

MANCHESTER  
1824

The University of Manchester

SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS



THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

2023-2025 REPORT

# KEY FACTS

**1<sup>st</sup>**

UK university to place social responsibility as a core goal



**1<sup>st</sup>**

in Europe for Environmental, Social and Governance performance in QS Sustainability Ranking

We produce

**4%**

of the UK's research across the 17 SDGs



**500+**

local and global NGOs supported by student volunteers each year



Zero carbon campus commitment by

**2038**



**Accredited employer**

for Living Wage, Race, Gender, Disability, LGBTQ+ equality and GM Good Employer Charter



**1.5 million+**

public visitors to our cultural institutions



**Platinum Engage Watermark** for excellence in public engagement



National Co-ordinating Centre for Public Engagement

## TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION IMPACT RANKINGS

based on the UN Sustainable Development Goals



	2019	2022	2021	2022	2023	2024
UK ranking	1st	1st	1st	2nd	1st	1st
European ranking	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	1st
World ranking	3rd	8th	1st	9th	2nd	2nd
Total Entrants	450	768	1,240	1,406	1,705	2,152
Countries	76	85	98	106	115	125

# INTRODUCTION

**The United Nations’ 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are our world’s call to action on the most pressing challenges facing humanity and the natural world.**

At Manchester we face these challenges head on.

For 200 years we’ve responded to the needs of our city, our nation and our world. We acknowledge the profound obligation on great research universities, like Manchester, to meet the challenges set out in *Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*.

As the UK’s first university to have social responsibility as a core goal, we’ve developed a strategy to tackle the SDGs in four inter-related ways: research, learning and students, public engagement and operations.

Assessing impact on sustainable development involves complex methodological challenges and limitations. However, a range of indicators point to a compelling assessment of our performance. In the Times Higher Education Impact rankings, based on performance across 17 SDGs, we’re the top ranked institution in the UK and in Europe. We’re the only university in the world to feature in the global top 10 each year since the rankings were established in 2019. We’re also proud to be the top performing institution in Europe for Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) performance in the QS World University Sustainability Rankings.

This report is aimed at a wide range of local, national and international audiences across the public, private, NGO, policy and education sectors. We hope it stimulates further ideas, actions, collaboration opportunities and partnerships so that, together, we can play a full role in tackling the world’s SDGs by 2030.

**Dr Julian Skyrme**  
Executive Director of Social Responsibility and Civic Engagement

**Professor Nalin Thakkar**  
Vice-President for Social Responsibility

<b>CONTENTS</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
.....	
<b>GOAL 1: NO POVERTY</b>	<b>2</b>
.....	
<b>GOAL 2: ZERO HUNGER</b>	<b>3</b>
.....	
<b>GOAL 3: GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</b>	<b>4</b>
.....	
<b>GOAL 4: QUALITY EDUCATION</b>	<b>5</b>
.....	
<b>GOAL 5: GENDER EQUALITY</b>	<b>6</b>
.....	
<b>GOAL 6: CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION</b>	<b>7</b>
.....	
<b>GOAL 7: AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY</b>	<b>8</b>
.....	
<b>GOAL 8: DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</b>	<b>9</b>
.....	
<b>GOAL 9: INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</b>	<b>10</b>
.....	
<b>GOAL 10: REDUCED INEQUALITIES</b>	<b>11</b>
.....	
<b>GOAL 11: SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</b>	<b>12</b>
.....	
<b>GOAL 12: RESPONSIBLE PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION</b>	<b>13</b>
.....	
<b>GOAL 13: CLIMATE ACTION</b>	<b>14</b>
.....	
<b>GOAL 14: LIFE BELOW WATER</b>	<b>15</b>
.....	
<b>GOAL 15: LIFE ON LAND</b>	<b>16</b>
.....	
<b>GOAL 16: PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</b>	<b>17</b>
.....	
<b>GOAL 17: PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</b>	<b>18</b>
.....	
METHODOLOGY AND TIMELINES	<b>19</b>
.....	
INTERNAL UNIVERSITY ANALYSIS	<b>20</b>
.....	
VOLUME AND SHARE OF RESEARCH	<b>21</b>
.....	
IMPACT OF SDG RESEARCH	<b>22</b>
.....	
GLOBAL RANKINGS	<b>23</b>
.....	
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	<b>23</b>
.....	



1 NO POVERTY



End poverty in all its forms everywhere

## RESEARCH

659 million people around the world live on less than \$2.15 per day. Extreme poverty remains concentrated in the Global South.

Our **African Cities Research Consortium**, in partnership with UK International Development, NGOs, partner universities and the UN, is addressing poverty and development challenges across 12 African cities.

## LEARNING AND STUDENTS

Our **Global Development Institute** is the UK's largest university-based postgraduate centre specialising in international development.

More than 6,000 students have completed master's programmes in international development since 2012.

UK's largest postgraduate centre for international development

## PUBLIC AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Our **Local Matters programme**, developed by our **Manchester Institute of Education**, is tackling poverty in schools by empowering staff to engage in action-based research to develop an evidence-based response to local issues.

## OPERATIONS

We offer a range of **student financial support** to reduce obstacles faced by learners from economically challenged backgrounds. These include:

- The Undergraduate Access Scholarship
- The Manchester Bursary
- The Manchester Master's Bursary
- Care experienced and care leaver bursaries
- The Living Cost Support Fund

**349** publications



**3.7%** UK publications



**53.6%** internationally co-authored

**£30 million** per annum spent on student bursaries and tuition fee discounts

**937** news references



**1.63** citation impact

**323** policy citations



**17.8%** co-authored with low and middle-income countries

**6,605** low-income students receiving financial aid

**6,000+** students completed master's programmes in international development since 2012



End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

### RESEARCH

Hunger is the world's leading cause of death. Researchers in our **Manchester Institute for Biotechnology**

are improving the health of soil and food crops to increase yield and durability, and strengthening adaptation to climate through better understanding of plant-soil interactions, soil biodiversity and using cleaner and greener alternatives to fertilisers and pesticides.

