

The University of Manchester Public Benefit Statement and Impact

The University of Manchester has exempt charity status derived from the Charities Act 2011 and is responsible to the Office for Students, its principal regulator, which is charged with monitoring compliance with charity law obligations. The University, through its governing body, the Board of Governors, is aware of its responsibilities as a charity to act for the public benefit across all its activities and has had due regard to the latest version of the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance (issued September 2013, updated September 2014).

The objects of the University, as set out in the Royal Charter awarded in 2004, are "to advance education, knowledge and wisdom by research, scholarship, learning and teaching, for the benefit of individuals and society at large." This overview includes references to the impact of our investments in these areas. These statements form our public benefit statement.

Research impact

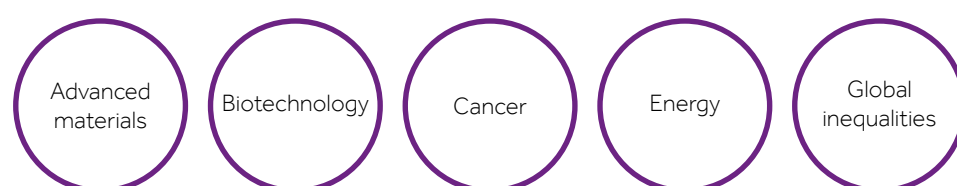
The University of Manchester's **five research beacons** continue to illustrate how our pioneering discoveries, interdisciplinary collaboration and cross-sector partnerships tackle some of the biggest questions facing the planet. The research beacons, alongside our **Research Institutes and Platforms**, are designed to accelerate interdisciplinary research delivering real world impact. 2021 saw the launch of the **Christabel Pankhurst Institute for Health Technology and Innovation**, a new multimillion pound research and innovation institute building on Manchester's academic strengths in digital health and advanced materials to discover innovative health and care solutions.

The **2021 Research Excellence Framework (REF2021) results**, published this year, ranked The University of Manchester fifth in the UK for the quality and scale of

our research. Ninety percent of our outputs, 96% of our research impact case studies and 99% of our research environment, were assessed as world-leading or internationally excellent.

The University is at the forefront of tackling global inequalities—from poverty to social justice, to living conditions, to inequalities in education, health and social care, and the workplace. Manchester researchers have been instrumental in promoting small farmer cooperation for sustainable livelihoods in India and Nepal, effective in protecting livelihoods and food security during the coronavirus pandemic. Recommendations from University of Manchester researchers on mitigating the gendered impact of the pandemic and support post-COVID-19 recovery in the Manchester region have influenced the **Greater Manchester Strategy**. In cancer research we are making a leading contribution to the fight against the disease. The

Research impact



Beacons

Showcase our pioneering discoveries, interdisciplinary collaboration and cross-sector partnerships that are tackling some of the biggest questions facing the planet.

23 interdisciplinary research institutes

Institutes

Where we have achieved, or aspire to, world-leading status in interdisciplinary research.



Platforms

Provide forums, focus and resources to connect, drive and amplify interdisciplinary collaborations across our institutes, research centres and individual academics. They support research, external engagement, impact and inform teaching. Healthy futures is an emergent platform.

UK's first NHS **high-energy proton beam therapy centre**, based at the Christie Hospital, enables more patients to access proton therapy for some of the most difficult-to-treat cancers. We have established the first **ophthalmic gene therapy centre** in the north of England, offering patients gene-based treatments delivered as standard NHS care. Researchers at Manchester are working with NHS England and Tommy's Baby Charity to raise awareness among mothers that sleeping on their side in later pregnancy reduces the risk of stillbirth. The campaigns #sleeponside and #movementsmatter reached an estimated 2.5 million women globally.

We continue to make significant contributions to help society protect our environment and progress towards NetZero. Research has driven policy changes in the shipping and aviation sectors, bringing greenhouse gas emissions targets more in line with the Paris Agreement. Our researchers have developed the free-to-use '**Climate Just**' resource providing evidence, guidance and case studies to support the development of more socially aware responses to climate change. It has informed climate adaptation strategies and risk assessments at a local and national level. The Graphene Engineering Innovation Centre and Department of Mechanical, Aerospace and Civil Engineering, in partnership with UK construction firm Nationwide Engineering have developed **Concretene**, a graphene-strengthened concrete significantly reducing the CO₂ burden.

