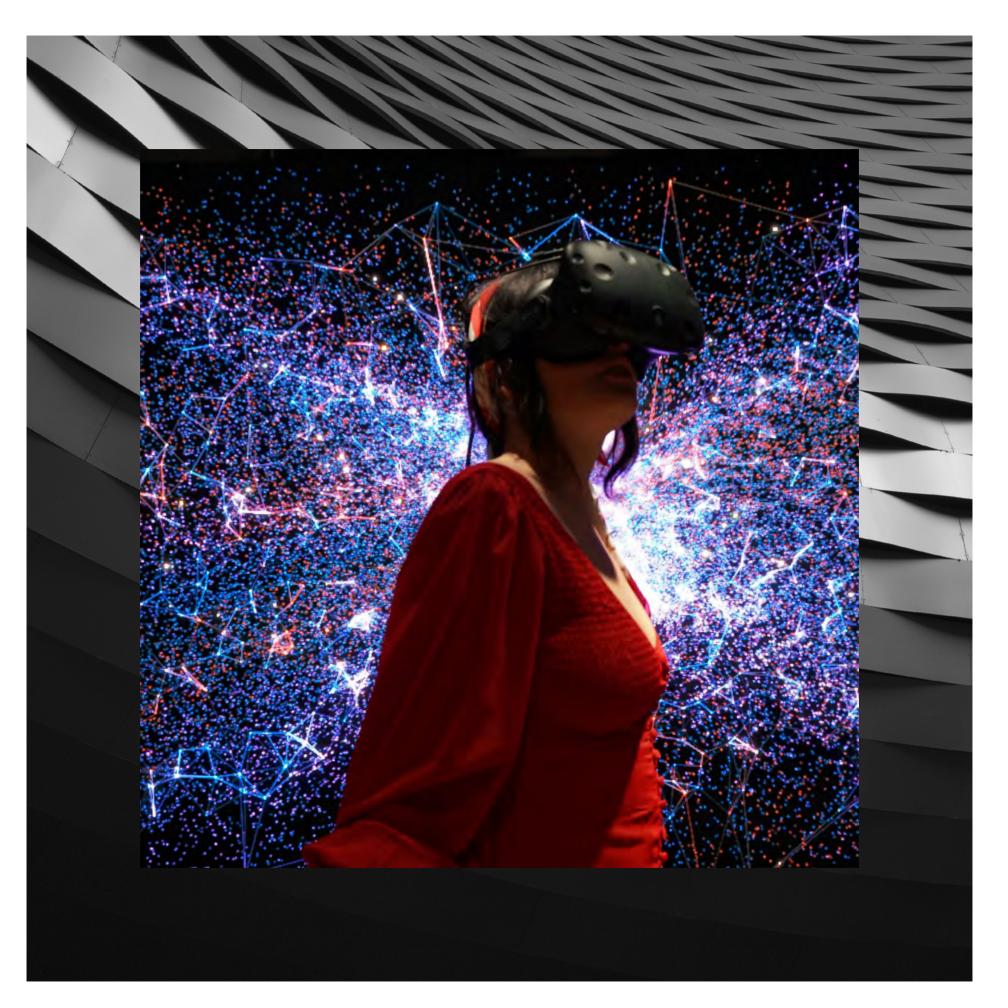


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#### Introduction

This year has been particularly challenging for our members, who have faced unprecedented financial pressures. In response, we've stepped forward to bring the sector together to develop collaborative, efficient solutions.

Our partnership with KPMG on the 'collaboration for a sustainable future' report, alongside our work with Universities UK, demonstrates how we can unlock efficiencies and drive down costs through shared approaches – building on our proven track record of successful collaboration. The trust you place in us to do the work we do is reflected in our leadership survey results, with 94% satisfaction in FE and 82% in HE.

In the following pages you'll find out more about the products, programmes and projects we've successfully initiated or grown this year, from launching our security operations centre, specifically designed for the education and research sector, to supporting you in addressing the growing importance of AI in education.

As we come to the close of our 2022-25 strategy period, I'm proud that we've delivered significant value for our members over the last three years. Our sector negotiations and shared services have saved the sector over £1bn. The Janet Network now connects more than 20 million users, with over eight petabytes of data crossing the network every day. And following our merger with HESA, we've become the de-facto data body for UK higher education.

Looking forward to our new strategy to 2030, our focus on sector leadership and collaboration will be central to everything we do. Together, we're not just navigating change – we're actively shaping a stronger, more resilient future for UK education and research.

#### Heidi Fraser-Krauss

CEO





# Leading the conversation



# Collaborating for a sustainable future

This year we've taken a leading role in fostering collaboration across the UK higher education sector to address the unprecedented financial challenges facing our members.

We're bringing the sector together to build collaborative solutions that drive efficiency, reduce costs and strengthen the future of UK higher education.

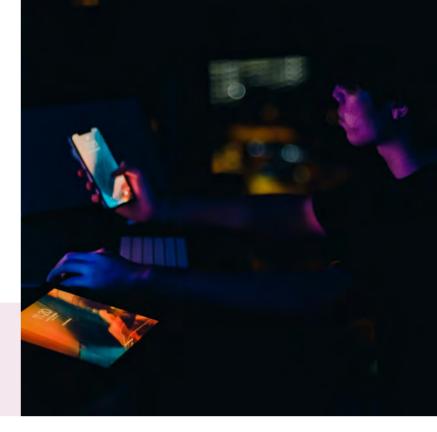
Our flagship report, **collaboration for a sustainable future**, in partnership with KPMG, outlines how providers can leverage digital, data and technology collaboratively to improve sector-wide outcomes. Building on insights from leaders from 19 institutions plus UCISA, this work has sparked vital sector-wide discussions and established a clear collaboration framework.

We're already taking action on this. We're working with Universities UK to drive forward collaborative efficiencies, drawing on our long history of successful shared services.



**Universities UK** 

## From Al anxiety to action



According to our 2025 leadership survey, AI is a top strategic challenge for HE and FE leaders for the second year running, with 71% of FE leaders identifying it as their most pressing issue – above even cyber security.