**21.5%**  
of SDG2 research is co-authored with researchers in low- and middle-income countries

### LEARNING AND STUDENTS

Our BA Geography students undertake a *Food and Farming* unit covering hunger, ethical consumerism, environmental sustainability, animal rights and social equity. Bioscience undergraduates take a *Plants for the Future* unit, exploring how plant biology can address social and environmental challenges.

### OPERATIONS

We support the **Kindling Trust**, an organisation combating climate change, biodiversity loss and economic inequity, by challenging the industrial food system. We buy vegetables through Kindling's operatives and own shares in Kindling Farm – a blueprint for fair, organic and ecological farming.

### PUBLIC AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Our student volunteers from **Manchester Food Partners: Commit to Community** are tackling local food insecurity, working with Oldham Council to grow food for their affordable veg box schemes and providing cooking support and educational resources about sustainable food systems.



**298**  
publications



**2.1%**  
UK publications



**64.8%**  
internationally co-authored

**433**  
graduates from agriculture and aquaculture courses including sustainability aspects



**4,402**  
news references



**1.9**  
citation impact

**241**  
policy citations



**21.5%**  
co-authored with low and middle-income countries

**Certified Fairtrade**  
status since 2005

**4,000+**  
food supplies administered each year through our Manchester Foodbank Initiative

### 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



3



Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

#### RESEARCH

One in two of us receive a cancer diagnosis during our lifetime. Manchester's **research** ranges from understanding the molecular and cellular basis of cancer to developing and testing novel drugs and other therapeutic approaches.

Much of this is through the **Manchester Cancer Research Centre** – a partnership between the University, **CRUK** and **The Christie NHS Foundation Trust**.

#### LEARNING AND STUDENTS

We have the UK's largest medical school and are the biggest provider of graduate healthcare professionals to the NHS in England's

**4,000+**  
students graduate  
in health-related  
programmes  
each year

North West. We offer pioneering professional programmes including those on global health, humanitarianism and international healthcare leadership, as well as, open access programmes on **Public Health and the SDGs**, and **AI for Healthcare**.

#### PUBLIC AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

We deliver a wide range of healthcare **Service Learning** programmes, integrating community service with study to enrich learning, teach civic responsibilities and strengthen communities.

Pharmacy and dentistry students are addressing public health challenges in local schools, communities and the Global South.

#### OPERATIONS

**Sporticipate** provides free and low-cost entry-level sport sessions for the University and wider community.

We host activities that promote wellbeing through nature. This includes the **Natural and Cultural Health Service**, by the Whitworth, and the **Green Wellbeing Project** held at our Firs Botanical Grounds.



**10,656**  
publications



**5.1%**  
UK  
publications



**60.9%**  
internationally  
co-authored

**4,000+**  
students graduate  
in health-related  
programmes each year



**77,584**  
news references  
references



**2.47**  
citation  
impact

**9,562**  
policy  
citations



**10.3%**  
co-authored  
with low and  
middle-income  
countries

**17 SDGs**  
covered in our free open access  
Public Health programme



Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

### RESEARCH

Our **Manchester Institute of Education** leads the award-winning **#BeeWell** programme. Through it we listen to young people's voices, publish the results privately to schools and publicly by neighbourhood and drive action across society to improve wellbeing.

### LEARNING AND STUDENTS

We provide **interdisciplinary units** to support inclusive, sustainable and equitable education. These include ***Creating a Sustainable World: 21st Century Challenges and the Sustainable Development Goals*** and ***Equality, Diversity and Inclusion: Your Role in Shaping a Fairer World***.

We train more than **400 teachers** each year

We offer expert-led, free **Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)**, **CPD programmes** and train future teachers through our **PGCE programmes**.

### PUBLIC AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

We lead science public engagement campaigns, like the UNESCO **Great Science Share for Schools** initiative that reaches more than half a million people worldwide. More than 100,000 people have engaged with the **RoundView** in UNESCO sites, the National Trust, Manchester Museum and Greater Manchester libraries. The learning tools spark new ways of imagining sustainable futures across all sectors.

Our award-winning **School Governor Initiative** is one of the UK's most extensive programmes of work with local state schools and colleges.

### OPERATIONS

**The University of Manchester Library** is one of only five National Research Libraries in the UK. We open access to north west sixth form and mature students, and their teachers to help with A-level, vocational and access course work. Our **John Rylands Research Institute and Library** and **Ahmed Iqbal Ullah RACE Centre** contain world-leading special collections, open to the public.



## 5 GENDER EQUALITY



Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

5

### RESEARCH

Our inter-disciplinary **Morgan Centre for Research into Everyday Lives** is an international centre of excellence for gender research. It covers issues of gender equality across personal relationships, intimacy, civil partnerships, same-sex marriage, reproductive technologies, and the growing incidence of shared living arrangements.

Our **Work and Equalities Institute** uses research to identify and promote conditions for greater gender equality in employment arrangements.

### LEARNING AND STUDENTS

Gender equality is embedded across our degree programmes, with many offering modules on gender and sexuality. Medicine and Nursing students study the impact of gender on inequalities in health outcomes and textiles students examine the role of gender in fashion.

We offer specialised programmes such as a master's in **Gender, Sexuality and Culture**.

### PUBLIC AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Every year, we celebrate **International Women's Day** with events that engage the University and wider community and raise awareness of gender equality, celebrate women's achievements and take action to promote equity.