The University of Manchester is leading the way, both nationally and across Europe, towards a bio-industrial revolution, with beneficial impact for our environment and economy. Our **Centre of Excellence for Biocatalysis, Biotransformations and Biocatalytic Manufacture (CoEBio3)** has played an integral role in supporting the growth of the UK's bio-economy. Its members recently co-authored a report that influenced the UK's bio-economy strategy and policy, with the goal of creating a bio-economy worth £440bn by 2030.

Our research makes a substantial contribution to public understanding of major events and cultural life. The **NHS Voices of COVID-19 project** is developing a national collection of personal testimonies and in-depth

reflections that will be preserved as a permanent public resource for informing policy and practice as part of the British Library COVID-19 collecting initiative. Our **Centre for New Writing** is home to award-winning writers who make substantial contributions to cultural life in Manchester and wider afield through their research and wider engagement, developing new writers, hosting public events, influencing arts policy and shaping public debates.

Research Exploitation

Enterprise and innovation are a critical part of our culture. Collaboration with business and other partners to develop innovations, commercialising and exploiting our intellectual property (IP), form a fundamental part of our research impact. New companies and jobs have been created in the 2021/22 academic year, and valuable new products and services developed and commercialised nationally and internationally by our partners and through the formation of spin-out companies.

Our vast portfolio of collaborative research partnerships with businesses, ranging from corporate giants to regional small and medium sized firms, provides a major opportunity to address real world challenges and generate impact. Despite the detrimental effects of the pandemic, 2021/22 was a good year in Business Engagement and Knowledge Exchange with new strategic frameworks set up, existing agreements renewed with several large multinational companies, and awards from industry totalling £32.8m.

The University continues to be amongst the top 3 in Innovate UK's Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) ranking, holding a total of 27 active KTPs, with a value of £7.6m with £3.2m of this leveraged from partner companies. Of these KTPs, 74% were with SMEs and 67% of all projects were with North West based partners, demonstrating the support for regional economic wealth creation and beyond. The University also successfully bid for and launched the new £5.6m UK Research and Innovation harmonised Impact Acceleration Account, supporting new partnerships and impact generation.

The University of Manchester Innovation Factory Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary responsible for identifying

and leading the commercialisation of IP developed and owned by the University, launched 10 new deep-tech and life science spinout companies in 2021/22. A total of £6.4m of first-time and £24.7m of follow-on investment was also secured in spinout companies, and £4.9m of licensing income was generated from IP developed at and owned by the University. The income generated from this IP licensing is reinvested in University activities that support research, innovation and commercialisation.

Another significant achievement was the formation of Northern Gritstone Ltd., the University's investment partner, which in its first close raised £215m. These funds have already started to be invested in University spinouts. The new investment company aims to deploy significant funds into spinout businesses built on IP created by the Universities of Manchester, Sheffield and Leeds. Northern Gritstone plans to raise up to £500m and become one of the UK's largest dedicated investors into the commercialisation of university science and technology related IP.

Teaching impact

Throughout 2021/22 in Teaching and Learning our aim has been to strengthen our community of academics, professionals and students, working together to develop the best educational experiences. We aimed to enhance the quality of our teaching, deliver transformative student experiences, help students to realise their potential, prepare our students as future leaders and global citizens and ensure access to lifelong and flexible learning.

Helping our students realise their potential

The pandemic has continued to impact our students. We have been providing extra resources through support services, **additional financial support** for those finding things difficult, **simplifying processes for mitigating circumstances** for assessments, and lots more.

During COVID we addressed digital poverty and access issues which might impede study, through initiatives such as HelpMeGetOnline and flexibility in early return to campus for study in special circumstances. Where academically possible, we enabled

remote study / late arrival for those who could not travel.

We have emphasised mental health support, including through our **Greater Manchester Student Mental Health Hub**. Our **harm reduction work** is in its early stages but is already well-received and will be developed further this year. It is a great example of an initiative truly co-produced by PS, academic staff and students.

