Our vision for a new Faculty
Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health
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Our new Faculty

The new Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health was created on 1 August 2016 to support the University of Manchester’s strategic vision to be one of the leading universities in the world.

Bringing together the Faculty of Life Sciences and the Faculty of Medical and Human Sciences in a new, simpler, more integrated structure offers the greatest potential for the University to have a significant impact across the life sciences.

It also creates the opportunity to achieve better focus and concentration in key areas of our research, teaching and learning and social responsibility.

The Faculty’s structure will facilitate interdisciplinary working and enables us to learn from each other and share best practice.

Our eight, strategic research domains will help to articulate our research strengths, drive large-scale, collaborative research activities and strengthen relationships with our research and healthcare partners.

As part of this, the more integrated structure enables us to adopt a more translational approach to biology, medicine and health – from pure discovery science through to clinical application and patient care.

The integration of discovery biology, clinical application and patient care within a single Faculty, particularly in a region with notable health inequality, also provides a unique opportunity to have a very real and positive impact on people’s lives.
Our vision

We empower people from diverse backgrounds to transform their ideas in biology, medicine, and health for the benefit of society in Manchester, the UK and across the globe.

Ian Greer
Vice President and Dean
Our performance

As a University and Faculty we feature highly in international rankings, based on our research impact and success, excellence in teaching, and our commitment to social responsibility and engagement.

In the REF 2014 assessment, which measures the quality and impact of research across all UK universities, 83% of our research activity was judged to be ‘world-leading’ (4*) or ‘internationally excellent’ (3*), and we were ranked in fifth place in terms of research power.

With an average score of 89% across our legacy Schools and Institutes in the last UK National Student Survey (NSS) including 97% in Dentistry, we are also highly rated by our students.

University’s ranking for research power in REF

UK ranking for Biomedical Research (£16.6m)*

UK ranking for Allied Health Professionals, Dentistry, Nursing and Pharmacy*

Employee satisfaction (%)*

UK ranking for Biological Sciences†

1

4

95

5

5

100
Our structure

The structure of the Faculty enables staff and students to work more collaboratively across the operating divisions and strategic research domains to share best practice.

Our Doctoral Academy enhances the opportunities and experiences of our students, while the Education and Training Academy also provides professional development support to our staff.

Our structure allows us to be more agile and responsive, enabling us to pull teams together quickly and imaginatively and develop bespoke research and teaching solutions.

Our eight research domains are aligned closely to the priorities of our strategic research partners, strengthening in particular the collaborative work that we undertake with the NHS via the Manchester Academic Health Science Centre (MAHSC).
Our teaching and learning

Within the Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health we have over 30% of all the University’s undergraduate and postgraduate students and we are proud to deliver an outstanding teaching and learning experience to our 11,000 students.

With an average 88% employability rating across the two legacy Faculties, our undergraduate and taught masters courses offer students all the skills and knowledge they need for a successful career in the biological, medical healthcare and biomedical sciences.

We are the biggest supplier of healthcare graduates to the NHS in the north-west of England. Our graduates are also increasingly sought after by both public and private sector employers around the world such as Astra Zeneca; GlaxoSmithKline; Public Health England; UCB Pharma and United Utilities to name a few.

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<th></th>
<th>Home/EU</th>
<th>Overseas</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tr>
<td>Undergraduates</td>
<td>7,321</td>
<td>748</td>
<td>8,069</td>
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<tr>
<td>Postgraduate</td>
<td>1,707</td>
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<td>Research</td>
<td>873</td>
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<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>9,901</td>
<td>1,348</td>
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Our mission is to support our staff to produce innovative, world-leading research and to mobilise the academic opportunities available to us in Manchester to make a unique contribution to improving people’s health and quality of life regionally, nationally and globally.

We also aim to make full use of the funding opportunities presented by the UK Government’s DevoManc healthcare agenda, which will enable Greater Manchester to take control of its health and social care £6billion annual budget to further improve health outcomes and meet the needs of its local communities.

Collaboration is key
To help us achieve this, we have created eight, strategic research domains that will drive large-scale, collaborative research activities and strengthen relationships with our partners.

