University of East Anglia Working Life

Your guide to aspiring careers and community
What would it be like to work at UEA?

How would I spend my working days, my weekends, my holidays?

What about my partner’s job, or my children’s school?

What would the future hold?

If you’re considering a post at UEA, you need answers to these questions and more. So we produced this brochure to show you what life is like for those who live and work here.

It outlines the University campus and faculty, and gives a flavour of life in Norwich and Norfolk, from buying a house to sailing a boat.

We hope it will help you make your decision, and look forward to welcoming you as a UEA colleague.
UEA’s distinctive architecture was created by Denys Lasdun during the 1960s. He designed the monumental Teaching Wall, raised walkways, central square and the striking ‘Ziggurats’ of Norfolk and Suffolk Terrace. The campus was planned so that no two buildings are more than five minutes’ walk apart – a principle that has been upheld, as far as possible, ever since.

The campus buildings are set in over 300 acres (121ha) of beautiful green parkland, sloping down to the quiet waters of the broad. Staff and students alike welcome the chance to take a break, enjoy the fresh air and watch the wildlife. The campus has a full range of bars, cafes and restaurants, which serve fresh locally sourced and fair trade ingredients. The LCR is a high-profile venue for rock and pop concerts.

The recently extended library offers over 800,000 books and journals, plus specialist materials, and is open 24/7 during semesters. Its Learning and Resources Centre provides a valuable working and meeting space for staff and research postgraduates.

UEA’s impressive Sportspark has facilities for swimming, gym training, tennis, athletics, indoor sports, badminton, squash, climbing, soccer and more. Sportspark is open to all on a ‘pay and play’ basis, with reduced rates for staff and students.

The Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts is an inspirational public museum housing work by artists including Henry Moore, John Davies, Alberto Giacometti and Francis Bacon, as well as art from around the world and prestigious temporary exhibitions.

The campus also has a medical centre, nursery, chaplaincy, counselling service and several shops.

The campus is easily accessible by foot, cycle, road and public transport. Buses run regularly to the city centre, and services from Norwich’s coach and rail stations connect the city with all major UK towns and cities.

Our stunning campus, just 15 minutes from the centre of Norwich, has won over 20 awards for architecture.

UEA is the top ten of the Guardian’s People and Planet Green League 2011, which ranks universities according to their policies and commitment to environmental management.

The UEA campus has everything for working, relaxing and socialising, from modern teaching facilities to lively cafes – all in a natural setting.
Over 14,000 students from more than 100 countries of the world study at UEA. The university is rated as one of the top three places to be a student in the UK. Teaching and research is organised into four faculties, each comprising several Schools of Study, plus affiliated organisations located on the campus or in the adjoining Norwich Research Park.

**Arts and Humanities**
UEA developed an early reputation for arts and humanities that is still strong today. The Faculty of Arts and Humanities comprises nine Schools of Study, which collaborate to deliver research-led teaching and pursue world-leading research.

- American Studies
- World Art Studies and Museology
- Film and TV Studies
- History
- Language and Communication
- Literature, Drama and Creative Writing
- Music
- Philosophy
- Political, Social and International Studies

**Medicine and Health Sciences**
The Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences is one of the UK’s leading centres for innovative teaching and research in health. Working closely in partnership with the National Health Service, staff and students collaborate in the challenge of improving healthcare.

- Allied Health Professions
- Norwich Medical School
- School of Nursing Sciences

**Science**
UEA has earned a reputation as one of the top research universities for science in the UK. In a 2008 government study, all research units within the Faculty of Science were rated as ‘world leading’. The Faculty comprises six Schools of Study, plus two affiliate Research Institutes.

- Biological Sciences
- Chemistry
- Computing Sciences
- Environmental Sciences
- Mathematics
- Pharmacy
- John Innes Centre
- Institute of Food Research

**Social Sciences**
The Faculty of Social Sciences comprises six Schools of Study, each working at the forefront of academic and professional development.

- Economics
- Education and Lifelong Learning
- International Development
- Law
- Norwich Business School
- Social Work and Psychology
David Giles
He is Head of Admissions.
Here he is pictured at Weybourne, North Norfolk.
David Giles explains how he came from New Zealand to Norfolk, and how life at UEA supports both his professional ambitions and his love of the outdoors.