We've expanded our support, offering new training to help FE institutions, in particular, adopt AI safely and effectively. Through the influential AI in FE community working groups we've developed **practical guidance** to help FE staff make confident decisions around assessment and AI use. We've also created a set of flexible learner resources to build AI literacy. Together, we're supporting the sector in navigating the growing importance of AI in education while maintaining assessment integrity.

"The Jisc FE and AI assessment top tips provide a solid grounding for educators to approach the use of AI in assessment."

Nigel Holloway, head of AI and digital innovation, Cambria Coleg

#### Report

#### How are students using AI?

We've been talking directly to students in HE to find out how they're using AI and what their concerns and hopes are. Our **student perceptions of AI 2025** report shows how students are embracing AI – for study, life organisation, job preparation and personal support – but they urgently want clear, fair and practical support to use it responsibly.

#### **Member story**

#### **Educating learners about AI at Nottingham College**

Nottingham College has created **clear guidelines** and a usage scale that helps students and staff understand appropriate levels of AI use for different tasks. It focuses on education about AI's benefits and limitations rather than detection and punishment. The approach emphasises institution-wide empowerment through transparency and honesty about AI use.

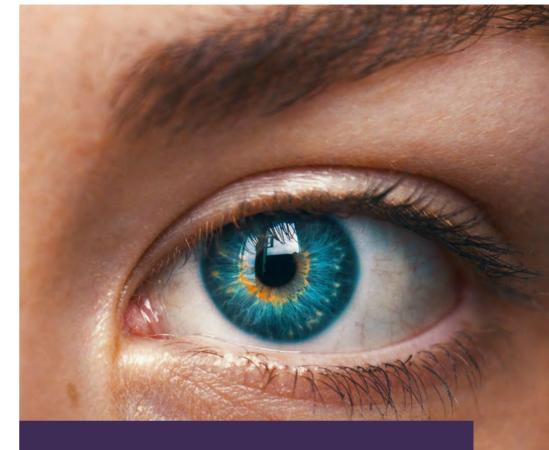
"We've got to keep making sure that students and staff understand the power and the limitations of generative AI, and talk about using it in a positive way."

Philippa Armstrong, learning technology coach, Nottingham College

#### **Member story**

#### A community approach to AI at Queen's University Belfast

Queen's University Belfast has taken a positive, proactive approach to AI, bringing the whole community on board – and used our **digital transformation toolkit** to support its institutional co-creation of its AI strategy.



The inevitability of Al is that we know it is going to change how we teach. We know it's going to change how our learners approach their learning. We know it's going to change how we assess, and we also know that it's going to change jobs. It is better not to put off the inevitable but rather to embrace it now, even if that means there's more short-term discomfort and challenges."

Professor Philip Hanna, dean of education, faculty of engineering and physical science, Queen's University Belfast

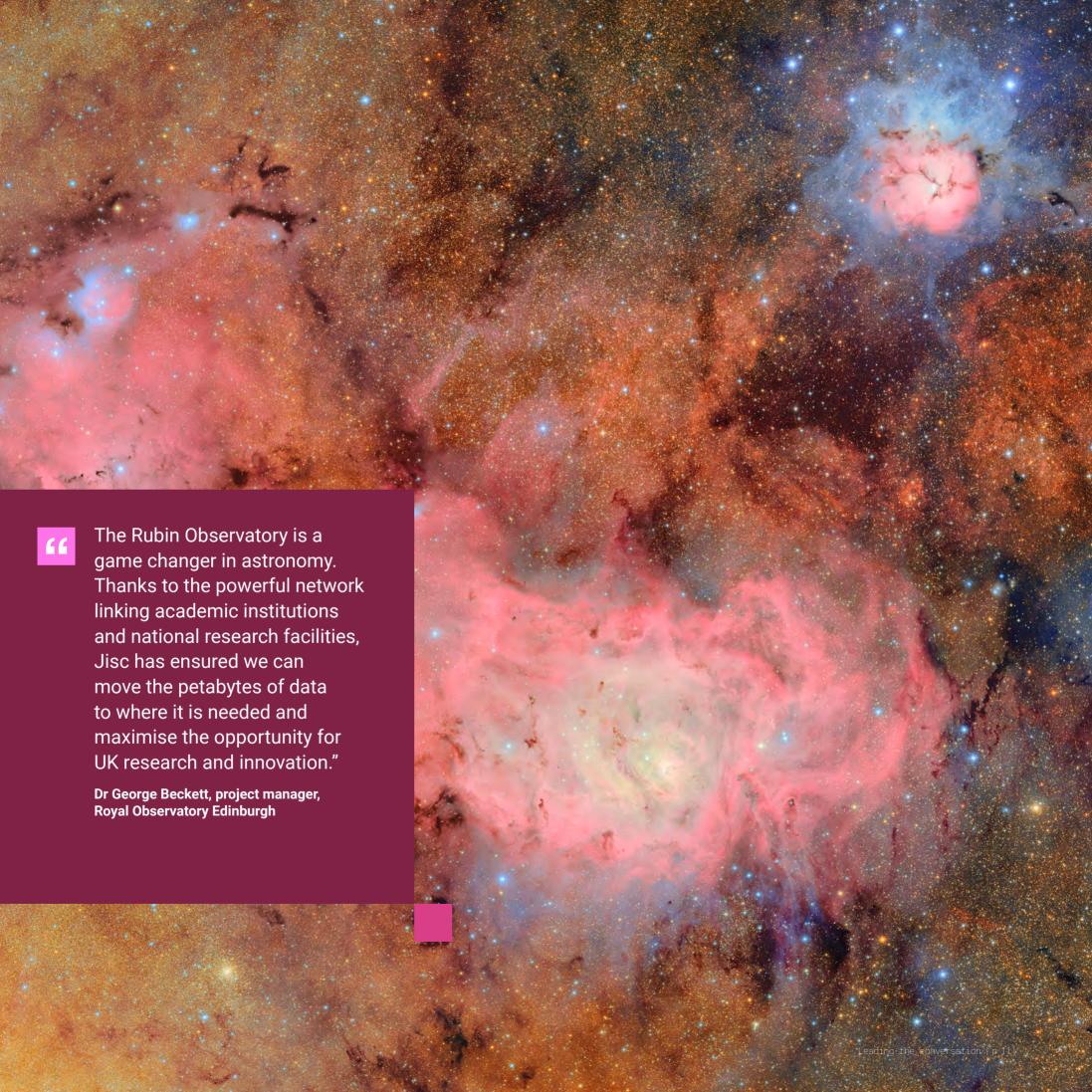
## Janet takes UK research to the stars

Our world-class network, Janet, already connects 20 million education and research users – and now our commitment to powering the future of scientific research extends across the cosmos.