### OPERATIONS

Our **Equality and Diversity Strategy** illustrates what we're doing to advance gender equality across our University. Our annual **Equality Information Report** provides key information on staff and student gender equality. Our **Gender Pay Gap report** measures differences between the average (mean and median) earnings of men and women who work at the University. We hold a **Silver Athena Swan** award for our work in advancing gender equality.



 **461** publications

 **2.7%** UK publications

 **44%** internationally co-authored

**57%** of our Senior Leadership Team members are female

 **1,077** news references references

“ **1.79** citation impact

**233** policy citations ”

**10.9%** co-authored with low and middle-income countries

**59.7%** of graduates are female

**28.5%** of senior academic staff are female

## 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

### RESEARCH

We work with partners from industry, government, civil society groups, NGOs, and environmental organisations to ensure clean and responsible use of water. Research from our **Sustainable Futures** platform and **Manchester Environmental Research Institute** helps to enable sustainable, equitable and resilient management of water in the UK and internationally. This includes research on microplastic pollution, arsenic in water, graphene water filtration, flood management, irrigation and water-food environment systems.

### LEARNING AND STUDENTS

We deliver cutting-edge teaching on clean water and sanitation. For example, master's students

in **Environmental Monitoring, Modelling and Reconstruction** explore solutions to groundwater contamination.

Our two free **Water Supply and Sanitation Policy in Developing Countries** MOOCs open up access for citizens and leaders around the world to explore what can be done to solve this complex global issue.

### PUBLIC AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Our academics are taking the message about clean water to the wider public. Professor Jamie Woodward collaborated with celebrity Paul Whitehouse on

*Our Troubled Rivers* to document how water companies illegally discharge untreated sewage, leading to microplastic pollution in UK rivers and contributing to biodiversity decline.

### OPERATIONS

Staff and students can access 80 free water dispensers in our buildings and 1,200 bathrooms, 800 of which are publicly accessible.

We follow health and safety procedures and policies to prevent polluted water entering the water system, such as our **COSHH procedure**.

**28,110** learners benefited from our free MOOC on water supply and sanitation

**501** publications



**4.0%** UK publications



**70.7%** internationally co-authored

**28,110** global learners have benefited from our free MOOC programme on water supply and sanitation

**693** news references references

**1.65** citation impact

**160** policy citations

**23.6%** co-authored with low and middle-income countries

**690,607m<sup>3</sup>** water used per annum

**80** free water fountains across campus

## 7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy

7

### RESEARCH

Through our **Energy Beacon**, more than 600 experts are focused on three research challenges. Our work on *Energy production and security* looks to ensure efficient, reliable and secure access as we decarbonise, decentralise and digitise energy systems. Our work on *Energy equity and engagement* is working with governments, industries and communities to ensure universal access to energy. And our work on *Energy and environmental sustainability* is creating pioneering methods to mitigate the environmental impacts of energy supply and demand.

### LEARNING AND STUDENTS

Our **Renewable Energy and Clean Technology master's** equips students with a detailed understanding of solar, wind and marine energy-generation technologies.

Our *Energy, Society and Space* unit in Geography examines scientific and political issues associated with energy provision and demand.

### PUBLIC AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

The **Dalton Nuclear Institute** is a trusted source of information, engaging with the public, media, stakeholders and government,

and contributing to important national and international conversations around nuclear energy. We use events like *bluedot*, *Science X* and the *Dalton Seminar Series* to **engage schools and the public** and highlight the role of nuclear energy in the UK's net zero future.

### OPERATIONS

We anticipate that the University's electricity carbon footprint will halve following the implementation of a **Corporate Power Purchase Agreement** (cPPA), due to come online in 2025. The cPPA means that our electricity demand will be matched by a developer generating additional renewable energy on our behalf.

Over **250** state-of-the-art laboratories to help students address clean energy challenges



**1,799**  
publications



**4.14%**  
UK publications



**67.9%**  
internationally co-authored

**100%**  
of our energy is generated from renewable sources



**7,067**  
news references



**1.74**  
citation impact

**341**  
policy citations



**11.8%**  
co-authored with low and middle-income countries

**583GJ**  
of energy use is from low carbon sources

**14**  
renewable energy sites across campus

**8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH**




Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

**RESEARCH**

Our **Work and Equalities Institute** is helping to identify and promote the conditions for inclusive and fair work, and employment arrangements through informed contributions to policy formation and the development of employment practice.

We lead a UK-wide **Productivity Institute** to inform national policy and debate on what productivity means for business, workers and communities, how it's measured and how it contributes to increased living standards and wellbeing.

**LEARNING AND STUDENTS**

Undergraduate students learn how to promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all through our BSc Management programmes.

We deliver an online **Power, Politics and Influence at Work** programme that has engaged more than 2,500 people to date.

We offer **Work Experience Bursaries** to equalise access to unpaid career-enhancing work experience.

**PUBLIC AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT**

We organise a **Greater Manchester Citizens' Panel** where 50 local people are working with local universities and regional government to ensure citizen voice is shaping the jobs, growth and skills priorities in our region.

We've joined forces with regional employers and Manchester City Council to champion decent pay and make Manchester a **Living Wage Place**.

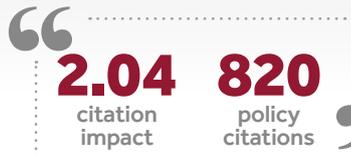
**OPERATIONS**

We're addressing unemployment rates and skills gaps through our partnership in **The Works** – an employment and training initiative at the heart of our local Ardwick community.

We're a voluntary Living Wage employer, paying at least the independent rate set each year by the Living Wage Foundation to ensure a decent standard of living for all. And we're proud to be accredited as a member of our **Mayor's Good Employment Charter**.