David Giles
Head of Admissions

What do you do at UEA?
I’m responsible for carefully managing the balance of applications and admissions processes to ensure we hit our recruitment targets as a university. My remit extends across all undergraduate and postgraduate taught courses and I’m particularly focused on delivering an excellent applicant experience.

How did you get here?
I began travelling after university. After time in the US, I came to the UK in 1999. I was only planning to stay for six months, but found some great opportunities that I wouldn’t have found at home.

My previous role was for Raleigh International Trust, where I worked in various locations around the world, including two years in Namibia as Country Director. My final role was managing their operations worldwide from London. Having grown up on a farm, I’m not a city dweller. After a further two years in London, I was happy to leave. So in 2009 I relocated to Norwich and began to look for work.

Why UEA?
I was considering a number of employers in the region, including UEA. Fortunately, a role with the right fit for me came up almost immediately and UEA offered me the job. So I took on the role of Admissions Manager in the Faculty of Health. The role had the sort of scale and scope I was looking for, and I was able to do it within 15 minutes.

"I prefer to live outdoors, and Norfolk offers loads of great places for running, walking and cycling. I can reach the Broads and Thetford Forest in around 20 minutes, or the fantastically wild, diverse coastline in less than 40 minutes."

How’s life outside work?
I’ve lived in many places in the UK and around the world. In terms of lifestyle, I think few places in the UK can compete with Norfolk. I previously rented a house in Wymondham (market town 9 miles/15km south-west of Norwich), which was around seven minutes’ drive from work, and I’ve now relocated to Bawburgh (village 3 miles/5km from UEA), so I’ll be able to run or cycle.

Norwich has everything you need from a medium-sized city, and it’s easy to get in and out. There’s a great arts scene, and some fantastic gig venues. And whatever I want to do, I can be doing it within 15 minutes.

However, I don’t go into Norwich that often. I prefer to live outdoors, and Norfolk offers loads of great places for running, walking and cycling. I can reach the Broads and Thetford Forest in around 30 minutes, or the fantastically wild, diverse coastline in less than 40 minutes.

Working on campus brings some great benefits – access to the library, free lectures and the Sportsparks. Other employers couldn’t offer you all that. And all the opportunities are here to create a great social network too.

What about the future?
Right now, I’m content with the role I have as there are constant challenges which keep it interesting. I’m currently studying for a postgraduate degree in management which is directly linked to the work I do, so I will see where that takes me.

What would you say to someone thinking about coming here?
There’s a lot of opportunities within higher education right now, and within UEA administration specifically. So it’s exciting from that perspective.

In terms of the location, there’s as much going on here as anywhere in the UK – it’s what you make it!

Norfolk is a leading UK tourist centre, with a combination of city, coastline and countryside that attracts visitors from all over the country and beyond.

For those who live here, hundreds of wonderful attractions are just a short drive or ride away. Norfolk’s coastline caters to every taste, from the traditional seaside fun of Great Yarmouth, Cromer and Hunstanton to the peaceful sandy expanses of Holkham and Thornham. Norwich residents can reach most of the coast in under an hour, by road or rail.

Further inland, the Norfolk Broads are known throughout the world as a tranquil retreat for boating, exploring and watching wildlife. The country offers plenty of delightful towns and villages to discover, many featuring fascinating historic monuments such as castles, churches and stately homes.

Norfolk is perfect for an active life. The North Norfolk coast is a popular spot for kitesurfers and windsurfers, and there are great opportunities for running, walking and cycling throughout the county.
Philip Gilmartin explains why he chose UEA for a key career move at senior level, and how he’s fallen in love with the local area.

**What do you do at UEA?**
My main role is Dean of Science, with strategic responsibility for leading a faculty made of six schools: biological sciences, environmental sciences, chemistry, pharmacy, mathematics and computing. I'm also a professor of plant molecular genetics.

**How did you get here?**
For 15 years, I've been balancing university leadership with research and teaching. I've been Director of the Centre for Plant Sciences in Leeds, Pro-Dean for Research in Biological Sciences at the University of Leeds and then Principal of one of the Durham Colleges. I joined UEA in September 2011.