Janet is playing a critical role in transferring the huge quantities of data associated with the groundbreaking Rubin Observatory telescope – the largest camera ever built – helping UK scientists gain greater insights into our universe.

Over the next ten years, the camera will repeatedly scan the skies to create an unrivalled record of our universe, transforming how we learn about space and accelerating advances in astronomy and astrophysics. The high capacity, performance and reliability of Janet ensures that UK researchers will be able to access and process the camera's data in near real-time.





### Saving you money



## £500m in member savings

Our collaborative approach continues to save our members money, with our licensing services delivering £500m in savings for UK education and research institutions.

We do this through centrally negotiated agreements that reduce costs, streamline procurement and support digital transformation across the sector.

Currently, Jisc licensing supports more than 450 agreements with major providers including Adobe, Oracle Java, Microsoft and CrowdStrike, along with academic publishers such as Elsevier.



This milestone figure highlights the impact of collaboration and the critical role of trust and partnership between Jisc and the sector in addressing sector challenges.

Against a backdrop of significant financial pressures, we are focused on helping institutions across the UK manage the cost of digital tools and applications – cost-effectively, efficiently and at scale."

Liam Earney, managing director, higher education and research, Jisc

#### **Making Adobe Express affordable**

We've introduced a full student coverage option for Adobe Express, through a new enterprise term licence agreement with Adobe, making access to Adobe Express possible for thousands of students for the first time. Allied with our transforming together programme, universities can now afford to unlock digital creativity and build confidence, giving students new ways to learn and create.

#### **Member story**

#### Making creative tools accessible

Arts University Plymouth wanted to boost digital fluency across its creative community but couldn't afford Adobe Creative Cloud due to budget constraints. Our Adobe enterprise agreement made Adobe Express affordable and accessible, enabling the university to provide on- and off-campus access for all students and staff. Our transforming together programme was pivotal, allowing the small institution to connect with Adobe and peer universities to share ideas and raise its digital profile. Students are now using Adobe Express more creatively for video reports and digital showcases, moving beyond basic presentation tools.

#### **Member story**

#### Unlocking creativity for all

Leeds Trinity University wanted to embed digital creativity across all disciplines to enhance employability but budget constraints limited Adobe Express to arts subjects only. Our Adobe enterprise agreement made university-wide access affordable while simplifying procurement and reducing admin burden. Crucially, our transforming together programme – offering expert-led workshops and collaboration with peer universities – proved to be a second game changer, helping Leeds Trinity rethink its rollout strategy. Uptake has been so strong that the university is now embedding the programme into the curriculum across four schools, with students gaining both visible creative skills and invisible capabilities such as planning and Al tool use.

"This was a game changer: Jisc simplified procurement, reduced admin and negotiated an affordable university-wide offer."

Nigel Hayes, digital media support technician, Leeds Trinity University

#### Saving £45m on Oracle

With a mandate from Universities UK strategic groups, we led sector-wide negotiations with Oracle, in partnership with UCISA, to address longstanding concerns around Java SE licensing. The result is a **bespoke agreement** that goes beyond pricing, reflecting the operational and compliance realities of education and research institutions.

The agreement, available through our Chest service, means institutions can license Java on transparent, simplified licensing terms – offering long-term pricing stability and greater clarity in managing use across multiple campuses – and sector-wide savings of £45m over five years.

#### Savings for schools on Microsoft

Schools have also benefited from our negotiations: a **discounted licensing agreement** with Microsoft gives them access to a comprehensive range of Microsoft software and cloud services.

The 537 schools who registered for licences through this route in 2024 collectively saved over £1.3m. With an estimated 4,100 secondary schools in the UK and 1,150 multi-academy trusts, there are likely to be many more institutions who could gain through this improved licensing agreement.



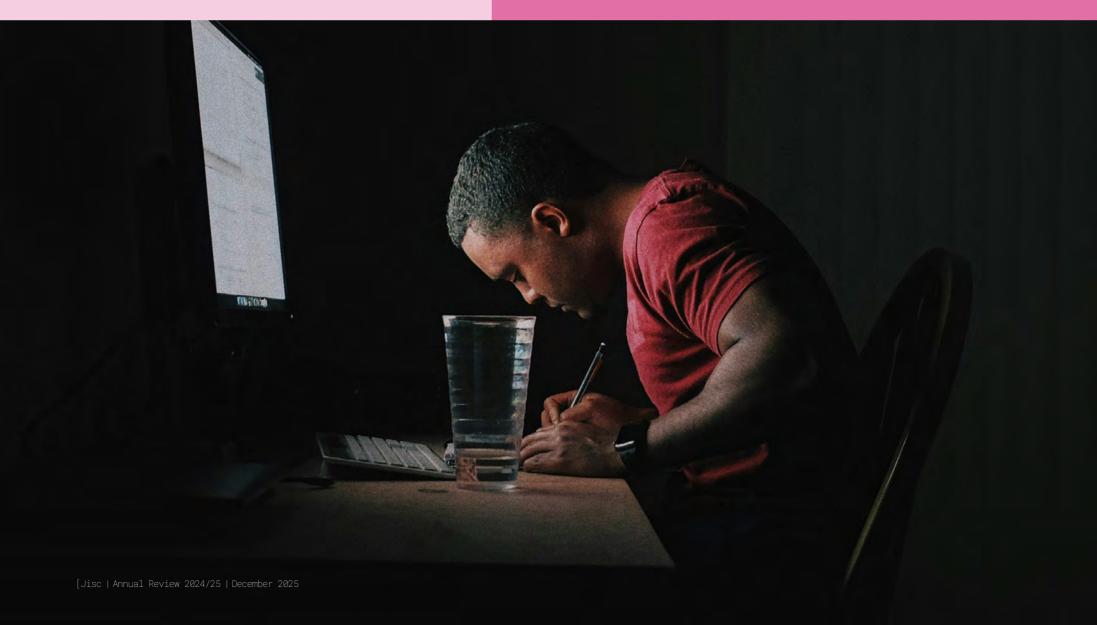
As a trust, we have significantly benefited from the software licensing agreements negotiated by Jisc. These agreements have not only provided us with access to a broader suite of Microsoft tools and functionality but they have also enabled us to streamline and scale our digital infrastructure."

