



# University facts and script

## **How to use this document**

This document is split into two sections;

1 Facts and statistics (pages 1 to 8)

2 Script (pages 9 to 12)

The facts and statistics is your one-stop shop for the University's key messages to include as supportive material when dealing with external audiences. Use the information to help tell our story.

The script is your go-to if you're pushed for time and need some quick points about the University. It's been designed and written so you can print and read for a presentation.

**From the Directorate of Communications,  
Marketing and Student Recruitment**

December 2023

[www.manchester.ac.uk/brand](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/brand)

## The University at a glance

- We are the first and most eminent of England's civic universities.
- We are the UK's most popular university in terms of undergraduate applications (UCAS 2023 cycle).
- In the Academic Ranking of World Universities (2023), the University is placed:
  - 41st in the world;
  - 10th in Europe;
  - 6th in the UK.
- Other international rankings:
  - QS World University Rankings (2024): 32
  - QS World University Sustainability Rankings: 3
  - *Times Higher Education* World University rankings: 51
- National rankings:
  - *Guardian* (2024): 24
  - Complete University Guide (2024): 19
  - *Times Higher Education* 'most international university\*' rankings (2023): 29
  - Platinum Engage Watermark from the National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement.
- Academic activity is structured around three Faculties:
  - Humanities;
  - Biology, Medicine and Health;
  - Science and Engineering.
- The University plays a key role in the cultural life of the region, through:
  - Manchester Museum;
  - John Rylands Research Institute and Library;
  - Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre (a UNESCO World Heritage Site);
  - The award-winning Whitworth art gallery.

*\*The table is compiled using the international student score, international staff score, international co-authorship score and international reputation metrics.*

## The University's vision

We will be recognised globally for the excellence of our people, research, learning and innovation, and for the benefits we bring to society and the environment.

*Our future, 2020*

## Goal 1: **World-class research**

The University of Manchester's research beacons are examples of pioneering discoveries, interdisciplinary collaboration and cross-sector partnerships that are tackling some of the biggest questions facing the planet.

Our five research beacons include:

- Global inequalities
- Advanced materials
- Biotechnology
- Cancer
- Energy

### **Global inequalities**

We're at the forefront of tackling inequalities – from poverty and social justice, to living conditions and equality in the workplace. We're improving our understanding of the world and changing it for the better.

- Advising and challenging governments, charities, NGOs and policymakers.
- More than 300 academics and PhD students at Manchester are working to address the challenges caused by income, health, social, education, gender and other inequalities across the world.
- Home to the Global Development Institute with over 60 years of developmental studies.

### **Advanced materials**

Advanced materials allow us to work in the most demanding environments, on the frontiers of the energy sector or inside the human body. We're leading the way by developing innovative solutions to some of the world's most critical problems.

- We're the global knowledge base in graphene and 2D materials, with more than 260 dedicated researchers, two Nobel laureates and more than £170 million of investment.
- We're home to the £235 million Henry Royce Institute for advanced materials research, the UK's national centre for materials research and commercialisation (with over 400 researchers and collaborators).
- Our advanced materials expertise, lab-to-market capability and collaborative leadership is helping to drive growth in our regional and national economies.

### **Biotechnology**

We're leading the European renaissance in biotechnology, finding sustainable alternatives to the finite resources needed to manufacture products that we use every day.

- Partnerships with leading companies – including GlaxoSmithKline, Shell, Unilever and Pfizer – drive the creation of new bio-based chemicals.
- Our Manchester Institute of Biotechnology is one of Europe's leading industry-interfaced institutes.
- We have a grant portfolio in biotechnology worth more than £107 million.

## Cancer

Cancer will affect one in two people in the UK at some point in their lifetime. But with cutting-edge research we can make a difference. Through our partnerships with industry and the NHS, as well as state of the art laboratory facilities, our research covers the full cancer detection, prevention and treatment spectrum.

This work is critical in our journey of becoming one of the top five preclinical, translational and clinical cancer centres in the world.