This opportunity promised the chance to step up to a very senior role, while continuing my interest research and teaching. I think it's important that everyone should engage with students. As a plant scientist, I was drawn to the strength of research here and the links with Norwich Research Park.

The recruitment process was very professional, and my application was handled completely in confidence. I was made to feel very welcome, and treated very much as an individual. That's exactly what you want at a senior level, and it showed me that the organisation shared my own values. So I was delighted to be offered the position.

**Why UEA?**
UEA has a strong reputation, it's relatively young and it's going places. My role gives me the opportunity to lead a faculty that's already strong, but still has scope to develop.

There are many opportunities to develop deeper interactions between our schools and the John Innes Centre, the Sainsbury Laboratory, the Institute for Food Research and the Genome Analysis Centre – integrating where we can, while retaining individuality.

For example, we have real strength in computing and mathematics that links in to biology in the form of bioinformatics – and that's a real growth area where we have the opportunity to become pre-eminent.

I also allow me to sustain my interest in teaching and research. I was attracted by the School of Environmental Sciences, with its international reputation, and the School of Pharmacy, which is ranked number one among UK pharmacy schools for student satisfaction. In fact, all our schools are very highly rated in terms of student experience, and that's very important to me.

Starting a role like this is like stepping on to a moving train, and moving into an existing team can be challenging. Everyone has been very welcoming and supportive, and it didn't take me long to feel at home. David Richardson, the previous Dean of Science, is still at UEA, and that's been very positive.

**How's life outside work?**
I visited UEA a few times, but didn't really know Norwich or Norfolk. My movie haven always been driven by career rather than location, and I’ve spent most of my working life in the North of England. Having settled in, I think it's fantastic – a great campus in a great location.

I moved here with my wife, who also started a new role at the University of Cambridge, and our three dogs. It's been really exciting to move somewhere new and different, and we love it here. We live just outside Thetford [town 29 miles/47km south-west of Norwich], surrounded by farmland and forest.

At first, we worried that UEA was isolated, but we soon saw that travel is no problem. For me, it's an easy commute along the A11, while my wife drives to the station and takes the train to Cambridge. Internationally, the flight from Norwich to Amsterdam puts the world on your doorstep.

I love the outdoors, and I love Norfolk’s wide open spaces and big skies. I've never lived anywhere where you can see so many stars. In fact, I'm getting a telescope for my 50th birthday!

**What about the future?**
One reason I came here was that I saw I could make a difference – in the university, in related institutions and on the national stage of university leadership. That benefits the university, but it also creates opportunities for me. My tenure as Dean is for five years, and who knows what future opportunities will arise following this role. This will be a tough act to follow, but I am full of ambition, which is why I came to UEA at this stage in my career.

**What would you say to someone thinking about coming here?**
If you're considering a move to UEA at whatever career level, come and explore the opportunities. You can only fully appreciate them once you're here.

"UEA has a strong reputation, it’s relatively young and it’s going places."
Eylem Atakav shares her enthusiasm for the supportive environment of UEA and the sheer enjoyment of living in Norwich.

**Eylem Atakav**
Lecturer in Film and Television Studies

**What do you do at UEA?**
I teach and research in the school of Film and Television Studies (FTV), focusing on film history, contemporary world cinema and women in film. I’m also International Student Director within the school, which involves overseeing exchange programmes, helping international students, arranging events and so on.

**How did you come here?**
I’m originally from Turkey. I came to the UK in 2003 and did my MA and PhD at Southampton Solent University, then taught at the University of Winchester for a while. Soon after my PhD, this job came up, and I joined the staff in September 2009. I also taught in the School of Political Science for the first year, before going full-time at FTV.

**Why UEA?**
UEA has a really good reputation for film and television studies. My colleagues at Winchester were amazed I was coming here. When I came for my interview, the panel was full of people whose work I’d been citing for years. I’m still so grateful to be working with them. Soon after I started, Yvonne Tasker, who is a leading light in my field, asked me to see a movie with her. We ended up collaborating on an article about the film! More recently, colleagues from the Press Office suggested we publish a press release about my new module on Women, Islam and Media, and it was covered by the Guardian and the BBC.