Rachael Warwick, CEO, Ridgeway Education Trust, South Oxfordshire Our Oracle agreement saved the sectors

£45m

over five years.

### Keeping you secure



# Launching our security operations centre

We know from our annual cyber security posture survey that the increasing frequency and severity of cyber attacks is a key concern for our members in HE and FE. This year we launched our security operations centre (SOC), specifically designed for the education and research sector.

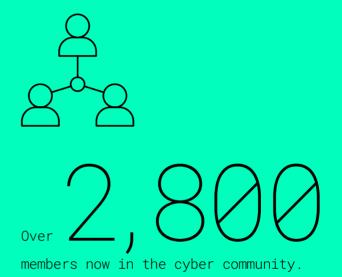
The SOC relieves pressure on internal teams through its state-of-the-art technology and specialist expertise, providing 24/7 protection, threat detection and rapid incident response. The protection we provide is vital – without our intervention, we estimate the cost to the sector from cyber attacks would have been around £450m this year alone.

"This specialised security operations centre is more than just a service; it's a commitment to a safer digital future."

David Batho, director of security, Jisc



queries resolved by the Janet Network resolver service in 2024/25. The service blocks access to known malicious domains, and collects data for cyber threat intelligence.





21.5m

domains blocked as malware, phishing or other suspicious activity.

# Delivering the right solutions



#### Janet: connecting education and research across the UK and beyond

100G

connectivity now links the University of Bristol's Isambard-AI supercomputer cluster to the network.

Janet is our world-class national research and education network (NREN), connecting 20 million users across schools, colleges, universities and research institutions. From supporting groundbreaking scientific research to ensuring every learner has reliable connectivity, Janet powers the digital infrastructure that keeps UK education and research at the forefront of innovation.

#### **Expanding school and college connectivity**

Building digital resilience across the education sector has been a key priority. In Cambridgeshire alone, 150 schools are now connected to Janet through a mix of technologies including the new SD-WAN service and Starlink satellite – showing how Janet combines innovative solutions to reach every institution, regardless of location.

Further education has seen equally impressive progress through the FE resilience programme in England, with 75% of colleges now benefiting from 1Gbit/s fibre connections and 5G failover to ensure uninterrupted connectivity. Meanwhile, strong progress continues on the Janet access programme in Northern Ireland, extending reliable, high-speed connectivity to even more institutions.

#### Powering cutting-edge research

Our high-capacity network is enabling research that pushes the boundaries of science and technology. The network now connects 10 UK sites – spanning universities and industry partners – to support the JOINER research testbed, a project that's expanding internationally with connections to Dublin and Taiwan. This cross-border collaboration showcases Janet's role as a catalyst for global research partnerships.

Security and innovation converge through the National Dark Fibre Facility (NDFF). Researchers have used NDFF infrastructure to run the UK's first long-distance quantum secure video link between Cambridge and Bristol – a breakthrough in ultra-secure communications that could transform how sensitive data is transmitted.

Janet is also fuelling the AI revolution: 100G connectivity now links the University of Bristol's Isambard-AI supercomputer cluster to the network, providing the necessary bandwidth for processing vast datasets and accelerating artificial intelligence research.

### Launching new services and capabilities

Innovation extends beyond infrastructure. We're testing new licence agreement product clusters around cyber security, student assessment and support, and curriculum management – piloting solutions to the sector's most pressing challenges.

We've also expanded cloud access through our partnership with GÉANT's OCRE framework, giving UK institutions access to a wider range of cloud services at negotiated rates that deliver significant savings.

#### **Global partnerships**

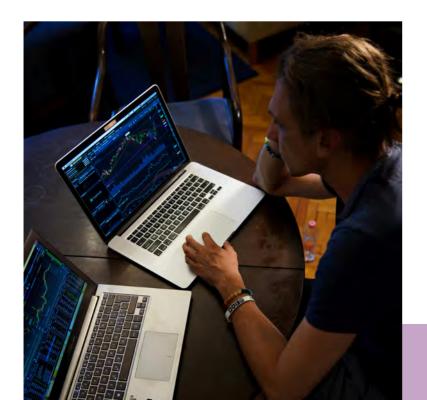
Our connectivity expertise reaches beyond UK borders. Through the GÉANT twinning programme, we're partnering with Kenya's National Research and Education Network (NREN) to test eduroam deployment in rural areas – sharing knowledge to bridge digital divides internationally and ensure connectivity benefits reach underserved communities worldwide.

From schools in rural Cambridgeshire to rural Kenya, to quantum communications networks and Al supercomputers, Janet demonstrates how world-class infrastructure combined with innovation and collaboration creates opportunities for education and research to thrive.



### Learning analytics

It's ten years since we pioneered a suite of co-created learning analytics solutions, developed with the HE sector for the HE sector. Over the last year we've been enhancing the tools for UK universities to improve student engagement: our upgraded learning analytics platform is now faster, more efficient and easier to use than ever.



#### **Member story**

#### Discovery to delivery with data quality

The University of Suffolk embarked on implementing learning analytics and attendance monitoring for 3,000 students and nearly 500 staff at its Ipswich campus, tackling complex challenges around data formats, feed structures and aligning their data dictionary across departments.

Our learning analytics platform provided essential support through detailed documentation accessible to non-technical staff, handson specialist expertise and a learning analytics community with monthly drop-in sessions that helped demystify issues.