- The breadth of our expertise spans the whole cancer disease spectrum with our research changing practice globally in areas as diverse as breast, gynaecological and childhood cancers.
- We are partners in a new £150 million flagship biomedical cancer research facility that will bring together more than 700 world-leading researchers and clinicians. Opening in 2023, it will enable the next generation of researchers and discoveries to develop.
- We're partners in the Manchester Cancer Research Centre with The Christie NHS Foundation Trust, Europe's largest cancer hospital and Cancer Research UK, the world's biggest funder of cancer research, to drive forward progress in understanding and combating cancer.
- We have a world-leading radiotherapy related research group with established strengths in radiobiology and radio-immunotherapy. As home to an MR-guided linear accelerator (MR[1]Linac) radiotherapy machine, this makes us one of only two sites worldwide to offer both MR-Linac and proton beam therapy treatments and research.
- We have world-leading expertise in early detection across multiple disease sites. Activity includes a flagship lung health check, now being rolled out nationally.

## Energy

From the sustainability of energy sources to meeting the demands of urban communities, the world faces some pressing energy challenges. We're finding the solutions to deliver a fair and prosperous net zero.

- We are home to a community of more than 600 researchers working together to ensure a low carbon energy transition that drives jobs, prosperity, resilience and equality.
- The unique breadth and depth of our interdisciplinary expertise spans the entire energy journey from generation to consumption.
- Strategic partners include bp, EDF, National Grid, National Nuclear Laboratory, Rolls-Royce and Siemens.

## Our research and innovation performance

- In the results of the 2021 Research Excellence Framework (REF), 93% of our research activity was assessed as 'world-leading' (4\*) or 'internationally excellent' (3\*). We retained fifth place in the UK for research power overall (calculated by grade point average, multiplied by the number of FTE staff submitted (FTE – full-time equivalent head count) and gives a measure of scale and quality). We are also in the top three nationally for nine subjects.
- In 2022/23, our research income was £257 million.
- Our commitment to achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) is unmatched. We're the only university in the world to rank in the top ten for social and environmental impact in every year of the *Times Higher Education* Impact Rankings. In 2023, we ranked first in Europe and second in the world against 1,705 universities from 115 countries that submitted data about how they are addressing the most pressing challenges facing our planet.
- In 2023 we were ranked first in the UK and Europe, and third in the world, in the QS World University Sustainability Rankings, for our work across social and environmental responsibility.
- Our history of intellectual property commercialisation spans more than 30 years, during which time we've generated more than 100 spin-out companies.
- Our research commercialisation generated £402 million in economic impact over five years, to 31 July, 2020.
- The 2020 relaunch of our IP commercialisation subsidiary has doubled the number of annual spin-outs, reinforcing our presence in the top six for invention disclosures from 2014 to 2019 (>1000 in period 2015 to 2020).
- Commercialisation progress was recognised by a rapid climb in Reuters' Europe's Most Innovative Universities rankings - 8th in Europe and 4th in the UK in 2019.
- We are placed 29th in the 2023 *Times Higher Education* global rankings for the most international universities.

## Goal 2: **Outstanding learning and student experience**

- The UK's most popular university in terms of undergraduate applications (UCAS cycle 2023).
- 14,475 of our 44,000+ students come from outside the EU – one of the largest international intakes of any UK university.
- The most targeted university by the UK's leading graduate employers (High Fliers Research 2023).
- Internationally, we're ranked 51st in the *Times Higher Education* Global University Ranking 2024 and 42nd in the QS Graduate Employability Rankings 2022.
- More than 1,000 degree programmes offered.
- Our Stellify initiative encourages all students to participate in an exciting range of transformative and socially responsible experiences within and outside of their studies. These help them to broaden their horizons, understand key global issues, step up to fresh challenges and boost their career prospects, while becoming valuable contributors to society. They can even work towards the Stellify Award.
- Innovative teaching and learning facilities include the Alan Gilbert Learning Commons – a 24/7 space designed with our students, for our students.
- The Students' Union is one of the largest in the UK, featuring more than 400 societies catering for a diverse range of interests.
- To continue our commitment to outstanding student wellbeing, we've partnered with the city to be the first place in the country to establish a dedicated centre to help support higher education students with mental health needs. The service offers innovative and accessible treatment, looking at digital technology such as virtual clinics, to university students experiencing mental illness.
- The latest research feeds into our taught courses, many of which are also designed to meet the needs of industry. Our Learning through Research initiative gives our undergraduates the opportunity to not only get their hands on the latest technology, but to work alongside our researchers and contributes to real-world projects.
- Learning through Research supports the Undergraduate Awards (deemed the junior Nobel Prize) of which we've had multiple winners; two in 2018, one in 2017 and two in 2016.