**Quality-marks**  
held for race, gender, sexuality and disability workplace equality



**Real Living Wage employer**  
since 2019

**£22.2m**  
research income from industry partners

## 9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation

### RESEARCH

Our **Digital Futures** platform is driving digital innovation with industry. The **Christabel Pankhurst Institute** works with the NHS, businesses and regional government to promote needs-led health technology innovation.

Our **Henry Royce Institute**, **National Graphene Institute** and **Graphene Engineering Innovation Centre** are developing new technologies, products and processes with industry partners in advanced materials. The **Creative Manchester** platform is driving innovative AI research with creative industry sectors.

### LEARNING AND STUDENTS

We encourage student innovation, such as through our **Innovation, Strategy and Entrepreneurship course** and **Innovation Management and Entrepreneurship master's**. The **Enterprise Challenge** is part of a University-wide interdisciplinary enterprise unit. Our **Masood Entrepreneurship Centre** is a focal point for enterprise and entrepreneurship skills development for students, staff and graduates.

### PUBLIC AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

We're partnering with leading innovators from business, science, academia and local government to develop **Innovation Greater Manchester** – a plan to create 100,000 new jobs and boost the regional economy by £7 billion.

We're partnering with Bruntwood SciTech to create **ID Manchester** – an innovation district where business, education and communities come together.

**10,000**  
new jobs  
created from ID  
Manchester

### OPERATIONS

Our **Innovation Factory** protects and commercialises our innovations and intellectual property by creating spin-out companies based on our ideas. We're shareholder and partner in the independent business **Northern Gritstone** – a partner of choice for technology entrepreneurs, academics and inventors in the north of England, supporting visionary companies with strong intellectual property to grow.



**1,612**  
publications



**4.7%**  
UK  
publications



**63.3%**  
internationally  
co-authored

**£22m**  
research income from  
industrial sources  
(THE report)



**1,016**  
news references  
references



**2.03**  
citation  
impact

**663**  
policy  
citations



**10.5%**  
co-authored  
with low and  
middle-income  
countries

**£7 billion**  
boost to economy  
from ID Manchester

**195**  
spin-out companies  
created since 2000  
and still active

# 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



Reduce inequality within and among countries



## RESEARCH

**Global inequalities** is one of our five research beacons. We support dedicated institutes, centres and networks to drive world-leading interdisciplinary research to make our city, nation and world a fairer and more equal place to live.

These include the Global Development Institute, Work and Equalities Institute, Cathie Marsh Institute for Social Research, Christabel Pankhurst Institute, Centre for Dynamics of Ethnicity, Humanitarian and Conflict Response Institute, Institute for Health Policy and Organisation, Manchester Institute for Education and Manchester Urban Institute.

## LEARNING AND STUDENTS

Students address inequalities in modules across all three faculties. This ranges from undergraduate Sociology students examining

social inequalities in contemporary Britain, to University College for Interdisciplinary Learning units such as *Your Role in Shaping a Fairer World*, empowering students to promote inclusive approaches to study and work.

## PUBLIC AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Our world-leading cultural institutions address inequalities through collections and exhibitions. This includes The John Rylands Research Institute and Library's **AIU RACE Centre** – using archive material to promote racial justice. The Whitworth Gallery delivers **Queering the Whitworth** to (re) discover missing LGBTQIA+ narratives associated with artists and artworks. The Manchester Museum **Top Floor** is dedicated to partnering with and hosting environmental and social justice charities.

## OPERATIONS

We spend £30 million per annum on student bursaries and tuition fee discounts to address inequalities.

Our **Equity and Merit Programme** supports exceptional students from lower income countries in Africa.

Our quality and Charter Marks include:

- Top 50 employer for LGBTQ+ equality with Stonewall.
- Silver Award for Race Equality.
- 15 Athena SWAN Charter Marks for Gender Equality.
- Care Leaver Covenant to support care leavers.
- University of Sanctuary status in support of our work with forcibly displaced students and staff.



10



**1,026**  
publications



**3.6%**  
UK publications



**45.5%**  
internationally co-authored

**6,665 students**  
and  
**1,482 employees**  
with disabilities



**7,948**  
news references  
references



**1.8**  
citation  
impact

**622**  
policy  
citations



**10.3%**  
co-authored  
with low and  
middle-income  
countries

**6,605**  
low-income students  
receive financial aid

**18**  
awards and quality marks  
for promoting equality

## 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

### RESEARCH

We undertake interdisciplinary research to help cities be inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. Our **Manchester Urban Institute** works with local, national and international partners to improve life conditions in urban contexts. The **Manchester Environmental Research Institute** uses expertise to develop solutions for complex urban sustainability. Our **Global Development Institute** focuses on urban development in the Global South.

### LEARNING AND STUDENTS

Manchester students learn how to make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. **Environmental Management** undergraduates and **Global Development Institute master's students** explore the challenges of creating green infrastructure in cities resilient to climate change.

93,251 learners around the world have completed a **Sustainable Cities** MOOC, developed in partnership with Lund University, the World Wide Fund for Nature and ICLEI.

### PUBLIC AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

We host and partner with **Ardwick Climate Action** to understand air pollution levels along popular walking routes and provide alternatives that reduce exposure to harmful substances. We support measures to reduce the impacts of pollution, including planting activities, mapping green spaces and public engagement activities promoting active travel.

### OPERATIONS

We've won awards recognising our work in creating more sustainable cities and communities including:

- Platinum Award for sustainable travel.
- 2030 Climate Action prize at Green Gown Awards.
- Top in the UK and Europe, and third in the world, in the QS World University Rankings for Sustainability.
- Top in the UK and Europe, and second in the world for the THE Impact Rankings.