The result has been transformative. Standardised, high-quality attendance data now powers business intelligence dashboards and automated student intervention protocols. Meanwhile better aligned roles and permissions across departments enables to staff to identify at-risk students and offer them targeted support even sooner.

## Collecting and providing essential data

This is our third year as the designated producer of official statistics about higher education in the UK, following our merger with HESA in 2022.

After the challenges we experienced with the Data Futures implementation last year, we have focused intensively on stability and reliability. Modernising the process of data collection and dissemination across a sector as complex and diverse as UK HE is a significant challenge, especially when most institutions are having to cut costs.

Following the Office for Students' confirmation of the intention to proceed towards in-year data collection, we started work on that programme in March this year, preparing for a trial collection of in-year data in 2027/28. By autumn 2029 we will have begun to embed in-year data collection as routine.

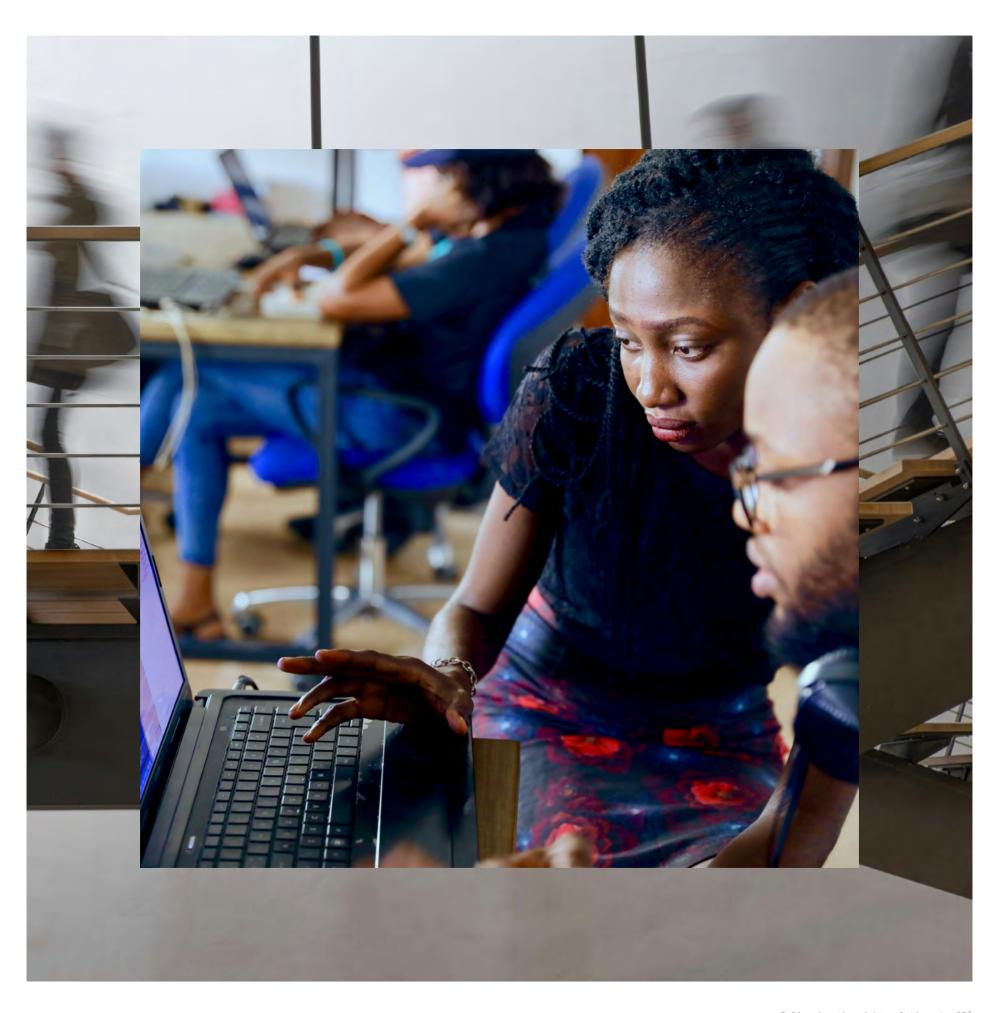


**Data delivery**: we published the 2023/24 HESA Student Statistics Bulletin on 20 March 2025 and the Student Open Data product on 3 April 2025 — nearly five months earlier than the previous year.

**Operational improvements**: enhanced system stability, reduced processing times, and introduced milestone tracking for student data collections.

**Graduate Outcomes**: we evolved the survey with new questions on job quality and international student experience, refreshed the website and maintained strong sector engagement despite a dip in response rates.

**Training and support**: we delivered 31 live training sessions and launched a student data assurance toolkit, with a focus on English providers and smaller institutions.



## Empowering communities



Building communities is central to what members value from us, with three-quarters of leaders in our 2025 survey confirming we empower them to connect and collaborate.

We have more than 40 communities using Teams, with an average of more than 1,700 members participating each month in our Teams spaces.

The **cyber security community** launched in late 2021 and now has more than 2,500 members. The community shares regular threat intelligence reports, holds webinars on a range of themes and featured its first cyber community hub at this year's Jisc security conference. The community has become an increasingly valuable support network for peer exchange of knowledge and **proactive horizon scanning**.

Our **AI community** began in 2022 and now has sub-groups for teaching and learning for FE and HE, FE leaders, research, and professional services. These groups bring diverse voices together, allowing participants to cut through the noise and focus on what really helps learners and staff. They are also co-creating content: the FE teaching and learning group brought together staff from nine colleges to explore how AI is reshaping assessment, producing a set of top tips.



The **XR** (extended reality) community has expanded quickly since 2022, showing demand from our members to work together to understand how to successfully scale immersive technologies. The community produced the **XR** in learning and teaching report, which shared insight from more than 110 institutions across UK FE and HE.

## Community champions





We also empower others to facilitate their own communities. Each year we receive nominations for those extraordinary people who go above and beyond to support colleagues across the sector by facilitating communities, sharing learning and being advocates for good practice.

Previous champions become part of the alumni, which is now an active group in breaking down sector silos and building collaboration.