## Goal 3: **Social responsibility**

- We were the first university in the UK to set social responsibility as a core goal.
- Our commitment to achieving the UN SDGs is unmatched. That's why we're the only university in the world to rank in the top ten for social and environmental impact in every year of the *Times Higher Education* Impact Rankings.
- In 2023, Manchester became only the second university to be awarded a Platinum Engage Watermark from the National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement.
- In November 2021, we launched 50,000 Actions, the largest environmental sustainability initiative in the higher education sector. The project aims to engage every member of staff and every student in collective, measurable improvement towards sustainability.
- More than 900 students volunteer their time to social, educational, health, cultural and environmental wellbeing programmes, locally and globally.
- Through Stellify, every Manchester undergraduate has the opportunity to confront key ethical grand challenges in a cross-disciplinary programme run in each year of their undergraduate study.
- Through our School Governors Initiative 1,000 staff and alumni supported more than 400,000 learners, creating more than £1.52 million of economic value. This programme won a Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in 2016 and has twice won a *Times Higher Education* Award.
- Our employment and skills initiative The Works has helped more than 4,000 unemployed people into work. The scheme has won prizes at the 2016 Guardian Sustainable Business Awards and the *Times Higher Education* Awards, and has been highly commended in the Green Gown Awards.
- Our Manchester Access Programme has supported more than 2,800 local students from families with no experience of higher education join the University.
- We're committed to creating an environment where diversity is celebrated and everyone is treated fairly. Recognition includes:
  - Athena SWAN (Bronze);
  - Race Equality Charter (Bronze);
  - Stonewall Top 100 Employer;
  - Disability Confident Employer.

## Our history: a spirit of innovation

- The University's earliest roots can be traced back to 1824 with the formation of the Manchester Mechanics' Institution, which was founded as part of a national movement for the education of working men.
- At one of the University's predecessor institutions, Owens College, leading professors looked to German universities that stressed the creation of knowledge, not simply its transmission. Research came to be viewed as the key ingredient of a university; it advanced knowledge and was a potential source of material benefits.
- The University of Manchester, in its present form, was created in 2004 by the amalgamation of the Victoria University of Manchester and the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology (UMIST).
- There are 25 Nobel laureates affiliated to the University, the first of whom was J J Thompson (1906) in physics for conduction of electricity through gases, and the most recent of whom were Sirs Andre Geim and Kostya Novoselov (2010), again in physics, for the isolation of the properties of graphene.
- The University's motto, 'Cognitio, Sapientia, Humanitas', translates as 'Knowledge, Wisdom, Humanity'.

## Celebrating our bicentenary

In 2024 we celebrate our bicentenary: 200 years of learning, innovation and research. This significant milestone presents a time to reflect on the past. A time to recognise our key discoveries, world firsts and incredible people. And a time to look forward to what our third century could bring. A year-long celebration of our people, their incredible achievements and the impact they have made, in Manchester and across the world.

## World-changing achievements

- Manchester was the birthplace of the nuclear age, when Ernest Rutherford's pioneering research led to the splitting of the atom.
- The computer revolution started here in June 1948 when a machine built by Tom Kilburn and Sir Freddie Williams, known affectionately as 'the Baby', ran its first stored program. The celebrated wartime codebreaker Alan Turing worked on this computer during his time at Manchester.
- The economist and logician William Stanley Jevons formulated the principles of modern economics. Later, landmark economic works were published by Manchester professors John Richard Hicks and Sir William Arthur Lewis – the latter of whom was Britain's first Black professor on his appointment at Manchester.
- At our Jodrell Bank UNESCO World Heritage Site in Cheshire, a young Bernard Lovell built the world's largest steerable radio telescope just after World War II.
- We were the first university in the UK to offer a nursing degree (1969) and first to appoint a Professor of Nursing (Baroness Jean McFarlane of Llandaff, 1973).
- The properties of the 2D material graphene were isolated at Manchester by Sirs Andre Geim and Kostya Novoselov. Thinner than a human hair yet 200 times stronger than steel, graphene is set to revolutionise the world in areas including energy, membranes, composites