**FREE**  
public access to our University museum, gallery and library

11

 **852**  
publications

 **3.33%**  
UK publications

 **59.7%**  
internationally co-authored

**93.251**  
learners completed our Sustainable Cities MOOC

 **3,884**  
news references references

“ **1.9**  
citation impact

**5,886**  
policy citations ”

**13.0%**  
co-authored with low and middle-income countries

**£43m**  
spent on arts and heritage

**Platinum Award**  
for sustainable travel



Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

### RESEARCH

We undertake interdisciplinary research to support more sustainable consumption and production patterns. Our **Sustainable Consumption Institute** works across consumption, cultural change, innovation, politics, and social justice in areas such as food, energy, housing, and transport. Our work in **sustainable industrial systems** uses advanced chemical engineering to identify sustainable solutions on a life cycle basis.

“  
Creating trusted sustainable solutions for plastics use with SMEs  
”

### LEARNING AND STUDENTS

Our students learn about sustainable consumption and production of natural resources through a range of course units and programmes including: **Environmental Politics**, **Sustainability, Consumption and Global Responsibilities**, **Innovation for Sustainability** and **Sociology of Consumption**.

### PUBLIC AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

We’re working with the public on **One Bin to Rule Them All**, an initiative using material, management and social science to examine consumer engagement with a streamlined standard for plastics recycling, rolled out across UK homes.

Our student-led **Want Not Waste** zero-waste shop fosters a community of knowledge sharing and inspires sustainable consumer choices.

**Game changers** tackles the impact of textile waste in the football industry – transforming surplus football shirts into unique reusable tote bags.

### OPERATIONS

We follow the **6R Responsible Plastics Protocol**. It is designed to help people be aware of and combat plastic waste whenever and wherever possible.

University suppliers are required to minimise use of disposable materials – part of our approach to **responsible procurement**. For example, as part of our Supplier Engagement Tool we receive information on their management of waste and single-use/disposable items.



**683**  
publications



**3.75%**  
UK publications



**60.9%**  
internationally co-authored

**20**  
initiatives implemented to target sustainable food, growing and food waste



**2,442**  
news references



**2.44**  
citation impact

**424**  
policy citations



**14.6%**  
co-authored with low and middle-income countries

**2441.9 tonnes**  
of waste recycled

**Certified Fairtrade**  
status since 2005

# 13 CLIMATE ACTION



Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

## RESEARCH

Our **Sustainable Futures** platform, **Energy Beacon, Manchester Environmental Research Institute, Manchester Urban Institute, Global Development Institute** and **Tyndall Manchester** Centre are examples of research structures that are changing policies and practice to combat climate change and mitigate its impacts.

This spans natural sciences, engineering and social sciences, and supports research impact in energy systems, carbon budgets and pathways, the water energy food nexus, renewables and future fuels.

## LEARNING AND STUDENTS

Undergraduate students study the causes, impacts and mitigations of climate change across the full range of humanities, sciences, engineering and health disciplines.

We offer four **master's programmes** with a focus on climate science. Every undergraduate student can take a dedicated **Climate Change and Society** unit.

## PUBLIC AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

The Manchester Museum **Top Floor** space hosts and partners with environmental and social justice charities. We host Manchester Climate Change Youth Board, Ardwick Climate Action and the Clean Cities Campaign.

We also deliver climate action outreach initiatives at our annual **Community Festival, bluedot** festival of music, arts and culture, and through our global **Great Science Share for Schools** initiative.

## OPERATIONS

We are committed to becoming a zero-carbon university by 2038 for Scope 1 and 2 emissions. This means we need to reduce our carbon emissions by an average of 13% each year. Our Scope 1 and 2 emissions have fallen by 36% since 2007. As part of this we are implementing a **Corporate Power Purchase Agreement (cPPA)** in 2025, by which our electricity demand will be matched by a developer generating additional renewable energy on our behalf. We have also set a net-zero target for our **Scope 3** emissions (which are emitted as an indirect result of our activities) by 2050. We have halved emissions from air travel since 2019.

Corporate Purchase Power Agreement (cPPA) for energy agreed from 2025

13



**1,107** publications



**4.1%** UK publications



**66.9%** internationally co-authored

**2038** zero carbon campus target



**13,597** news references references



**2.6** citation impact

**1,378** policy citations



**12.0%** co-authored with low and middle-income countries

**583GJ** energy used from low carbon sources

**Halved emissions** from air travel since 2019

# 14 LIFE BELOW WATER



Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

## RESEARCH

Our **Manchester Environmental Research Institute** has 70 staff and 58 PhD researchers working on water-related issues. Examples include understanding and improving practice and policy in reducing microplastic pollution in rivers, a key contributor to overall marine pollution.

**Pioneering research undertaken into marine-life across the 400 so-called 'dead zones' in oceans and seas worldwide**

## LEARNING AND STUDENTS

Our **Life Sciences** undergraduates take units on biodiversity, conservation biology and marine biology, including fieldwork examining organisms living on shores and the seabed.

**Geography** undergraduates study an Environmental Pollution unit covering water control strategies.

At master's level, our online **Pollution and Environmental Control** programme prepares students for a career in environmental management and resource conservation.

## PUBLIC AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

We engage the public on issues of overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices. Professor Holly Shiels worked in partnership with the Physiological Society to produce **four educational outreach video blogs** on the Greenland Shark and the impact of overfishing halibut. The videos were shared with local, national and international communities on location in the Arctic.

## OPERATIONS

Our commitment to reduce single-use **plastics** involves minimising waste and seeking opportunities to reuse and recycle, promoting circularity and efficiency. We've successfully eliminated 250,000 pieces of single-use plastics between 2018 and 2022. We're also committed to all laboratories achieving LEAF certification to reduce harmful pollutants.

Across our food operations we only buy Marine Stewardship Certified (MSC) fish.