An example is the Salford Lung Study, our collaboration with eight healthcare partners to assess chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. Sponsored by GlaxoSmithKline and involving 2,800 patients, the study was a global first in bringing together our expertise in health informatics and respiratory medicine with the NHS and other external partners, resulting in integrated electronic patient records to improve everyday patient interactions with GP’s, pharmacists and hospitals.

The Faculty is also home to the University’s cancer research beacon. Our work in cancer allows us to turn research findings in the lab into better, more effective, treatments for cancer patients; develop and test novel drugs and therapies; and through nursing, psychology and social work, find solutions to the physical, emotional and social impacts of cancer.
Our impact

We deliver outstanding research in key areas of biological, medical and health sciences, which have a global impact and make the world a better place.

This is achieved by ensuring the opportunities for our research have an impact on the economic, social and cultural aspects of society beyond academia.

Research undertaken since 1996 has led to a reduction in the number of prescribing errors in the UK.

Discovering subconscious responses to light, leading to working with lighting manufacturers to produce improved lighting to suit our needs.

Government policy on dental screening in schools has changed significantly following our research.

Children with inherited metabolic disease have improved life expectancy thanks to our research.

Our research into the link between breast cancer and bone loss led to changes in international guidelines and treatments.

Dementia research has influenced care policies and recommendations in England.
Our NHS partnerships

The Faculty has established a number of strategic partnerships that underpin its ambitions to develop a truly translational approach to research, from discovery science right through to its clinical application in medicine, health and social care.

Our research priorities are closely aligned to those of the Manchester Academic Health Science Centre (MAHSC), where we work collaboratively with six local NHS organisations:

- University Hospital of South Manchester NHS Foundation Trust
- The Christie NHS Foundation Trust
- Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust
- Salford Clinical Commissioning Group
- Manchester Mental Health and Social Care Trust
- Central Manchester NHS Foundation Trust
Our external partnerships

We also have research and funding links to a number of commercial organisations including Unilever, AstraZeneca, GlaxoSmithKline and Boots who help us to bring new drugs to the market.

Other key partnerships we have include Cancer Research UK, Diabetes UK, and the Wellcome Trust.
Our social responsibility

We are making a real difference to the health and social and economic wellbeing of communities via our teaching and research activities – locally, nationally and on a global scale. Our Faculty makes a significant contribution to the University’s social responsibility agenda, including:

• major research contributions related to discovery science, medicine, healthcare and social wellbeing for example in dementia

• local community engagement working with our partners in Manchester Academic Health Science Centre (MAHSC)

• the training of the future health professional workforce – and providing ongoing CPD activities and support

• active promotion of volunteering amongst both staff and students, including pioneering support for Dementia Friends which has now been adopted across the University

• a planned schedule of community and public engagement activities such as an Annual Faculty Open Day, a Community Summer School and an After School Science Club

• participation in a range of local and national events, including the Manchester Science Festival and the Great British Biosciences Festival

• a strong track record in widening participation, particularly in encouraging young people from under-represented communities to pursue a career in medicine or healthcare

• outperforming the widening participation achievements of our competitors in the Russell Group (11.3% versus 6.5%) with nearly 87% of our combined students coming from state funded schools*

• three bronze and three silver Athena SWAN Awards, which recognise our achievements in the advancement of gender equality and diversity

• active participation in the University’s successful application for a Race Equality Charter Bronze Award in 2015

*Source: 2014/2015 HESA data
Our future

The University of Manchester’s Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health is one of the largest of its kind in the world, comparable to a medium-sized UK university.

We now have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity with the health and social care budget devolution in Greater Manchester to create a unique, research-driven, teaching and learning powerhouse that will have a very real and positive impact on the health and wellbeing of the communities we serve, our staff and students.

In addition, the University’s world-leading research into graphene will enable us to play a leading role developing biomedical applications for this revolutionary material, including targeted drug delivery and ‘smart’ implants.

As a leading centre of excellence across the biological, medical and health sciences, with a strong focus on addressing key health challenges, both locally and globally, we can adopt and develop a truly collaborative, partnership approach to every aspect of our work.

In order to achieve this and in line with our overall vision, we need the input from all of our staff, across teaching, research and professional support; our students, partners, patients and local community, to help us shape what we are convinced will be a challenging, but bright future for our new Faculty.

Our vision for the Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health

We empower people from diverse backgrounds to transform their ideas in biology, medicine, and health for the benefit of society in Manchester, the UK and across the globe