**How’s life outside work?**
I’ve seen a few cities in the UK, and Norwich is the best place to be. I rent a one-bedroom flat in the city centre, which is very reasonably priced, and I can easily reach the campus by bike or bus. Norwich is a city, but it’s not too big. It’s quiet, but it’s lively too. It keeps surprising me every day – every time I walk around, I discover something new about its history. And it feels completely safe.

I love shopping, and Norwich has little alleys full of independent shops as well as big centres like Chapelfield, and plenty of great restaurants. And there are so many theatres and cinemas – from Odeon to Cinema City. I play tennis over the summer, so the UEA Sportspark is brilliant – and very quiet when the students aren’t around.

**What about the future?**
I couldn’t be happier, and I really don’t want to leave UEA. The culture in FTV is so supportive – we all share our plans for research, teaching and applying for promotion, and we get great academic and financial support. We’re almost like a family, and being part of it makes me feel really strong.

**What would you say to someone thinking about coming here?**
Come to UEA! It’s a friendly, fun, safe place to live, and there’s a lot of support for teaching and research. I absolutely love it!

“Norwich is a city, but it’s not too big. It’s quiet, but it’s lively too. It keeps surprising me every day – every time I walk around, I discover something new about its history. And it feels completely safe.”

**Norwich boasts a huge range of cafés, restaurants, pubs, bars and clubs, offering everything from a quiet morning coffee to an all-on-night out. You can listen to live music at Norwich Arts Centre or the Waterfront, enjoy the theatre at Theatre Royal or the Madammarket Theatre or take in a movie at the Odeon, Vue or Cinema City.**

The city is also a major shopping destination, with a busy weekly market and hundreds of independent shops alongside major leisure developments such as the Riverside and Chapelfield. Norwich Castle Museum and Art Gallery holds outstanding collections of fine art, archaeology and natural history, and also hosts visiting exhibitions.

Every May, the Norfolk & Norwich Festival brings together leading companies, performers and artists from around the world to create one of the UK’s most exciting multi-artform festivals.
Eylem Atakav
She is Lecturer in Film and Television Studies.
She is pictured at Cinema City, Norwich.
Daithí Mac Síthigh outlines the benefits of joining the UEA faculty at an early career stage – plus the great lifestyle available to young academics.

Daithí Mac Síthigh
Senior Lecturer in Law

What do you do at UEA?
I’m a senior lecturer at UEA Law School. My main interest is law and technology, which includes internet law, cybercrime, internet regulation and so on. I teach media law and British constitutional law, and I’m the director of a masters programme in Information Technology and Intellectual Property Law.

Law and technology is changing all the time in response to changes in the online landscape. A lot of our research focuses on understanding emerging issues so we can teach them. I have to rewrite the syllabus every summer because of a change at Facebook or Google!

Our teaching covers case knowledge, but it also provides research skills, and shows students how to use the tools available to them. Law and medicine, for example, touches ethics as well as law, while technology has links to markets and behaviours. Real-world problems don’t always match up neatly with academic subjects.

How did you get here?
In 2008 I was living in Dublin, where I’d done my degree and PhD. Since there were few suitable academic posts available in Ireland, I started applying to UK universities. I was particularly attracted by the focus on media law.

I knew very little about the area, or the university, before I came. I stayed on campus the night before my interview, and awoke on a beautiful sunny May morning to see rabbits hopping about in front of the Broad. Having come from a city-centre university, that was a contrast.

I was encouraged that so many staff chose to see my presentation. It showed that there was a real community within the School. And when the job was offered, I decided to take it, and made the move from Dublin to Norwich.

Why UEA?
UEA appealed because it’s a research university, which is very important to me, and because of the value placed on interdisciplinarity.

Many academics of my generation don’t see this as an option. My first academic post was with a view to working as a teacher. As a scientist, it was clear to me that the wider region offered plenty of opportunities. And once we realised that Cambridge was only an hour away by train, we saw even more options.

The quality of life is good here, and you can live well on an academic’s salary. The rent on our 2.5-bedroom house, with garden, is the same as I was paying for a one-room flat in Dublin. Going out is affordable, and logistically it’s easy to socialise with other UEA staff – and friends, families or partners are welcome too.

Where we live, most of our neighbours are either UEA students or UEA staff. In fact, I often find myself discussing assignments with students on the bus! That’s not always ideal, but I think I’d miss it – and it feels unique to UEA and Norwich.