**Marine Stewardship Council (MSC)**  
certified

15 LIFE ON LAND



Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss

## RESEARCH

Our **Global Development Institute's** Sustainable Forest Transitions initiative is conducting ground-breaking interdisciplinary research to better understand the role of reforestation programmes in safeguarding terrestrial ecosystems and biodiversity.

Researchers in our **Manchester Environmental Research Institute** work with policymakers to develop innovative approaches to sustaining and restoring ecosystems such as soils, grasslands, peatlands, green infrastructure, rivers and lakes, forests and agricultural systems.

## LEARNING AND STUDENTS

Undergraduate **Zoology** students study the conservation and ecology of animals. Bioscience students take part in a **Urban Biodiversity field course**, introducing them

to environmental consultancy, conservation and natural site management.

Environmental Management undergraduate and postgraduate programmes develop skills needed for ecological surveys, conservation management and environmental auditing.

## PUBLIC AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

The **Manchester Museum Vivarium** allows the public to see conservation of live amphibians and reptiles. Our **iNaturalist** project improves our understanding of campus biodiversity by asking staff, students and the wider community to document wildlife on campus. We've also created an online, interactive campus **Tree Trail**, highlighting 50 of the 1,500 trees across Oxford Road campus.

## OPERATIONS

We work with and alongside nature to preserve and promote biodiversity on campus. Our tree plan requires the planting of two trees for every one removed by campus developments. We've committed to increasing the quality of existing green spaces and achieving a 10% increase in **urban green space** by 2028. We are proud to be a founding signatory to the Nature Positive Pledge and the Nature Positive Universities Alliance launched at COP15.

**Founding signatory**  
to the Nature Positive Pledge

15

 **309**  
publications

 **1.8%**  
UK publications

 **68.3%**  
internationally co-authored

**One of 20**  
universities accredited by the United Nations Environment Programme

 **2,986**  
news references references

“ **2.06**  
citation impact

**171**  
policy citations



**22.3%**  
co-authored with low and middle-income countries

**285**  
animal and plant species identified on campus

**World-first breeding**  
of endangered Harlequin Toad in our museum

# 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

## RESEARCH

Our researchers are at the forefront of promoting peace, justice and strong institutions.

Criminology researchers are helping to combat **modern slavery** by examining who victims are, how they became victims and what can be done to reduce its prevalence. And our **N8 policing Research Partnership** is an academic-police collaboration championing, enabling, and supporting research that tackles the challenges of 21st century policing.

## LEARNING AND STUDENTS

Undergraduate students in Law and Criminology learn about justice and strong institutions through units in human rights, counter-terrorism, people trafficking and cyber-crime. We offer **master's programmes**

covering areas including healthcare ethics and law, human rights, intellectual property and security, and international law.

## PUBLIC AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Our award-winning **Justice Hub** empowers students to apply various arms of the law to make real change in their communities. It hosts a free legal advice centre, addressing areas like family, housing, and immigration law for economically disadvantaged individuals. Within this, the **Manchester Innocence Project (MIP)** works on live criminal appeals for those asserting innocence.

## OPERATIONS

Our **Board of Governors** holds the University to account on its performance and good governance,

and oversees our strategic direction, finances, property, and overall affairs, including staff employment.

Our policies demonstrate a zero-tolerance approach to **bribery, corruption, modern slavery, and human trafficking**.

**2,000**  
people march  
against gender  
violence each year  
through Reclaim  
the Night



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development

## RESEARCH

We develop **research partnerships** with businesses of all sizes, not-for-profit organisations and regional and national government. This includes regional innovation and collaborations to enhance business productivity; UK-partnerships with the NHS and Department of Work and Pensions; and globally with multinational companies including the United Nations.

## LEARNING AND STUDENTS

Our students tackle real-world SDG challenges through our **University Living Lab**. Our Student **Volunteer Hub** links student volunteering to the needs of over 500 charities each year. Our Students' Union has partnered with other university unions to create a **Greater Manchester Student Assembly**, to engage our Mayor on policy issues.

## PUBLIC AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

We've develop mutually-beneficial partnerships with patients, resident groups, national and local NGOs, campaign groups, cultural organisations, think-tanks and elected officials. This includes:

- **Policy@Manchester** – linking our knowledge and research with policy partners.
- **Creative Manchester** – supporting partnerships with the cultural sector.
- **Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement (PPIE)** Public Contributor programme – drawing on the expertise of the public to advance university research and teaching.
- We hold a **Platinum Watermark** for the quality of our work on public and community engagement.

## OPERATIONS

We create and participate in a wide range of regional partnership structures to support a greener, healthier and fairer society.

- **Innovation Greater Manchester** – a partnership of businesses, scientific, academic and local government leaders to advance innovation.
- **Civic University Board** – a coalition of five higher education institutions and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority.
- **ID Manchester** – a joint venture with Bruntwood SciTech to create a new innovation district.
- **Health Innovation Manchester** – a partnership between the NHS, local councils, industry, research and academia to find and deliver innovations to frontline care.

