



BOTANICAL UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE

Past, present and future...

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In a nutshell...

- An exciting new way to celebrate plants and the next generation of plant-aware students
- Brings together students interested in plants in a friendly and fun annual contest
- Celebrates the diversity of ways to be fascinated by plants
- Connects institutions offering plant-related courses in UK and Ireland and further afield
- Highlights the urgency to educate future generations in botany and plant science to meet global needs



Over 30 institutions have taken part!



University Teams – BUC 2016-BUC 2023

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN, PRIFYSGOL ABERYSTWYTH UNIVERSITY, UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL, UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE, University of Dundee, Durham University, UEA, Edge Hill University, eden project LEARNING, THE UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL, EXETER, COLLEGE OF GALLAGHER UNIVERSITY OF GALLAGHER, Imperial College London, Kew, Lancaster University, UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL, MANCHESTER 1824, The University of Manchester, Manchester Metropolitan University, University of Nottingham, The Open University, UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD, UNIVERSITY OF PLYMOUTH, UNIVERSITY OF PORTSMOUTH, University of Reading, RHS, University of Southampton, Trinity College Dublin, UCD, WARWICK, UNIVERSITY OF YORK

Watch the recording of the 2023 finals online!



The history of Botanical University Challenge

2016 (Kew)
Chair: James Wong
5 teams
A brand-new concept!

2019 (Reading)
Chair: Chris Preston
6 teams
Beautiful T-shirts
(now a collector's item!)

2020 (Liverpool)
Chair: Alan McCarthy
7 teams
Live material used
in questions!

2021 (Online)
Chairs: Alan Fitter
& Colin Clubbe
15 teams
Online & live streamed,
with internal funding

2022 (Online)
Chairs: Sandy Knapp, Raj
Whitlock, Honor Prentice
& Lena Struwe
18 teams
Multiple-choice
questions (1st round)
& external funding

2023: online with live finals in Nottingham!

Chairs: Leif Bersweden, Henry Ford, Paul Ashton, Tiina Sarkinen, Colin Clubbe, Amanda Rasmussen

25 teams • More external funding + the first student botany festival • Scan the QR code above to watch the recording of this year's finals!

BUC achievements

- Our open-door policy enables students to help shape the BUC community
- Launch of a student-led newsletter 'The Thymes' in 2022, connecting the community of plant-aware students, including interviews with leading botanists (scan the QR code to view online)
- First ever fully funded Student Botany Festival, held at the University of Nottingham, offering students the chance to meet, network and explore their next steps



Next steps for BUC

- Continue the annual BUC quiz and develop ways to support the next generation of plant-aware students in the UK and Ireland
- The BUC 2023 live stream and video has been viewed by over 3,500 people in 28 countries around the world
- We're keen to explore the potential for BUC International and would value your feedback and ideas (scan the QR code for a short questionnaire)