Our 2025 community champions include dedicated individuals who advocate and pioneer on topics such as accessible maths, artificial intelligence, libraries, radio shows and much more.

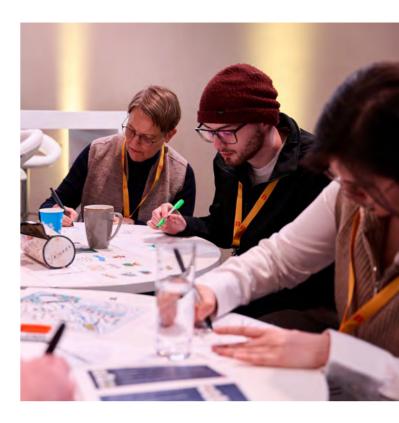
The 2025 champions joined previous winners and community members at our flagship digital teaching, learning and research event, Digifest 2025. The dedicated community hub at the event hosted workshops, community meet-ups and a drop-in session for those attending Digifest for the first time, to help them navigate the event and meet likeminded peers.

Whether it is chairing and hosting events, sharing resources or being a mentor, these champions do it all and provide essential support for education and research."

Natasha Veenendaal, head of community engagement, Jisc







#### 2025 community champions

#### **Community advocates**

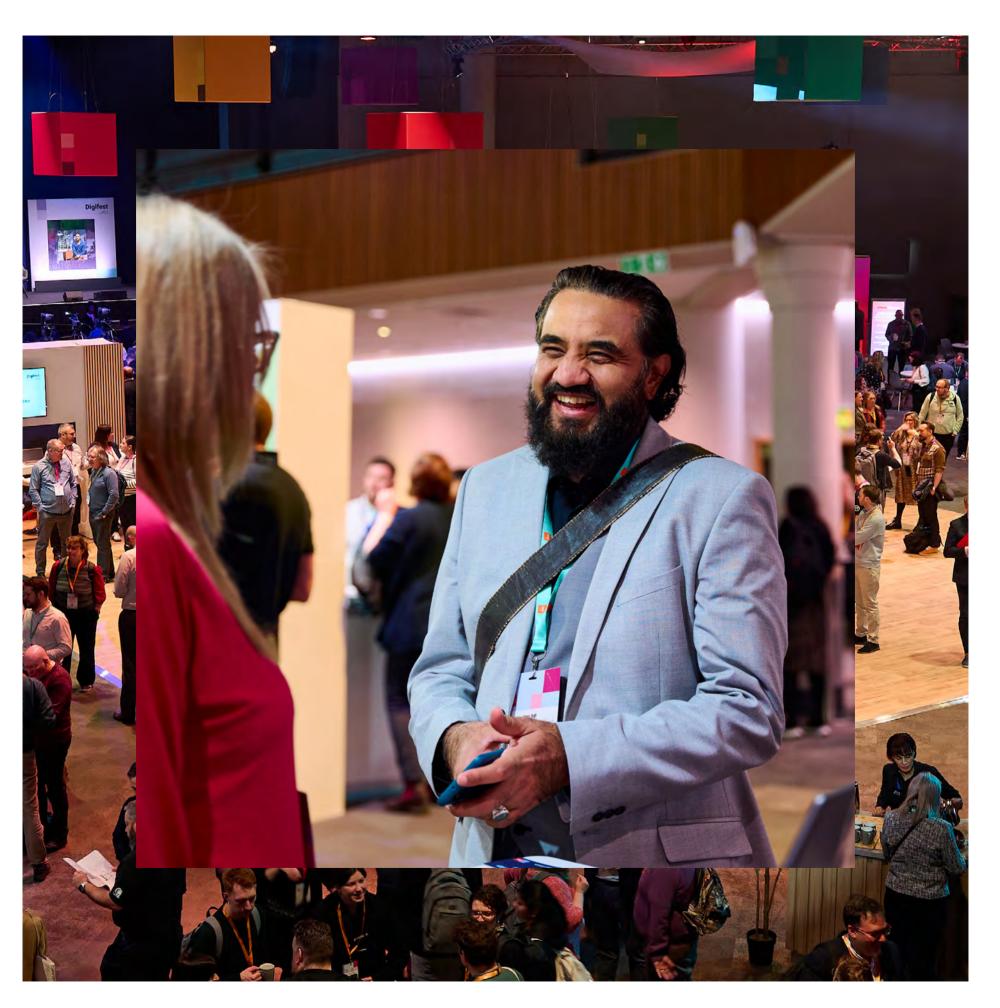
- Alex Harding, Runshaw College
- Caroline Ball, University of Derby
- Gary Holden, Kirklees College
- Luke Searle, University of Southampton
- Rosie Jones, Teesside University
- Tiberiu Dancovici, Coleg y Cymoedd

#### **Community pioneers**

- Andy Tattersall, University of Sheffield
- Bryony Evett Hackfort, Coleg Sir Gar | Coleg Ceredigion
- Dominic Pates, City St George's University of London
- Dr Jacqueline Bartram, University of Hull
- Louise Drumm, Edinburgh Napier University
- Nurun Nahar, Greater Manchester Business School, University of Bolton
- Raghda Zahran, Newcastle University

#### Community tech gurus

- Elly Cope, University of Leeds
- Stephen Taylor, Regent's University London



### Digital transformation

#### Beyond blended - in action

Our beyond blended resources help curriculum teams balance flexible delivery with students' specific needs, whether they're learning in-person or online. Between October 2024 and July 2025 we collaborated with 17 HE providers in a **research pilot** to discover how the beyond blended materials could be used to support curriculum and learning design.

The report highlights how the materials were used by pilot organisations to help navigate the complex and changing landscape of HE in the UK and beyond.



Jisc's beyond blended project and associated report is a comprehensive analysis of the current state of play in a post-pandemic higher education sector. Even though every institution will take forward 'blended' slightly differently, this report acts as a robust starting point for localisation and draws upon experts and knowledge from across the sector to set out a strong foundation."

Professor Simon Thomson, director of flexible learning, University of Manchester

## Bringing communities together





We welcomed thousands of delegates to our flagship events and training opportunities – and achieved average customer satisfaction scores of 89%.