**Platinum Watermark**  
for public engagement



**22,280**

SDG publications between 2019 and 2023



**4.1%**

of all UK SDG publications



**59.64%**

internationally co-authored

**2,146**

community organisations supported through student volunteering since 2020

17



**146,843**

news and media citations across all SDGs

“

**1,025**

patents cite our SDG research

**21,463**

policy documents cite our SDG research

”

**11.44%**

co-authored with low and middle-income countries

**40.1%**

of students are international

**4**

University of Manchester Worldwide global centres

# METHODOLOGY AND TIMELINES

**Research metrics were identified using outputs across a total of five different calendar years of analysis (2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023). This mirrors methodologies used by global ranking organisations such as *Times Higher Education* and *QS*.**

## SDG publications

SDG publications were identified using the SDG specific Research Area within Elsevier SciVal ([elsevier.com/en-gb/products/scival](https://elsevier.com/en-gb/products/scival)). Elsevier's data science teams have built search queries for 16 of the 17 SDGs and augment these with a machine learning model to improve the completeness of the mapped documents to each SDG. The Times Higher Education use the Elsevier SDG mapping as part of their Impact Rankings. For example, for SDG1 – No Poverty, particular words were used to mine the titles, abstracts and author-defined keywords of publications within this dataset. These are not weighted equally by Scopus; some phrases attract a higher weighting. For example, the terms “pro-poor”, “social care services” and “energy poverty” achieved the highest levels of relevancy against SDG1 using Elsevier's tf-idf (term frequency-inverse document frequency) calculation, which measures the importance of a word to a document in a collection. These SDG keywords

were applied to all 16 SDGs across the five years 2019 to 2023, mining titles, abstracts and author-defined keywords of publications. Further limits were applied to identify collaborations with LMI countries as defined by the World Bank.

## News and media mentions

News and media mentions were identified using Altmetric Explorer ([www.altmetric.com/explorer](https://www.altmetric.com/explorer)). The filters in Altmetric Explorer were as follows: My Institution only (University of Manchester); Relevant SDG; Dates: 01/01/2019 – 31/12/2023.

## Internal Faculty/School/Institute analysis

SciVal was also used to identify University of Manchester SDG publications with international and LMI collaboration by internal Faculties, Schools and Research Institutes. This was a more complex data retrieval task, requiring some local work-around solutions. Faculty and School data was identified using bespoke 'Researcher Groups' created by the University of Manchester Library for internal purposes. These are based on lists of REF-eligible staff shared with our library annually. This method, which only measures REF eligible staff, does not therefore capture publications by Honorary staff, PhD students, post-docs and staff who work at affiliated NHS trusts. These are, however,

captured within the University-wide SDG analysis on the SDG publication worksheet – and accounts for disparities in total numbers across the two workbooks. In this case Publications from each researcher group (from 2019 to 2023) were exported from SciVal. These exports were then interrogated by a Python script which identified international and LMI collaboration for each individual SDG.

Research Institute information was identified using the UoM RIS – Pure. The following filters were applied within Pure to create a list of staff for each Institute: Affiliation period = current; Research beacons, institutes and platforms = x, y or z; Type = Academic. This created a list of affiliated staff which was exported to SciVal. A 'Researcher Group' was then created for each Institute and followed the same procedure as outlined above.

An alternative method of identifying relevant outputs from Pure (by identifying papers affiliated with an Institute rather than people) was also tried. However, this proved unsuccessful due to large numbers of RI-affiliated papers not being tagged as such by the authors.

All other figures in this document refer to the academic year ending in 2023.

# INTERNAL UNIVERSITY ANALYSIS

FACULTY / SCHOOL / INSTITUTION / CENTRE	Number of papers	Number internationally co-authored	% international co-authored	Number LMI co-authored	% International co-authored with LMIs
School of Engineering	2,739	1,705	62%	273	10%
School of Natural Sciences	1,599	1047	65%	195	12%
<b>Faculty of Science and Engineering total</b>	<b>4,208</b>	<b>2,679</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>11%</b>
School of Biological Sciences	1,844	1,174	64%	215	12%
School of Health Sciences	2,342	959	41%	168	7%
School of Medical Sciences	2,896	1,669	58%	209	7%
<b>Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health total</b>	<b>6,432</b>	<b>3,525</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>562</b>	<b>9%</b>
Alliance Manchester Business School	729	435	60%	39	5%
School of Arts, Languages and Cultures	185	78	42%	10	5%
School of Environment, Education and Development	1,621	942	58%	282	17%
School of Social Sciences	1,341	679	51%	69	5%
<b>Faculty of Humanities total</b>	<b>3,823</b>	<b>2,118</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>10%</b>
Cathie Marsh Institute for Social Research	323	140	43%	9	3%
Christabel Pankhurst Institute	39	16	41%	2	5%
Dalton Nuclear Institute	649	340	52%	53	8%
Global Development Institute	839	557	66%	257	31%
Henry Royce Institute	39	16	41%	2	5%
Humanitarian and Conflict Response Institute	156	59	38%	13	8%
Institute for Data Science & AI	1,149	546	48%	54	5%
Lydia Becker Institute	1,933	1,123	58%	141	7%
Manchester China Institute	164	98	60%	11	7%
Manchester Environmental Research Institute	2,556	1,385	54%	269	11%
Manchester Institute of Biotechnology	279	149	53%	12	4%
Manchester Institute of Innovation Research	345	227	66%	12	3%
Manchester Urban Institute	828	433	52%	86	10%
National Graphene Institute	175	136	78%	23	13%
Photon Science Institute	221	145	66%	11	5%
Productivity Institute	211	121	57%	2	1%
Sustainable Consumption Institute	207	97	47%	7	3%
Thomas Ashton Institute	699	338	48%	52	7%
Work & Equalities Institute	375	149	40%	14	4%
John Rylands Research Institute and Library	7	2	29%	0	0%
Manchester Cancer Research Centre	2,040	1,201	59%	141	7%

# VOLUME AND SHARE OF RESEARCH

\* Elsevier don't map research keywords against SDG 17.  
These figures are the total for SDGs 1–16 and show the extent of our research partnerships across all goals.