With the support of philanthropic funding, we provided social prescribing as an additional service. Students referred by the counselling service are supported by Link workers to tackle social isolation, work/life balance and a lack of motivation. 92% of those referred reported an improvement in mental health, with 89% more able to maintain their goals.

Our Manchester Access Programme and Manchester Distance Access Schemes admitted a total of 468 students last year, up from 270 in 2019/20.

We created fully funded Humanitarian scholarships for 20 students fleeing war and persecution. Students from Ukraine, Syria and Myanmar, will join us in September 2022 under these scholarships. Other programmes supporting our social responsibility agenda include Equity and Merit Scholarships for students from sub-Saharan Africa and Undergraduate Access Scholarships for UK applicants who have been in care or estranged.

The **Manchester Masters Bursary** widens access to master's courses by removing barriers to postgraduate education and provided 103 bursaries last year.

Lifelong and flexible learning

We have supported staff through the transition to online learning during the pandemic and now back onto campus. This has accelerated our **development of flexible learning** and led to some excellent **digital enhancements** including allocation of etextbooks, professional screen recording and video editing, and the annotation of digital copies of documents and articles.

To develop the Flexible Learning Strategy, we engaged with more than 650 students and staff, with this feedback enabling, not enforcing change. We aim to introduce

processes, infrastructure, policies and incentives that will allow us to be agile and adapt with the minimum of friction as the world continues to change around us.

Enhancing the quality of our teaching

Our **Institute for Teaching and Learning (ITL)** has made an amazing difference this year, offering a range of development programmes and opportunities and helping staff get recognition for their outstanding work:

- 9,531 staff, student partners and sector colleagues have engaged with ITL.
- 1,133 awards at all levels for **AdvanceHE Fellowships**.
- 167 colleagues have won **Teaching and Learning awards** and prizes internally and externally, raising the profile of teaching excellence.

Our **NSS results** remained the same as last year which is disappointing. We saw improvements in our **NSS scores** for learning resources, learning community and learning opportunities – all of which were prioritised in the past year. We still have a long way to go in improving areas like assessment and feedback and student voice, which remain priorities.

Transformative student experience

Working in partnership with our students, we have developed and delivered projects together. We have employed more than **100 Student Partners**, with lots more to come; and students are increasingly partnering or leading some of our key work areas, such as our Student Experience Action Plans (SEAPS).

The Student Experience Programme has continued delivering improvements and benefit to students and staff. This has included the launch of Manchester SafeZone app with MMU and University of Salford. The app gives extra piece of mind with the ability to 'check-in' and discreetly call for assistance, expanding the reach of our safe spaces and providing better response and assistance. We have introduced streamlined processes for taught and post graduate research admission and continue to develop student hubs.

In response to the larger student intake in September 2021 we delivered a university wide response including

an increase in our content budget to support the eTextbook programme, investment in additional study spaces in the main library, and four additional study space sites.

Global leadership

As we move into the new academic year, we will be further developing our **Stellify programme**. This brings together transformational academic and co-curricular activities to help students stand out and make their mark.

In 2021-22, 446 students completed the Stellify Award, which focuses on activities around five core values of learning without boundaries, understanding issues that matter, making a difference, stepping up to lead and creating their future.

Furthermore, 1,692 students completed 36,007 volunteering hours in the community. This included roles with hundreds of different organisations, projects supported by our Students' Union and community sports opportunities.

Some of our most popular opportunities included mentoring for ReachOut, a local educational mentoring charity (1,200 hours completed), Milk & Honey community cafe, run by St Peter's chaplaincy (over 1,000 hours completed), and the Students' Union Want not Waste shop (over 1,400 hours completed). Our international volunteering offer restarted after a two-year break. 15 students from a Widening Participation background spent 4 weeks in Rwanda, volunteering with our overseas partner Azizi life, supporting local artisans and community projects.

According to Graduate Market Research, we are the UK university most targeted by the top 100 employers. We have seen improvements in Graduate Outcomes, are continuing to embed Careers and Employability in the curriculum, and the Student Crowd website ranked us second in the country for our Careers Service.