I don’t drive, I prefer to cycle or use public transport. So it’s great to live within walking distance of both the city centre and the university. This is one of the few places in the UK where you can live without a car.

Norwich offers more than you might expect from a small city, particularly in terms of culture. There are plenty of gigs at the UEA LCR, plus classical and jazz concerts and the Norfolk & Norwich Festival. You can even get to London in under two hours by train!

What would you say to someone thinking about coming here?
At UEA, you can do so much at an early stage in your career. Because it has a fairly flat, egalitarian structure, you can make rapid progress. I’ve been promoted to Senior Lecturer and I’m still in my twenties.

You also get a huge amount of support here. UEA gives you the freedom to experiment and try new things. And that gives you a good chance of punching above your weight in the future.

How’s life outside work?
I came over with my fiancée, who was writing up a PhD and is now taking a PGCE at UEA with a view to working as a teacher. As a scientist, it was clear to her that the wider region offered plenty of opportunities. And once we realised that Cambridge was only an hour away by train, we saw even more options.

The quality of life is good here, and you can live well on an academic’s salary. The rent on our 2.5-bedroom house, with garden, is the same as I was paying for a one-room flat in Dublin. Going out is affordable, and logistically it’s easy to socialise with other UEA staff – and friends, families or partners are welcome too.

Where we live, most of our neighbours are either UEA students or UEA staff. In fact, I often find myself discussing assignments with students on the bus! That’s not always ideal, but I think I’d miss it – and it feels unique to UEA and Norwich.

I don’t drive, I prefer to cycle or use public transport. So it’s great to live within walking distance of both the city centre and the university. This is one of the few places in the UK where you can live without a car.

Norwich offers more than you might expect from a small city, particularly in terms of culture. There are plenty of gigs at the UEA LCR, plus classical and jazz concerts and the Norfolk & Norwich Festival. You can even get to London in under two hours by train!

What would you say to someone thinking about coming here?
At UEA, you can do so much at an early stage in your career. Because it has a fairly flat, egalitarian structure, you can make rapid progress. I’ve been promoted to Senior Lecturer and I’m still in my twenties.

You also get a huge amount of support here. UEA gives you the freedom to experiment and try new things. And that gives you a good chance of punching above your weight in the future.

How’s life outside work?
I came over with my fiancée, who was writing up a PhD and is now taking a PGCE at UEA with a view to working as a teacher. As a scientist, it was clear to her that the wider region offered plenty of opportunities. And once we realised that Cambridge was only an hour away by train, we saw even more options.

The quality of life is good here, and you can live well on an academic’s salary. The rent on our 2.5-bedroom house, with garden, is the same as I was paying for a one-room flat in Dublin. Going out is affordable, and logistically it’s easy to socialise with other UEA staff – and friends, families or partners are welcome too.

Where we live, most of our neighbours are either UEA students or UEA staff. In fact, I often find myself discussing assignments with students on the bus! That’s not always ideal, but I think I’d miss it – and it feels unique to UEA and Norwich.

I don’t drive, I prefer to cycle or use public transport. So it’s great to live within walking distance of both the city centre and the university. This is one of the few places in the UK where you can live without a car.

Norwich offers more than you might expect from a small city, particularly in terms of culture. There are plenty of gigs at the UEA LCR, plus classical and jazz concerts and the Norfolk & Norwich Festival. You can even get to London in under two hours by train!

What would you say to someone thinking about coming here?
At UEA, you can do so much at an early stage in your career. Because it has a fairly flat, egalitarian structure, you can make rapid progress. I’ve been promoted to Senior Lecturer and I’m still in my twenties.

You also get a huge amount of support here. UEA gives you the freedom to experiment and try new things. And that gives you a good chance of punching above your weight in the future.
What do you do at UEA?
I came here as a senior lecturer in October 2005. I have recently been promoted to Professor (in 2012) and I’m also Deputy Associate Dean for Research for the Faculty of Social Sciences. In these new roles, I will take on more leadership responsibilities within the School and Faculty, mentor new lecturers and focus on building a stronger research culture. My research interests are the way companies manage the process, how they develop more sustainable innovations and how they respond to disruptive changes from outside their industry.