## Our people

- We're led by Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell, President and Vice-Chancellor.
- We have two Nobel laureates on our current staff: Professors Andre Geim and Kostya Novoselov.
- We have 44,000+ students, one of the largest student communities in the UK. Of this number, 28,990 are undergraduate, 11,785 postgraduate taught and 3,865 postgraduate research.
- 14,475 of our students are international (non-EU) – one of the highest international intakes of any UK university.
- We have just under 13,000 staff – of whom a quarter are from overseas.
- We have the largest alumni community of any campus based university in the UK, with more than 500,000 former students in more than 190 countries.

## Notable alumni

- **Jesse Armstrong and Sam Bain** – writers of television comedies *Peep Show* and *Fresh Meat*
- **Tom Bloxham MBE** – founder of Urban Splash and former Chancellor of The University of Manchester
- **Lord Terence Burns** – Chairman, Channel 4 Television Corporation
- **Parineeti Chopra** – actor
- **Winnie Byanyama** – Executive Director, UNAIDS
- **Benedict Cumberbatch CBE** – actor
- **Sir Peter Maxwell Davies** – composer and conductor
- **Professor Dame Sally Davies** – Former Chief Medical Officer for England
- **Ben Elton** – screenwriter, author and playwright
- **Lord Norman Foster** – architect and designer
- **Teo Chee Hean** – Deputy Prime Minister of Singapore
- **Toby Jones** – actor
- **Frances O'Grady** – first female General Secretary of the TUC
- **Christabel Pankhurst** – law graduate and suffragette
- **Sophie Raworth** – presenter, BBC News
- **Chuka Umunna MP** – MP and Former Shadow Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills
- **Ellen Wilkinson** – Labour politician and the first female minister of education

## Notable current staff

- **Sir Andre Geim** – Professor of Condensed Matter Physics, Regius Professor and Royal Society Research Professor, and joint Nobel Prize winner in Physics (2010) for the isolation of the properties of graphene
- **Sir Kostya Novoselov** – Professor of Condensed Matter Physics and joint Nobel Prize winner in Physics (2010) for the isolation of the properties of graphene
- **Jeanette Winterson OBE** – Professor of Creative Writing and author of novels including *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit*
- **Jim O'Neill, Baron O'Neill of Gatley** – Honorary Professor of Economics, chairman of the Greater Manchester Local Enterprise Partnership Advisory Board and Commercial Secretary to the Treasury (or 'City Minister')
- **Michael Wood** – Professor of Public History, author and broadcaster
- **Danielle George** – Professor of Radio Frequency Engineering and presenter of the 2014 Royal Institution Christmas Lectures
- **Brian Cox OBE** – Professor of Particle Physics, Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council Advanced Fellow, and broadcaster
- **Sir Salvador Moncada** – Professor of Translational Medicine and Director of the Institute of Cancer Sciences
- **Steve Furber** – ICL Professor of Computer Engineering, one of the designers of the BBC Micro and the ARM 32-bit RISC microprocessor at Acorn
- **Alistair Burns** – Professor of Old Age Psychiatry, Vice Dean (Clinical Affairs) and National Clinical Director for Dementia, NHS England
- **Maxine Peake** – Honorary Professor of Literature and Performance RADA-trained actress, appearing in theatre, television, radio and film, including *The Theory of Everything*, *Shameless*, *Dinnerladies*, and *Peterloo*
- **David Olusoga OBE** – Professor of Public History, broadcaster, film-maker, and presenter of the BBC's landmark series *Civilisations* (2018)
- **Rob Bristow** – Professor of Cancer Studies, Director of the Manchester Cancer Research Centre, Chief Academic Officer of The Christie NHS Foundation Trust and Senior Group Leader for the Cancer Research UK Manchester Institute

