Background history and focus

University C was initially formed from five separate institutions dating back more than 150 years to the early part of the 19th century. These early institutions included a College of Art and a School of Music and were brought together as a city polytechnic in 1971. Four years later, an additional three colleges related to education and teaching were incorporated into the polytechnic. In 1989 the polytechnic became an independent corporation with charitable status in common with other polytechnics at that time in accordance with the Education Reform Act 1989. The polytechnic became a university in 1992 in accordance with the Further and Higher Education Act of that year. During 1995, University C joined with a further two colleges in the city and a specialist centre related to technology and computing was formed in 2000. Additional changes occurred between 2001 and 2005 involving departmental changes and amalgamation with other schools. University C adopted its current name in 2007.

University C is a non-Russell Group university so is not considered to be research-intensive and does not appear in major university league rankings (Financial Times, etc.). In the last RAE, the university achieved a classification of 2.31. However, the university does have a number of research centres and some of the output from these centres is recognized as being ‘world-leading’ and has amongst the highest percentage of output achieving this classification in comparison to other Tier 2 modern universities (post-1992) in the UK.

In terms of education provision, University C has a large number of programmes that lead to both professional and degree qualifications and has a strong focus on employment- and practice-related education regarding the content within its programmes. In regard to graduate employment, 90% of University C’s graduates go onto F/T employment...
or further study within six months of graduation (University C website). The university has a wide range of student facilities, including eight libraries, VLEs and more than 74 computing laboratories. The university has a UCAS tariff of 314 points with more than 63% of students achieving a good honours degree on graduation. They have an overall student–staff ratio of 21.2, almost double that of the Russell Group, Tier 1 universities (see Summary Table 2.1).

**Vision and mission – business school/university vision**

To be the leading university for creative and professional practice inspired by innovation and enquiry

(University C website, 2014)

**Mission**

To transform the prospects of individuals, employers and society through excellence in practice-based education, research and knowledge exchange

There are a wide range of underlying elements to support the achievement of both the vision and mission of the university, as follows:

- The university, and by implication the business school, is looking to create graduates with a high level of employability skills, especially in relation to practice and knowledge, with the overriding aim of enabling students to contribute to organizations as well as progress their personal lives and careers.
- By working effectively on applied research and through the promotion of knowledge exchange, the university endeavours to create advantages and opportunities for individuals, organizations and the broader economic region in which it is located.
- The university is seeking to be acknowledged as a leader amongst the new universities, and potentially beyond, in student engagement.
- The university intends to create a global reach and become the principal university for the major city in the local region.
- To continue progress as a first-choice employer and to continue to attract both creative and enterprising staff.

In supporting the mission of the university and by extension that of the business school, the university highlights a number of distinctive features related to a range of different elements. These elements are