Our 2024 Security Conference brought together more than 750 delegates in person and online to explore cutting-edge cyber security technologies, share threat intelligence and strengthen collective resilience. Data Matters was our first face-to-face conference for the HE and FE data community – it was a sell-out and hit 96% satisfaction. Our annual flagship event, Digifest, welcomed more than 2,000 attendees with a customer satisfaction score of 82%. We also hosted TNC in Brighton where, with GÉANT, we welcomed national research and education networks from across the world, bringing together 900 people from more than 70 countries.





## 2,000+

attendees at our annual flagship event, Digifest…

...with a customer satisfaction score of

82%







Being a force for good



95%

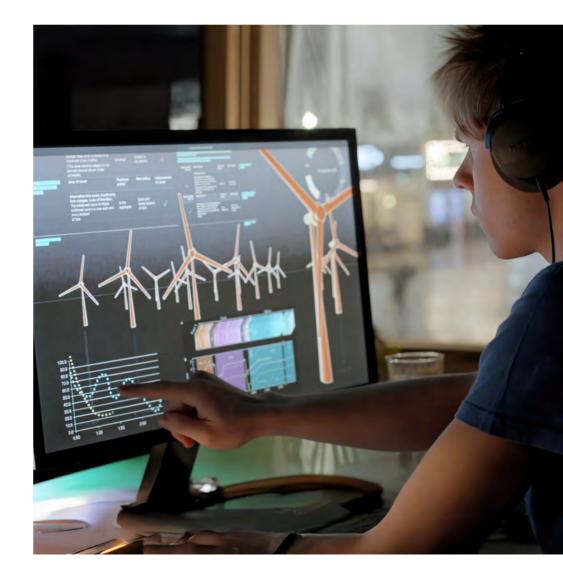
FE leaders and

91%

HE leaders agreed that we are their trusted partner.

Being a force for good in the world means putting our values into action every day. It's about caring for our planet by reducing our environmental impact and empowering our members to do the same.

We try to reach beyond our borders to create positive change in the global community we serve. And we want to nurture our greatest strength: our people. We do this by fostering a culture that celebrates diversity, supports growth and brings out the best in everyone. This year, we've taken significant steps forward in all these areas.



#### Sustainability

Sustainability is at the core of our values and strategy. As an organisation driving digital transformation we recognise our impact on the environment through our use of data centres, networks, supply chains and technology products, including AI.

This year we launched our sustainability strategy as part of a wider sustainability and impact programme. We've made the commitment to reach net zero across our operational emissions by 2040, ten years ahead of the national target. This includes emission sources of gases, grid electricity, business travel and staff commuting. We plan to cut our scope 1 and 2 emissions by over half by 2030 and be net zero across our remaining scope 3 emissions by at least 2050.

We work closely with our members to raise awareness of sustainability and equip them with the tools they need to meet their goals around sustainability and net zero. This year, Jisc was shortlisted for a National Sustainability Award in the Education, Training and Communication category, recognising the impact of our digital sustainability guidance and the community support we're providing across the sector.

For example, we've delivered digital sustainability workshops, equipping participants with practical tools and strategies to reduce their institution's environmental footprint. We also published our free-to-members introduction to digital sustainability' learning module, and our monthly digital sustainability newsletter.



We've hosted six FE and skills digital sustainability community meetups, and the community has grown to more than 280 members. It's encouraging partnership across the FE and skills sector and showcasing best practice sustainability initiatives in industry and education.

## Working across the nations

In Wales, we delivered a Medr-funded state of the nation report on digital investment in FE to inform Medr's policy and funding decisions, and helped develop a collaborative AI literacy module.

We've also engaged with colleges in Wales, positioning Jisc as the trusted digital partner across the Welsh tertiary ecosystem, influencing policy, shaping qualifications and supporting bilingual and inclusive delivery.

In Northern Ireland, we've delivered a substantial programme of AI support, introducing AI and its effective use to more than 300 participants. We also held a demonstrating digital transformation event on embedding AI in HE, with significant participation from across Northern Ireland's FE and HE sectors.

A survey of members in Scotland, conducted as part of a funding review, showed positive feedback on our value, delivery and how we meet member needs.

### Scotland's first innovation hub

We've partnered with the University of Stirling to launch Scotland's **first innovation hub**, a state-of-the-art facility designed to advance digital technologies across the post-16 education sector.

Located centrally at Stirling, the hub provides dedicated space for educators, researchers and technology specialists to explore emerging tools, including virtual and hybrid classrooms, augmented and virtual reality, holographic projection and Al-enabled robotics.

Since its soft launch in October 2024, the facility – supported by the Scottish Funding Council – has already hosted successful events, demonstrating what's possible in digital teaching and learning. We're planning institutional and sectorwide tailored sessions on innovation and practical technology integration.



## Delivering internationally

This year, we were part of a project inspired and funded by the GÉANT Twinning Programme, which promotes international collaboration between National Research and Education Networks (NRENs).

Between March and June, Jisc colleagues took part in an exchange programme with counterparts from the Kenyan NREN, KENET. While in Kenya, we shared expertise and tested our extending eduroam product with emerging technologies. Using mobile and satellite internet connectivity, our team successfully demonstrated how eduroam wifican be delivered to remote locations for local learners and international researchers.

Our continuing research on the digital experience of international and transnational students identifies the challenges and opportunities associated with digital access and digital pedagogy. Along with UUK, we published our research report what makes a good international and transnational student digital experience? From lived experiences to sector advice.