Social Responsibility

The strategic priority we give to social responsibility makes us distinctive among British universities and reflects the commitment we have in making a positive difference to society and the environment – locally, nationally and

internationally. Our strong performance on this agenda is reflected in being placed in the top 10 universities in the world for the fourth consecutive year in the 2022 *Times Higher Education Impact Ranking*, based on the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This has ensured Manchester has continued to meet its strategic target to be among the top 2% of universities in the world on this measure.

Our work on social responsibility and civic engagement is focused around five priorities: social inclusion, prosperous communities, better health, environmental sustainability and cultural engagement.

Social inclusion

Outreach staff in our Faculty of Science and Engineering engaged 317,655 young people around the world on Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) activities through our flagship **Great Science Share for Schools** programme, where 5-14 year olds share their own scientific questions and investigations to help raise the profile of science in schools and communities. We delivered outreach and enrichment work with young people from underrepresented backgrounds in partnership with a range of external organisations to advance social inclusion. This included work with the Brilliant Club, INTO University, Tutor Trust and GM Higher. More than 500 sixth form students, with no parental history of higher education, completed our flagship Manchester Access Programme. We expanded our renowned international Equity and Merit programme that offers free campus-based and online master's education for professionals from Ethiopia, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda to include Malawi and Zimbabwe for the first time. And we worked with staff, students, alumni and external partners to develop a new strategy for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.

Prosperous communities

The University was a key partner in securing £22.6m funding for establishing an **Advanced Machinery and Productivity Institute** (AMPI) based in Rochdale, Greater Manchester to stimulate innovation and job creation in our region's manufacturing sector.

Times Higher Education University Impact Rankings, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022

	2019	2020	2021	2022
UoM world ranking	3	8	1	9
Total Entrants	450	768	1240	1406
No. of countries	76	85	98	106
Top 2% target	0.66%	1.04%	0.08%	0.64%

We supported the **Oldham Economic Review** – an independent panel that came together to examine and provide analysis and recommendations to inform the strategic economic vision for Oldham. We secured government Innovation Accelerator funding to advance **Innovation GM** – an innovation ecosystem across our city-region that will help level up our communities, generate the solutions we need to achieve net zero, and create the conditions for more businesses in more places to benefit from global exporting and inward investment. And we announced Bruntwood SciTech as our partner to deliver **ID Manchester** – a trailblazing new innovation district in Manchester.