	Number of UK publications 2019-2023	Number of UoM publications 2019-2023	UoM publications as % of UK publications 2019-2023	Rank among UK universities by number of publications 2019-2023	Field-Weighted Citation Impact <sup>1</sup> 2019-2023	% of Publications in top 10% journal percentiles <sup>2</sup>	Number of UoM outputs in 2019	Number of UoM outputs in 2020	Number of UoM outputs in 2021	Number of UoM outputs in 2022	Number of UoM outputs in 2023
<b>SDG 1:</b> No Poverty	9,535	349	3.66%	7	1.63	39.0%	53	70	87	66	73
<b>SDG 2:</b> Zero Hunger	14,173	298	2.10%	22	1.9	50.5%	57	48	68	67	58
<b>SDG 3:</b> Good Health and Well-being	207,777	10,656	5.13%	7	2.47	42.9%	1,734	2,160	2,456	2,325	1,981
<b>SDG 4:</b> Quality Education	20,432	623	3.05%	7	1.54	32.8%	97	110	113	136	167
<b>SDG 5:</b> Gender Equality	17,355	461	2.66%	9	1.79	37.3%	71	75	105	90	120
<b>SDG 6:</b> Clean Water and Sanitation	12,537	501	4.00%	4	1.65	53.0%	84	86	114	110	107
<b>SDG 7:</b> Affordable and Clean Energy	43,456	1,799	4.14%	5	1.74	51.5%	334	339	412	385	329
<b>SDG 8:</b> Decent Work and Economic Growth	24,275	845	3.48%	5	2.04	46.8%	145	152	178	159	211
<b>SDG 9:</b> Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	34,569	1,612	4.66%	3	2.03	51.5%	300	317	284	345	366
<b>SDG 10:</b> Reduced Inequality	28,578	1,026	3.59%	6	1.8	37.1%	156	141	212	221	296
<b>SDG 11:</b> Sustainable Cities and Communities	25,572	852	3.33%	7	1.9	51.3%	150	167	182	177	176
<b>SDG 12:</b> Responsible Consumption and Production	18,207	683	3.75%	2	2.44	55.4%	144	110	126	148	155
<b>SDG 13:</b> Climate Action	27,177	1,107	4.07%	8	2.6	61.1%	180	185	238	245	259
<b>SDG 14:</b> Life Below Water	11,577	190	1.64%	32	1.89	58.2%	46	31	52	37	24
<b>SDG 15:</b> Life on Land	17,350	309	1.78%	29	2.06	58.0%	42	51	94	57	65
<b>SDG 16:</b> Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	30,010	909	3.02%	7	1.51	33.8%	182	151	181	166	229
<b>SDG17:</b> Partnerships for the Goals	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<b>All SDGs</b>	<b>542,580</b>	<b>22,220</b>	<b>4.10%</b>				<b>3,775</b>	<b>4,193</b>	<b>4,902</b>	<b>4,734</b>	<b>4,616</b>

<sup>1</sup> With baseline = 1.00 for citation impact of all publications worldwide in this SDG

<sup>2</sup> By CiteScore Percentage

# IMPACT OF SDG RESEARCH

\* Elsevier don't map research keywords against SDG 17.  
These figures are the total for SDGs 1–16 and show the extent of our research partnerships across all goals.

	% of Scholarly output cited by policy	Number of policy documents citing UoM publications using in this SDG 2019-2023	Number of patents citing UoM publications in this SDG 2019- 2023	Number of news and media citations in this SDG [via Altmetric]	Number of countries represented by non-UK co-authors 2019-2023	Number of countries represented by low and middle income country co-authors 2019-2023	Number of UoM papers in this SDG with international co-authors 2019-2023	% of UoM papers in this SDG with international co-authors 2019-2023	Number of UoM papers in this SDG with low or lower-middle income country co-authors 2019-2023	% of UoM papers in this SDG with low or lower-middle income country co-authors 2019-2023
<b>SDG 1:</b> No Poverty	28.70%	323	0	937	85	23	187	53.58%	62	17.76%
<b>SDG 2:</b> Zero Hunger	19.50%	241	0	4402	133	36	193	64.77%	64	21.47%
<b>SDG 3:</b> Good Health and Well-being	7.80%	9562	607	77584	179	66	6488	60.89%	1106	10.34%
<b>SDG 4:</b> Quality Education	12.00%	150	1	7323	94	29	240	38.52%	40	6.42%
<b>SDG 5:</b> Gender Equality	19.50%	233	0	1077	104	33	203	44.03%	50	10.85%
<b>SDG 6:</b> Clean Water and Sanitation	14.20%	160	6	693	85	28	354	70.66%	118	23.55%
<b>SDG 7:</b> Affordable and Clean Energy	6.40%	341	82	7067	109	31	1221	67.87%	213	11.84%
<b>SDG 8:</b> Decent Work and Economic Growth	31.50%	820	4	2368	90	24	503	59.53%	107	12.66%
<b>SDG 9:</b> Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	13.80%	663	49	1016	101	26	1020	63.28%	169	10.48%
<b>SDG 10:</b> Reduced Inequality	27.00%	622	1	7948	125	40	467	45.52%	106	10.33%
<b>SDG 11:</b> Sustainable Cities and Communities	15.10%	5886	229	3884	90	29	509	59.74%	111	13.03%
<b>SDG 12:</b> Responsible Consumption and Production	21.60%	424	15	2442	90	24	416	60.91%	100	14.64%
<b>SDG 13:</b> Climate Action	29.60%	1378	26	13597	105	34	740	66.85%	133	12.01%
<b>SDG 14:</b> Life Below Water	15.80%	107	4	386	63	11	143	75.26%	33	17.37%
<b>SDG 15:</b> Life on Land	15.90%	171	1	2986	100	33	211	68.28%	69	22.33%
<b>SDG 16:</b> Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	18.70%	382	0	13133	97	28	358	39.38%	62	6.82%
<b>SDG17:</b> Partnerships for the Goals	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<b>All SDGs</b>		<b>21,463</b>	<b>1,025</b>	<b>146,843</b>			<b>13,253</b>		<b>2,543</b>	

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