How did you get here?
Previously, I was at the School of Applied Sciences at Cranfield University, and before that I was working in industry as a project manager. I moved to UEA mainly for personal reasons. My brother was taken ill, which made me re-evaluate my priorities. My son was one year old and I realised that I wanted to be closer to my parents, who live in Norwich, and give my son the chance to know them better.

I knew I wanted to move here, but only in the right circumstances. Fortunately, the ideal role came up within Norwich Business School at UEA. I’d visited my parents here, but I didn’t know the area that well. Having lived in a place where people could drop in on the way to somewhere else, it is more remote here. But with a young family, that was less important anyway. Norfolk is a really good place to bring up children.

Why UEA?
Craniﬁeld is a leading institution, and some colleagues did question my move to UEA. I was aware of UEA’s reputation in environmental sciences and creative writing, but not much beyond that. When I came for the interview, I liked the fact that the Business School was small – around 20 research staff – and had ambitions to grow.

Since then, the school has roughly tripled in size, and now has around 1500 students. We’ve moved into a new building [The Thomas Paine Study Centre], which helps to give us a stronger identity and is a nice space to work in. I’ve had a lot of interesting roles and opportunities in my time here, including Admissions Director, Postgraduate Research Director and Research Director; so I’ve always been part of Norwich Business School’s decision-making processes, which I have enjoyed.

The School and university promote and encourage interdisciplinarity. My research and teaching interests fit well as innovation spans different functions within a business, and is an interdisciplinary topic. Forming links with colleagues in other business and management disciplines has been relatively easy, and has helped my research since I have been at UEA.

The UEA Nursery on campus was an important factor for me. It’s very progressive, with great facilities. The fees can be deducted from your salary before tax, which brings down the cost of childcare considerably. I think UEA has a family-oriented culture – people work hard, but they also leave work at a sensible time.

How’s life outside work?
Norfolk is a really good place to bring up children. There’s a lot to do, with parks, coastline and other attractions like cinemas, theatres and museums. Norwich is a very safe and accessible city too. It has all of the right facilities, but it’s not at all intimidating. My son has settled in well and we have made lots of new friends.

When we moved here, I swapped a two-bedroom house in Bedfordshire for a four-bedroom house in Mulbarton [village 5.5 miles /9km south of Norwich] for the same price. My drive to work takes around 15 minutes. When I was at Cranfield, I’d wait that long in a queue to cross the M1!

What would you say to someone thinking about coming here?
For me, it’s been a very positive move, both professionally and personally. UEA has given me the chance to take on new roles, develop my skills and achieve promotion. It’s a nice, lively campus, and in terms of the Business School, I have been able to be a part of the growth, and been able to help to shape what we’re doing.

Norfolk is an ideal place to raise a family.
Property prices are low in comparison to the rest of the UK, and rental properties are plentiful. Housing in Norwich offers a wide range of architectural periods and styles, from Victorian terraces to 1930s semi-detached properties and modern city-centre flats. Norfolk has a total of 416 state schools, along with several independent private schools.

There are many attractive parks and open spaces within easy reach, including Eaton Park, Mousehold Heath, Heigham Park, Waterloo Park and more.

The coast, the Norfolk Broads and many other tourist areas are easily accessible by road, bus or rail, allowing families to enjoy fantastic days out or longer holidays without the hassle of long journeys.

Norwich city centre offers a wealth of opportunities for enjoyable and educational activities at venues such as the Forum, the Castle Museum and Art Gallery, Dragon Hall, Theatre Royal, Cinema City, Norwich Cathedral and many more.

‘Norfolk is a really good place to bring up children’
Val Lattimer explains how taking a step into the unknown was made easier by UEA’s commitment to research and welcoming culture.

**Val Lattimer**

**Head of Nursing Sciences**

**What do you do at UEA?**
I have two roles: for 60% of the time I’m Dean of Nursing Sciences, which is a leadership role, and for the remaining 40% I’m a professor of health services research, which involves research and some teaching. My research focuses on emergency and urgent care, particularly ways to make services more effective, accessible and responsive.

**How did you get here?**
My early career was in clinical nursing and nursing education. During my 30s, I got very interested in research, and I did a PhD and a Medical Research Council post-doctoral fellowship in health services research. Before I came here, I was at Southampton University for four years, most recently as Director of Research in the School of Health Sciences.

