

The University of Huddersfield impressed the judges with a UK first in teaching and excellence, the establishment of a new innovation centre, and continued commitment to being "a university that is at the heart of its hometown".

Huddersfield's official vision is: "To be an inspiring, innovative university of international renown."

The university created the 3M Buckley Innovation Centre in collaboration with conglomerate 3M to foster business partnerships leading to new research, technology transfer and entrepreneurial ideas.

The university's quadrupling of international income since 2008 was this year recognised by a Queen's Award for Enterprise – International Trade, and also a top 10 position in the 2012 International Student Barometer.

And as for inspiring, the university's strategy for enhancing excellence in teaching and leaning saw it set a bold target for 100% of academic staff to achieve fellowship of the Higher Education Academy. Huddersfield rose to the challenge – in 2012, It became the first and only university to attain that goal, described as a "remarkable achievement" by the head of the HEA.

John Gill, *Times Higher Education* editor said: "Huddersfield shone through in the toughest of categories on the strength of an exceptional year."

The university's achievements, he continues, "were backed up by impressive figures for both student satisfaction and employability, and a clear sense that Huddersfield is a university that is at the heart of its home town, as well as making a very real contribution to the wider region, the higher education sector, and country as a whole".