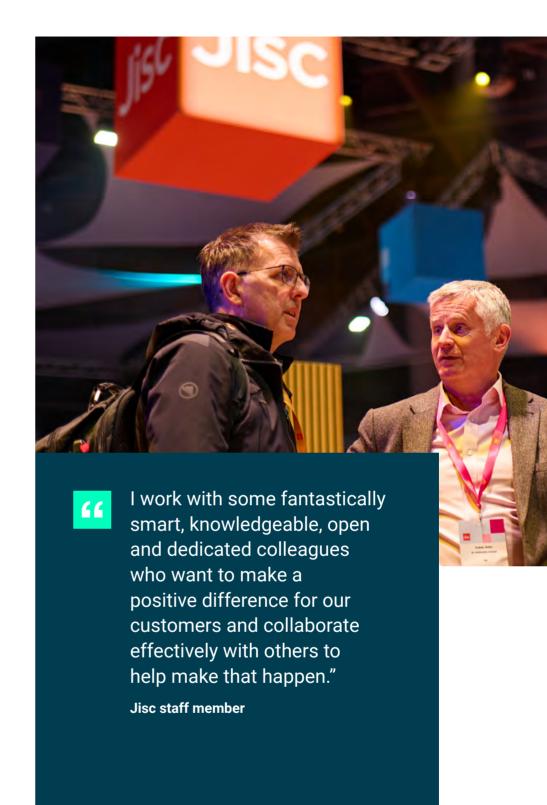


### Jisc: a great place to work

We know our people are what makes Jisc. In our latest staff survey, 80% of employees said we're a great place to work – and we're committed to keeping it that way.

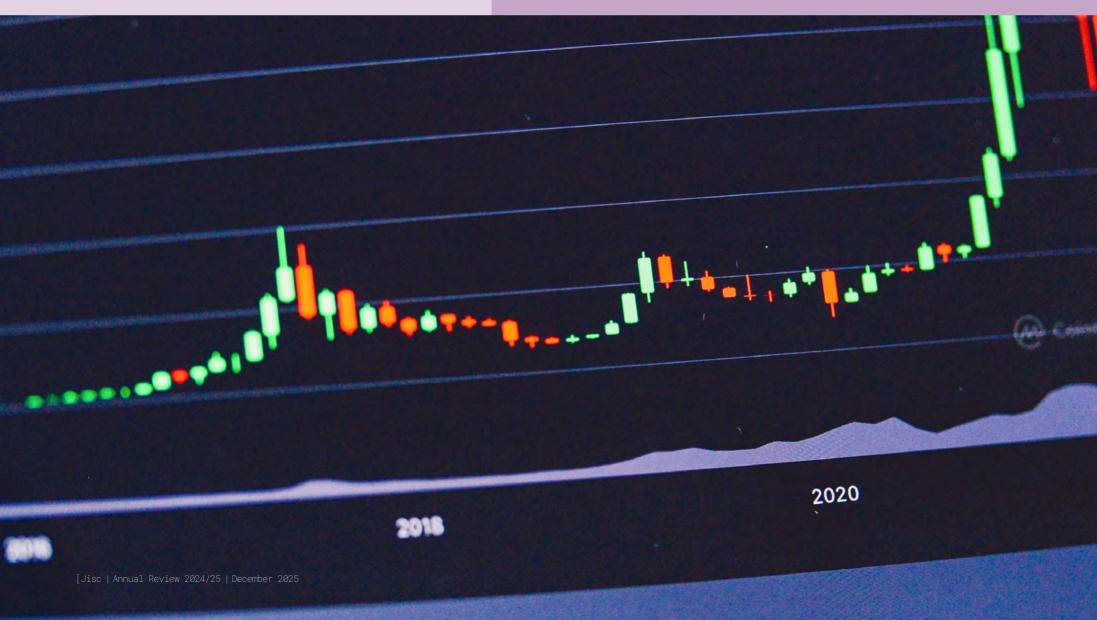
**Building an inclusive culture means action**, not just words. This year, women made up 49% of our workforce, and we've narrowed both our mean and median gender pay gaps. Our RISE leadership programme for people of colour achieved a 50/50 gender split, and we welcomed more women graduates onto our scheme. Following our inclusive recruitment review, we've updated job descriptions and adverts to attract diverse talent.

Our networks matter. Membership across all 11 staff networks has grown to 1,516, providing vital safe spaces for colleagues to connect and learn together. We've marked World Menopause Day, International Women's Day, Black History Month, LGBT+ History Month and Global Accessibility Awareness Day (and we turned that day into a whole week!) – and we've made sure these aren't just dates on the calendar. Our 50 digital accessibility champions are embedding accessible practices throughout Jisc, while new guidance is helping colleagues navigate menopause and create neuroinclusive meetings. We also now have 50 mental health first aiders across Jisc.



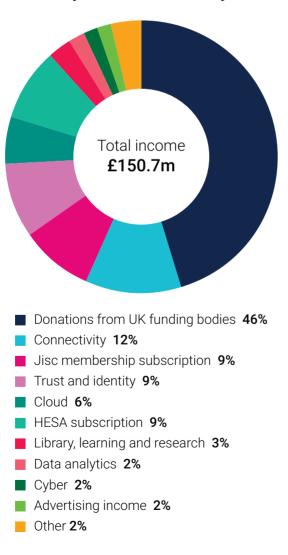
**We're investing in development**. Through our 'grow our own' approach, we've focused on recruitment, professional development, better data and cultural change. This year, 366 colleagues completed our leadership programme, and staff volunteered 4,441 hours – that's 440 days of making a difference in our communities.

## Financial summary



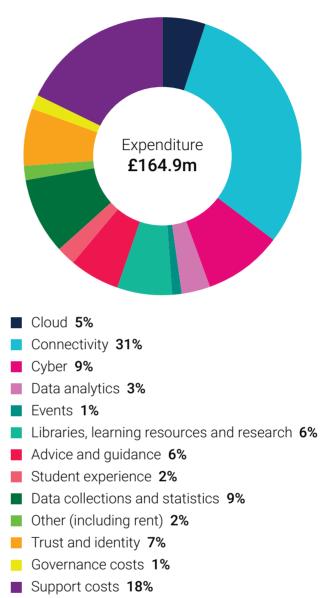
## Income and expenditure

#### Jisc income in the year ended 31 July 2025



Total income has increased by 1%, with a decrease in grants from funders being offset by an 6% increase in trading with members and customers, outside the Jisc subscription.

#### Jisc expenditure in the year ended 31 July 2025



We're continuing to invest in the network and its security and in the systems used to collect student and other data. We're also helping members reduce costs by negotiating with suppliers on their behalf and offering advice and guidance on areas such as Al.

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Annual Review 2024/25 December 2025