



The University of Manchester

The presence of our past

**Strategic Framework for University History
and Heritage**

**Version 1
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1. Vision and mission

Our history and heritage is the foundation upon which the University is built and is a great asset:

- 1.1 It provides a sense of **pride and identity**.
- 1.2 It binds our diverse **community**.
- 1.3 It is a feature of our **distinctiveness**.
- 1.4 Our 190 years of achievement underpin our **reputation and raise our global profile**.
- 1.5 It demonstrates our **contribution to the world** and how the fruits of our scholarship have resonated throughout society over time.
- 1.6 It is a guide to our **liberal and progressive traditions**.
- 1.7 It is a powerful tool for **engaging multiple audiences with our ethos, our work and our contribution**.

The University recognises the importance of our past for the institution's future and its community.

2. Aims

University History and Heritage will look to the future and support the University in meeting the three core goals set out in the Strategic Vision for 2020: world-class research; outstanding learning and student experience; and social responsibility. It will:

- 2.1 Instil a sense of pride and identity.
- 2.2 Provide a coherent and cohesive narrative that binds our diverse community.
- 2.3 Emphasise the distinctive features of our University.
- 2.4 Underpin our reputation for excellence as a world-leading institution.
- 2.5 Raise our international profile and emphasise the University's international links.
- 2.6 Demonstrate our contribution to the world and how our scholarship has resonated throughout society over time.
- 2.7 Provide the historical landscape to our liberal and progressive traditions.
- 2.8 Engage multiple audiences with our ethos, our work and our contribution.
- 2.9 Infuse the University's PSS directorates, in particular, the Directorate of the Student Experience, Development, Donor and Alumni Relations, and the Office for Social Responsibility with a sense of our past to advance a myriad of institutional aims.

The University of Manchester will seek to become internationally recognised as an institution whose history and heritage actively contributes to the achievement of its core goals. This will be achieved through three strategic priorities and one enabling goal:

1. Research - discovering more about our history through research.
2. Engagement – informing and engaging audiences with our past.
3. Conservation – managing and conserving our heritage.
4. Enabling – the mechanisms through which University History and Heritage can be effective.

3.1 Research

Aim: The research priority will be led by the discovery of new knowledge to understand the broad history of the University and other learned institutions.

As a University we recognise the importance of understanding our past in its own right and within the context of learned institutions and to do so in accordance with the rigorous standards and academic freedom expected of us by the academy.

We will:

- 3.1.1 Lead and promote world-class, interdisciplinary research on the history of universities and learned institutions in collaboration with colleagues across the University.
- 3.1.2 Promote research in leading publications that attract high levels of citation.
- 3.1.3 Develop national and international partnerships to enhance our research.
- 3.1.4 Use research to inform our engagement priorities to produce social and cultural benefits.
- 3.1.5 Research the history of our University in its many facets for the sake of academic enquiry and to support the operation of the institution.
- 3.1.6 Reflect the intellectual, physical, cultural and social diversity of the University in our research.
- 3.1.7 Protect the academic freedom of those working on the history of the University according to normal conventions.

The goals will be operationalised through the University History Research Group.

Measure of success:

The University of Manchester will be internationally recognised for research on its own institution and other learned institutions, as judged by esteem in the academy, number of publications in peer review journals and the impact factors achieved by publications.

3.2 Engagement

Aim: The engagement priority will maximise knowledge of, and involvement in, our past and how our scholarship and our people have made a difference and resonated throughout society over time.

As a University, we recognise that our past is a rich and valuable asset which distinguishes us from other institutions. It provides us with opportunities to engage internal and external audiences for our benefit.

We will:

- 3.2.1 Promote the University as a distinctive institution of education and research with links to the city, the nation and the world.
- 3.2.2 Encourage pride, identity and a sense of community, especially amongst students and alumni.
- 3.2.3 Demonstrate our contribution to the world and how our scholarship has resonated throughout society over time.
- 3.2.4 Utilise opportunities offered by UHH to provide opportunities for staff, students, alumni and the public to volunteer their time and develop skills.
- 3.2.5 Underpin our motto *Cognitio, Sapientia, Humanitas* (Knowledge, Wisdom, Humanity), providing the University with the historic landscape through which these values were born, nurtured and applied.
- 3.2.6 Contribute to making the University a welcoming and attractive place to study, work and visit through a strong sense of our past.
- 3.2.7 Support the student experience through our intellectual and cultural history and to use our past to instil the 'purposes of a Manchester education'.
- 3.2.8 Support the social responsibility agenda of the University by demonstrating the long trajectory of our values and ethos.
- 3.2.9 Support the engagement and mobilisation of alumni with the University's mission through our past and emphasise the benefits of legacy.
- 3.2.10 Increase interactions with local, regional and international communities using our past as a relational tool, especially those who have limited contact with the University.
- 3.2.11 Contribute to the cultural life of the city and region through heritage events.
- 3.2.12 Provide different levels of interpretation to engage a range of audiences and communities.
- 3.2.13 Embed our history and heritage throughout the institution to support a myriad of institutional goals.
- 3.2.14 Collaborate with the Library, Manchester Museum, Whitworth Art Gallery, John Rylands Library and Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre in making best use of our archives and artefacts for engagement.

These ambitions will be operationalised principally through the University Historian and Heritage Manager.

Measure of success:

A portfolio of engagement outputs will be monitored, including web hits, video views, surveys and attendance at events and tours.

3.3 Conservation

Aim: The conservation priority will manage and care for our heritage so that it can be utilised for research and engagement and enjoyed by future generations.

We recognise our history is of national and international importance and we have an obligation to care for our past, in its many forms, for current and future generations.

We will:

- 3.3.1 Define and identify our heritage assets outside of the Library, Manchester Museum, Whitworth Art Gallery, John Rylands Library and Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre
- 3.3.2 Collaborate with colleagues across the University to support the conservation and management of our heritage assets.
- 3.3.3 Support the Estates strategy in providing a distinctive sense of place through conserving and enhancing our historic built environment.

These ambitions will be operationalised through the University Historian and Heritage Manager working in collaboration with colleagues across the University.

Measure of success:

A portfolio of indicators will include the production and maintenance of asset registers and compliance with conversation standards and practices.

3.4 Enabling

To realise the priorities for University History and Heritage, we will:

- 3.4.1 Maintain a University History and Heritage Strategy Group (UHHSG) to provide leadership and direction for UHH activities. It will be chaired by a member of the SLT and its membership will consist of senior individuals from the Faculties, PSS Directorates, Manchester Museum, Whitworth Art Gallery, John Rylands Library and Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre, the Library and key stakeholders within the University.
- 3.4.2 The UHHSG will delegate responsibility for certain tasks to the University Historian and Heritage Manager or other defined groups.
- 3.4.3 Protect the academic function and freedom of the University Historian and Heritage Manager.

We will operationalise the Strategic Framework through a live Priority Actions and Objectives Plan.

An evolving list of priority actions and objectives will be separately appended to this document to reflect the developmental nature of University History and Heritage.