I was invited to apply for my role here by a recruitment agency. I hadn’t been looking to move, but when the call came, I realised that I was ready to think about my next step.

I didn’t know a lot about UEA. However, I did know Ian Harvey, the Executive Dean of Medicine and Health Sciences, and it was helpful to have that link. It was also important to visit the campus, meet Ian and the team, and understand the fantastic opportunities there are here.

**Why UEA?**
As well as offering a leadership role, my work allows me to integrate both sides of my experience, providing health professional programmes that are strongly underpinned by research. I brought two studies that I’d just started with me, and we did the field work here in Norfolk, which was very good.

Sometimes, the boundaries between subjects get in the way of innovation at universities. UEA is a highly collaborative environment, with all the building blocks for excellent health research. And the links with local NHS and social care providers are very strong. Over the last 18 months, we’ve developed a new strategy, with clear next steps focused on improving the quality of care.

**How’s life outside work?**
Before I moved here, I’d never been to Norfolk. But I knew that Norwich was a lovely city, and I knew a little about the coast and the Broads. We’re great walkers, and we’ve had great fun exploring the coastal paths in North Norfolk and down into Suffolk.

We decided to rent initially, and found a farm cottage in a very quiet rural location. I’m now enjoying being 15 minutes from the University. It’s remarkable how you can get from the heart of Norwich to UEA and out to the country in such a short time.

My husband is in the process of relocating here at the moment. He’s worked in the public sector and his skills are easily transferable, so we knew it would be relatively easy.

**What about the future?**
Coming here was a big step for me, but I was absolutely the right decision. And I’m committed to helping the school develop over the long term.

**What would you say to someone thinking about coming here?**
When I was talking to colleagues about my move, they gave me two great pieces of advice. One was that stepping into the unknown can be very energising, giving you the chance to discover new skills. And the other was to trust your own judgement, and don’t rely on what others say. Come and see it for yourself!
Thompson Zulu explains how he came from southern Africa to north Norfolk, and how UEA and the surrounding area tick all the boxes in terms of career, family and lifestyle.

**What do you do at UEA?**
My job title is Head of Applications Support and Analysis. Along with my team, I look after the IT systems used by human resources, finance and other staff groups – plus the library system, which is used by students.

**How did you get here?**
I’ve been an IT professional for 17 years. I’ve worked in my native Zimbabwe, Zambia and South Africa before coming to the UK with my wife, who’s British, in 2004.

We settled in Mundesley, which is a small village on the North Norfolk coast about 25 miles (40km) from Norwich. Coming from Zimbabwe, that was quite a culture shock!

Initially, I worked at City College Norwich, and then at University Campus Suffolk (UCS) in Ipswich. I joined UEA in January 2011, initially as a developer. Five months later, I moved into my current management role.

**Why UEA?**
I was already living in Norfolk, so I knew I liked the area, but I was working relatively far from home at UCS. Every so often, we’d pop over from UCS to UEA to generate new ideas.

On one of those visits, I realised that UEA was somewhere I could achieve my career and personal objectives – as well as being a nice place to work.

UCS is quite new and relatively small, and that brings many challenges. I wanted to work for a bigger organisation, handling things on a much larger scale, and make use of the skills I’d learned. I also wanted more variety.

I took a pay cut in order to come here, but fortunately I soon moved up into a new position with a salary much closer to my previous level.

We have a fantastic campus here. I’m a keen photographer, and I love to take pictures of the landscape and wildlife around the Broad.

**How’s life outside work?**
When we first came here, we had the idea that I’d work in London. But we just fell in love with Norfolk. We love the seaside lifestyle, everything is very child-friendly, the schools are great and houses are great value. For people my age, with children, it just ticks all the boxes.

Mundesley is very sociable. We know everyone, and everyone knows us. And we don’t have to deal with any of the social problems that we felt we would have faced in London. When we spent time down there, it seemed a rather impersonal, challenging place to live and work, particularly with a child.

My daughter, who’s now nine, has learned to surf, joined a choir and a drama club and taken up dance. All these things are just a short drive away, and very affordable too. My wife’s a teacher, and she found work just days after we arrived – again, within easy driving distance.

It takes me 50 minutes to reach UEA, thanks to the narrow country lanes. But I love leaving the city and going home to the sea.