Better health

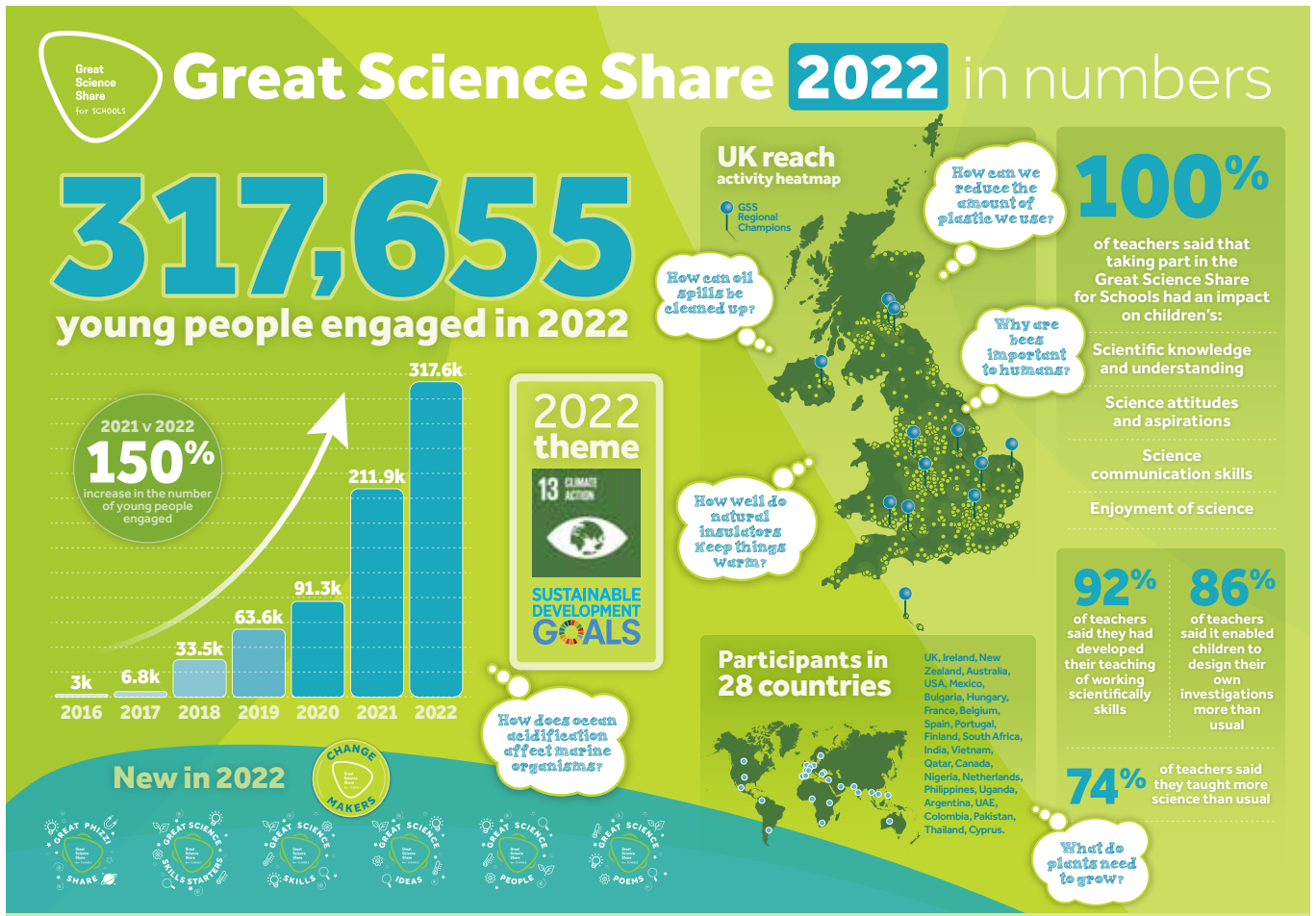
We have developed a Centre of Excellence in Health Education and Training (CEHET) as part of the **Kenya UK Health Alliance** (KUKHA), which brings our university, teaching hospitals and research institutions to collaborate with Kenya on cancer care. We delivered a range of Service Learning programmes connecting healthcare students with real public health challenges in areas such as dentistry and pharmacy through the development of our curriculum. We prioritised activity focusing on patient and public involvement and engagement (PPIE) with our research and teaching activity, including making twelve external awards for incorporating patient experience into our curriculum. And around 160 schools and 40,000 learners fed into the first major survey of our pioneering **#BeeWell** programme, revealing insights into the mental health and wellbeing of young people across our city region.

Environmental sustainability,

Our priority in 2021/22 was to work with external partners to produce a major Zero Carbon Masterplan for our campus. This produced a range of detailed and costed implementation options for how we can decarbonise our emissions in line with Greater Manchester's target to be a zero carbon city-region by 2038. During this period, however, our carbon emissions rose by 13% in part through additional ventilation requirements brought on by covid. We completed our divestment from fossil fuel sector industries and achieved an additional 30% reduction in the broader carbon intensity of our investment portfolio. We also developed and launched **Sustainable Futures** to ensure our research can develop new and integrative solutions to address the interacting global environmental challenges facing our planet.

On cultural engagement

At Jodrell Bank we engaged over 20,000 members of the public in arts, science and culture activities at the annual **bluedot festival** and opened a new £21.5 million **First Light Pavilion** site that capitalises on its UNESCO World Heritage Site status. At Manchester Museum work on a range of strategic partnerships and outreach work have continued whilst we advance our £15 million **'hello future'** capital and transformation programme. A pioneering new **British Pop Archive** was launched at the Rylands. Our Whitworth gallery focused on art as a positive force for social change through inclusion initiatives such as **Afrocats**, **Still Parents** and **Queering the Whitworth**. And our **Creative Manchester** initiative led on a number of key strategic partnerships, including UNESCO's **Manchester City of Literature**.



www.greatscienceshare.org



ID Manchester



First Light Pavilion