At The University of Manchester

WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

At The University of Manchester, social responsibility is one of our three core goals, as important as our commitment to world-leading research and outstanding teaching and learning.

The unique priority we place on making a difference sets us apart. From our beginnings we’ve sought to break down boundaries and make lives better. Our origins as England’s first civic university go hand in hand with Manchester’s development as the world’s first industrial city.

One of our predecessor institutions, Owens College, widened access by removing the need for religious tests for entry. Another – the Manchester Mechanics’ Institution – opened up education to the working classes.

Christabel Pankhurst studied here before campaigning for the suffragettes. Sir William Arthur Lewis was the UK’s first black professor. Our first female academic, Marie Stopes, advocated birth control for women.

We can tell many stories of what we’ve done. But we’d much rather tell you what we’re doing today.

OUR THREE CORE GOALS

1. WORLD-LEADING RESEARCH
2. OUTSTANDING LEARNING AND STUDENT EXPERIENCE
3. SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

ON CAMPUS

IN THE COMMUNITY

WORLDWIDE
Social responsibility: MAKING IT HAPPEN

The University of Manchester’s approach to social responsibility makes a difference on campus, in the community and across the world.

We challenge our students to tackle the big questions, equipping them with the knowledge and awareness to become global leaders and citizens of tomorrow. We’re responsible in our processes, from choosing what we buy to how we recruit our staff. Decisions throughout the University are made with equality, diversity and the environment in mind.

We inspire – and are inspired by – our neighbours and global communities. We work in partnership to address some of the big questions facing societies through our research.

Here are just a few examples of how we’re making a difference.

ON CAMPUS

ETHICAL GRAND CHALLENGES

We’re committed to developing socially responsible graduates equipped to tackle some of the world’s greatest challenges, such as social justice and environmental sustainability, through an ambitious new Ethical Grand Challenges programme for all undergraduate students.

5,000 undergraduate students took part in the Sustainability Challenge in 2016 – described as “the world’s largest classroom”.* 92% said they became more aware of the complexity of sustainability as a result of taking part.

97% of students increased their awareness of justice in the workplace through our Workplace Ethics Challenge.

10,000 ACTIONS

We’ve embarked on the biggest environmental sustainability initiative in the higher education sector. 10,000+ members of University staff have been given an opportunity to engage in an intensive programme of learning and positive action on sustainability. More than 25,000 actions were pledged by staff.

The programme led us to become the first university in the world to be certified as an anchor institution.

IN THE COMMUNITY

ADDRESSING INEQUALITIES

We’re using our knowledge and expertise to help create a fairer Greater Manchester. We’re leading an independent Inclusive Growth Analysis Unit in partnership with the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, which is helping to make poverty reduction central to processes of growth and devolution in our city region.

We’re working with a coalition of regional organisations and the Centre for Ageing Better to develop and share innovative approaches to tackling social, economic and health inequalities in later life.

In Ardwick, one of our neighbouring areas, we’re developing the role of the University as an anchor institution.

SCHOOL GOVERNOR INITIATIVE

Our staff and alumni are making a difference to the leadership across hundreds of state schools.

514 staff and alumni give 6,168 days of support to schools each year, impacting on approximately 231,300 learners and creating £3,392,400 of economic value.

The schools in which University staff are governors have received higher than average inspection ratings.

The initiative has received a Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service, Times Higher Education Award, Business in the Community Big Tack and International Green Gown Award for creating the largest growth of school governors in the UK.

THE WORKS

Through a facility unique to British higher education, we’re improving the work and life chances of our local residents by providing employment and training opportunities at the University and with other local employers.

2,941 people’s lives have been transformed to date by taking them out of unemployment.

The social and economic value generated is equivalent to an estimated £35 million a year.

Times Higher Education and Guardian Awards have been received for the scale of its impact.

GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

We have the largest dedicated development research and teaching institute in Europe, which is ranked first for research impact in the UK.

Our research led Cadbury to invest £45 million in cocoa-growing communities.

Our research into direct cash transfers to the extreme and chronic poor has shaped practice in several countries – for example, $2 per month has been pledged to all children born after the 2006 Peace Accord in Southern Sudan as a direct result of our work.

We have the UK’s largest university-based postgraduate centre specialising in international development, educating and training thousands of the world’s development professionals.

EQUITY AND MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS

We’re assisting talented but economically disadvantaged students from some of the world’s poorest countries. 206 of our Equity and Merit scholarships have been awarded in the past decade.

The scholarships are fully funded by the University and our donors.

Ways in which graduates of the scheme are now benefiting their communities include homebuilding in slum areas, sustainable energy and reducing the risk of HIV associated with dental treatment.

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SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

- Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service for the School Governor Initiative
- Times Higher Education Awards for the School Governor Initiative and The Works
- Association of University of Directors of Estates Award for 10,000 Actions and the Sustainability Challenge
- Carbon Literacy Organisation Award
- National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement Engage Award
- Guardian Sustainable Business Award for The Works
- UnLtd Higher Education Institution of the Year for Social Enterprise
- Business in the Community Big Tick for the School Governor Initiative

MAKE A DIFFERENCE WITH US

If you share our commitment to social responsibility and would like further information about making a difference with us, here's how you can find out more:

Visit our website: www.socialresponsibility.manchester.ac.uk/about/impact
Subscribe to our newsletter: www.socialresponsibility.manchester.ac.uk/about/get-in-touch

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