I love watching sports, music, photography, music and anything to do with the sea. There’s always plenty to do by the coast, particularly in summer, plus places to visit throughout the county. In a young country like Zimbabwe, a building from the 1800s is considered very old, so it’s fascinating to visit a church that was built centuries ago.

The only other place I can imagine living is the Lake District. Mountain views are one thing you don’t get in Norfolk!

**What about the future?**
There are lots of opportunities to further your career here. And because it’s such a varied working environment, with lots of things happening, it’s easy to move on if you want to. You don’t feel restricted.

Because of my background, I’ll always work in IT. But I could move to a different faculty and it would be almost like a career change. That’s what I like about UEA – it gives you the flexibility to do that.

**What would you say to someone thinking about coming here?**
There are many opportunities, many challenges and many chances to use your experience. It’s a very varied environment, and as a result it has a vibrant and cosmopolitan culture. It’s an exciting place to work!
In Norwich, you can live however and wherever you want. The city includes every type of housing stock, from Victorian terraces to newly built apartments, in areas from leafy suburbs to the busy city centre. The city has a wealth of award-winning restaurants, boutique shopping and a lively arts and culture scene. And because the city centre is so compact, you are never far away from Norwich’s unique countryside and all it offers.

The Golden Triangle area, which lies between the city centre and UEA, has been a popular choice for students and faculty since the university opened. It’s a lively, relatively young area with plenty of pubs, shops and amenities clustered around the Unthank Road. Most residences are nineteenth-century terraces in a range of sizes, plus larger properties divided into flats. Regular buses connect the area with the campus and the city centre, both of which are also within easy walking or cycling distance.

Apartments close to the city centre have shopping, entertainment and leisure options on their doorstep. The city centre boasts many attractive apartment complexes, some newly built and others in converted commercial buildings.

Life in Norwich

Life in Norfolk

The county of Norfolk offers a wide range of lifestyles, from perfect isolation in the depths of the countryside through bustling market towns and quiet, friendly villages.

House prices in Norfolk are extremely competitive and compare very well with the rest of the UK, particularly the south-east, with detached and period property within reach of many families.

Make your home in one of Norfolk’s thinking market towns and you can enjoy all the charm of rural living whilst being part of a thriving community that is still accessible to UEA. You can even locate close to the coast and be within a one hour commute of UEA. Norfolk’s countryside is famous for distant horizons and huge skies – an inspiring, refreshing place to live. Scattered throughout the fields are hundreds of beautiful villages, each with its pub, church and local shops. Opportunities for walking, cycling and enjoying wildlife are everywhere.

Wherever you live in Norfolk, the city of Norwich is never far away, which means that great shopping and entertainment are always within reach. The coast is easily accessible too, offering fantastic family days out and the chance to get away from the crowds on endless beaches or dramatic cliffs.

All Norfolk’s towns have state schools, and there are also several highly regarded private schools in the county. A lot of villages have a state primary (junior) school reachable either on foot or within a short drive. Older children in further education (aged 16–18) can easily travel to Norwich or one of Norfolk’s larger towns.
Why UEA?

There are so many reasons to choose UEA and its surrounding area. Here are 10 of the most important.

01 Diverse employment opportunities, making it easy for partners of UEA staff to relocate here

02 Outstanding accessibility – reach UEA, the city of Norwich and the rest of Norfolk quickly and easily

03 Excellent local entertainment, including shops, restaurants, bars, theatres, cinemas and major events

04 A beautiful local area to explore that combines the very best of city, country and coast

05 A very high standard of living, with low property prices and little crime

06 A superb sports centre offering swimming, athletics, racquet sports, a gym and more, with discounts for staff

07 A modern, accessible campus with shops, cafés and a beautiful natural setting

08 A youthful and enthusiastic culture, focused on new ideas and new opportunities

09 Attractive reward packages, plus benefits including on-campus nursery and access to free lectures

10 Internationally recognised teaching and research, with exciting opportunities for collaboration and promotion

We hope you’ve enjoyed learning a little more about UEA, the people who work here and the sort of lives they enjoy. If there’s anything else you want to know, please get in touch. We’ll be happy to answer your questions and provide more information.

We look forward to welcoming you as a UEA colleague.