



Edge Hill University had steadily built its reputation with strong performance and year-on-year improvement since it gained university status in 2006. But in 2012-13, the first year of higher tuition fees, it proved what an exceptional performer it had become.

Edge Hill was one of only four universities in England to benefit from an increase in applications as £9,000 fee regime took hold. Over the past 12 years the number of students vying for places at the institution has increased fivefold, while its entry point scores have risen by more than a quarter in the past five years.

John Cater, Edge Hill's vice-chancellor, has been known to joke that it is an institution with an unusual name in a place that no one had heard of. The residents of Ormskirk may not thank him for that, but Edge Hill has put the West Lancashire town well and truly on the map.

John Gill, editor of *Times Higher Education*, said: Edge Hill is a great success story, having quietly established itself as an institution that improves and impresses year after year.

“its achievements in student satisfaction, staff engagement and graduate employment were noted by our judges, as was its financial performance and the part it plays in transforming lives in the local region.

“In 2012-13, its investment in academic staff, the strengthening of its research profile, the growth in applications and its research profile, the growth in applications and its innovation (it ran the UK's first undergraduate Mooc to offer academic credit) were all notable achievements.

“It is a deserving winner of the University of the Year title.”