## Globally influential

- There are more than 170 nationalities among our student population.
- Much of our research has a global impact, in areas including health and wellbeing, climate change, international trade and cohesive communities.
- We have agreements with a host of international institutions and organisations. For example:
- The University of Melbourne on a funded mobility scheme to facilitate collaboration across research, teaching and professional support;
- A three-way alliance between Manchester, Melbourne and Toronto creates opportunities across research, teaching and career prospects;
- Peking University Health Science Centre (with Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust) on research into genomic medicine;
- Nanyang Technological University (NTU) in Singapore on a project management MSc;
- The Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) in Beijing on sustainable consumption;
- The Mexican National Council for Science and Technology (CONACYT) on scientific development in Mexico;
- The European Parliament on interpretation;
- UK-Med on medical responses to international emergencies.
- We have exchange agreements in place with many institutions, allowing students from around the world to experience life and learning at Manchester.
- Our Jodrell Bank Observatory is the international headquarters for the Square Kilometre Array, the world's largest radio telescope. The telescope will help us to answer some of the biggest questions about the universe.
- Our range of online and blended learning courses and MOOCs enable a global audience to benefit from a Manchester education.

## Size and scale

- We are one of the most popular universities in terms of undergraduate applications and have one of the largest student communities in the UK.
- We offer more than 1,000 degree programmes and had one of the broadest submissions of any university in the UK to the Research Excellence Framework in 2021, with research evaluated in 31 subject areas.
- Our scale allows our researchers to work across disciplines to find innovative solutions. For example, our work in biotechnology is centred at the Manchester Institute of Biotechnology, a hub of research that draws on the medical, physical, engineering, life and social sciences.

## Transforming our campus

- Our £1 billion, ten-year Campus Masterplan to create a world-class campus for staff, students and visitors is one of the biggest estates investments ever seen in UK higher education.
- This includes new buildings (such as the home of Engineering and Materials); major refurbishments (the Alliance Manchester Business School); conservation (the quadrangle) and our public realm (Brunswick Park).
- Major projects completed to date include the National Graphene Institute, the Graphene Engineering Innovation Centre, the Whitworth redevelopment, the Manchester Cancer Research Centre building (in Withington) now known as the Oglesby Cancer Research Building, and the first phase of the Simon Building improvements.
- At the size of 11 football pitches, our flagship Manchester Engineering Campus Development is one of the single largest construction projects undertaken by a higher education institution in the UK.
- Plans to transform the University's former North Campus into the world's next great innovation district are underway. ID Manchester is a £1.5 billion project that has the potential to create more than 10,000 new jobs in the next 15 years and play a vital role in the future of the UK science and technology sector.



## The city of Manchester: industrious, inventive, international

- Often referred to as the 'original modern' city.
- The city of Manchester was at the heart of the Industrial Revolution in England, with an economy built on the cotton trade.
- A revolutionary and progressive spirit infuses Manchester's history. Many political movements have roots here – the Chartists, trade unionism and the suffragettes.
- Today, the city is entering a new era of possibilities. The UK government plans to balance the UK economy through the creation of the Northern Powerhouse – and the University will have a key role as the central hub of the Henry Royce Institute for advanced materials research.
- The government has devolved powers to Greater Manchester, including a healthcare budget. Through Health Innovation Manchester, the University, in partnership with leaders across health care research, academia and industry, is working to bring the most innovative health care solutions to the local population more quickly.
- Manchester was the European City of Science 2016 and hosted the EuroScience Open Forum in July of that year, with the University as a key partner. This is the first time a UK city had been chosen.
- The county of Greater Manchester has a population of more than 2.7 million and includes the UK's second most populous urban area.
- Manchester is reachable from London by rail in two hours, while Manchester Airport serves more than 190 direct destinations.
- The Economist Intelligence Unit ranked Manchester as the UK's most liveable city in 2022. A quarter of our graduates choose to begin their careers in the city due to the opportunities available.
- Manchester is a multicultural city, with more than 200 languages spoken among long-term residents. It has the second largest Chinatown in the UK (the third largest in Europe).
- The city is famous for its sporting culture, particularly for its two football clubs, Manchester United and Manchester City. It is also home to Lancashire County Cricket Club, where international matches are often played, and the National Cycling Centre, and was host to the Commonwealth Games in 2002.
- Manchester boasts an enviable arts scene. It's home to the Hallé Orchestra, bands such as Oasis and The Smiths, writers such as Anthony Burgess and the University's own Jeanette Winterson, and the biennial Manchester International Festival, which brings world premieres to the city.
- The University's own Manchester Museum, John Rylands Research Institute and Library and the Whitworth are among the city's cultural landmarks, with the iconic Lovell Telescope just a short drive away at our Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) in Cheshire.
- The British Pop Archive (BPA) is open at the University's John Rylands Research Institute and Library. The collection celebrates British popular music and culture, recognising its influence on the world stage.
- In May 2018 Manchester Museum received a confirmed grant of £4,215,800 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to develop and transform the museum by providing new exhibition space, an improved programme of outreach and the north's first South Asian gallery. The finished building reopened in February 2023 and saw tens of thousands of visitors in its first week.

