Professor Tom Barnes, FInstP, FRSNZ



Tom Barnes is an experienced senior leader in higher education institution in the UK and abroad, having served as Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research) at the University of Auckland from 2001 to 2007, and subsequently as Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research and Enterprise, at the University of Greenwich until 2015. In these positions he had extensive experience in the design and leadership of systems for promoting academic and research excellence, innovation, and the effective translation of University research and academic work into economic and social benefit for society at large. The University of Auckland became recognised as the leading research institution in the country during his tenure there and was also ranked 46th in the world in the Times Higher international rankings.

Tom has substantial board experience. He has served on the board of University commercialisation companies, government innovation agencies, national funding agencies, and national academies.

Tom is a physicist by training, and has BSc, MSc, and PhD degrees in physics from the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology. He gained a Personal Chair in Physics from Auckland in 2000, together with a Distinguished Teaching Award. Prior to that, from 1987 to 1991, he was a Senior Scientist in optical system development at the Mechanical Engineering Laboratory, Tsukuba, Japan.

Tom has particular experience in the design, development, and commercialisation of novel optical systems for precision measurement, sensing, and high-speed computing. He also has substantial experience in fluid dynamics and worked as a research engineer in fluid systems in the British nuclear industry.

Tom is a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand and a Fellow of the Institute of Physics.

Through Science and Technology Solutions Ltd., Tom provides education and academic consulting services. He also advises companies internationally on optical and sensing system development, fluid flow systems, product development strategy and implementation, and intellectual property.

Positions Held

Jan 2008 – Jul 2015	Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research and Enterprise, University of Greenwich
2001 – Dec 2007	Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research), University of Auckland
1991 - 2001	Lecturer, Senior Lecturer, Associate Professor, and Professor (Personal Chair): Physics Department, University of Auckland.
1987 - 1991	Senior Scientist: Mechanical Engineering Laboratory, AIST, Tsukuba, Japan
1981 - 1987	Research Scientist and Section Leader: Physics and Engineering Laboratory Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Lower Hutt, New Zealand
1978 - 1981	Research Engineer: National Nuclear Corporation, Risley, Warrington