50 years ago, Her Majesty gave today’s academic lecture as a gift to the city of Berlin, marking the 20th anniversary of the reopening of Technische Universität in what was then the British Sector of Berlin.

Today, the Queen’s Lecture is the highlight of our academic year: Over the years, thousands of students have listened to some of the UK’s most renowned scientists, gathering new ideas and inspiring new research.

Your Majesty, we are greatly honoured that you are here today to celebrate this anniversary Queen’s Lecture with us and we look forward to upholding the tradition for years to come. We hope it shall continue as an outstanding intellectual bridge linking our two nations and paving the way for the future.

In this tradition, it is a great honour for me to welcome this year’s lecturer, Neil MacGregor, Director of the British Museum and designated chair of the Advisory Board of the Humboldt Forum in Berlin.