The University of Manchester is a place where research has a global impact, where students experience outstanding teaching and learning, helping them to develop into tomorrow's leaders, and where all activity is enriched by a commitment to social responsibility.

Manchester was the first and most eminent of England's civic universities. Today, we're part of the prestigious Russell Group of UK universities, with an international reputation for the highest level of research and teaching, as demonstrated by our position in the Academic Ranking of World Universities. In 2024 we were placed 32nd in the world and sixth in the UK.

Looking ahead, it's our vision to be one of the world's leading universities and to be recognised globally for the excellence of our people, research, learning and innovations, and for the benefits we bring to society and the environment.

## **Our roots**

The University was formed in 2004 by the merger of the Victoria University of Manchester and the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology – institutions which both had their origins in the mid-19th century.

During our history there have been 25 Nobel laureates who have studied or worked with us. In fact, there are two on our current staff: Professors Sir Andre Geim and Sir Kostya Novoselov (both Physics).

In 2024 we celebrate our bicentenary: 200 years of learning, innovation and research. This significant milestone presents a time to reflect on the past. A time to recognise our key discoveries, world firsts and incredible people. And a time to look forward to what our third century could bring. A year-long celebration of our people, their incredible achievements and the impact they have made, in Manchester and across the world.

## **Research**

Manchester has a rich history of ground-breaking research, from the splitting of the atom by Ernest Rutherford in 1917 to the isolation of graphene's properties by Andre Geim and Kostya Novoselov in 2004.

Other pioneering discoveries include the work of Tom Kilburn, Freddie Williams and Alan Turing on the modern computer – the first stored program was run at Manchester – and the development of modern economics by trailblazers such as John Richard Hicks and William Arthur Lewis. The latter, on his appointment at Manchester, was Britain's first Black professor.

Today, some of the most exciting work at the University is in advanced materials, biotechnology, cancer, energy, and global inequalities – five areas that we describe as our research beacons. These beacons are examples of how our interdisciplinary research is helping to find unique solutions to some of the world's biggest challenges, from eradicating poverty to ensuring energy supply for future generations.

Our place as one of the UK's top research universities was confirmed in the results of the 2021 Research Excellence Framework, the system for assessing the quality of research in UK higher education institutions. 93% of our research activity was assessed as 'world-leading' (4\*) or 'internationally excellent' (3\*), and we retained fifth place in the UK for research power overall. Our pioneering reputation is recognised worldwide – we're ranked 8th in the Reuters Top 100 Most Innovative Universities in Europe 2019.

## Teaching, learning and the student experience

Our student community is one of the largest in the UK. At present we have more than 44,000 students studying at the University, of whom 28,990 are undergraduates, 11,785 are postgraduate taught and 3,865 are postgraduate research.

This quality of research feeds into our taught courses, many of which are also designed to meet the needs of industry. We offer more than 1,000 degree programmes and receive more undergraduate applications than any other UK university.

We also give our student community the chance to get involved in research activities as part of a structured and supported learning process known as Learning through Research. As well as undertaking research as part of the course, there's the opportunity to take part in a Learning through Research Internship during the summer. The internship, which is fully paid, allows students to gain invaluable experience in research and an insight into academic careers.

We encourage all our undergraduate students to participate in Stellify, a select package of activities containing some of Manchester's most exciting and transformative student experiences. This helps them to develop the distinctive attributes that make Manchester graduates the most sought-after by the UK's top graduate employers (according to High Fliers Research 2023).

Activities include: tackling ethical grand challenges relating to equality, sustainability and social justice in the modern world; studying optional interdisciplinary and international course units incorporating world-leading research; making a difference via community volunteering and developing key skills through leadership roles and work experience. Students can even choose to work towards gaining a prestigious University award.

## Social responsibility

Manchester is unique among UK universities in that social responsibility is one of our core goals, sitting equally alongside our commitments to world-class research and an outstanding learning and student experience.

Our commitment to achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) is unmatched. We're the only university in the world to rank in the top ten for social and environmental impact in every year of the *Times Higher Education* Impact Rankings. In 2023, we ranked first in Europe and second in the world against 1,705 universities from 115 countries that submitted data about how they are addressing the most pressing challenges facing our planet.

We also took first place in the UK and Europe, and third in the world, in the QS World University Sustainability Rankings, for our commitment to social and environmental responsibility.

Social responsibility informs everything we do. To encourage our students to become socially responsible citizens, we offer every Manchester undergraduate the opportunity to work together across disciplines to confront a new ethical grand challenge in each year of their study.

In 2023, Manchester became only the second university to be awarded a Platinum Engage Watermark from the National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement.

We want the best students to choose Manchester regardless of their background. In 2017/18 we invested £17 million in financial support to help students from disadvantaged backgrounds better afford university. More than 900 of our staff and alumni make a difference at state schools by volunteering as school governors – that's more than any other university.

And our employment and skills initiative The Works is transforming the life chances of local residents within some of the most disadvantaged areas of the UK. We've helped more than 4,000 unemployed people into work, bringing more than £60.6 million of social and economic value to the economy.

## Part of a pioneering city

Our city region is a big part of our identity, and the University and the city have long worked together to ensure its success. The city of Manchester was at the heart of the Industrial Revolution, and our predecessor institutions were opening the doors of education to the working classes of Manchester.

Today the city and the University are entering a new era of possibilities as the government pushes forward with plans for a Northern Powerhouse to rebalance the country's economy. The University will be a driving force in Manchester's contribution, not least through the £235 million Henry Royce Institute for advanced materials research, which has its centre on our campus.

The city has always had an independent spirit, with political movements such as Chartism, trade unionism and the suffragettes – who included Manchester graduate Christabel Pankhurst among their leaders – having Mancunian roots. Today's Manchester combines that pioneering drive with industrial and civic innovation, such as in Corridor Manchester, the hub of the city's knowledge economy, chaired by Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell, the University's President and Vice-Chancellor.

Greater Manchester has devolved powers from the UK government. Among these are control of long-term health and social care spending. The University will be helping to bring the most innovative healthcare solutions – for example, personalised medicine – to the local population more quickly as part of the unique Health Innovation Manchester deal we've entered with leaders across healthcare research, academia and industry.

In the city region we have a greater economic impact than the city's airport and its two football clubs, Manchester United and Manchester City, combined. And with more than 13,000 staff, we're one of the largest employers in Greater Manchester.

## Culture

Manchester is one of the most celebrated of British cities – judged to be the top UK city to live in for 2022 (the Economist's Global Liveability Index) and one of the ten friendliest cities in the world by *Rough Guides* readers in 2021.

Alongside its sporting heritage, Manchester's culture is the envy of most world cities. It's home to the Hallé Orchestra, bands such as Oasis and The Smiths, writers such as Anthony Burgess and the University's own Jeanette Winterson, and the biennial Manchester International Festival, which brings world premieres to the city.

The University plays a big part in this, with our own Manchester Museum, John Rylands Research Institute and Library and the Whitworth among the city's cultural landmarks, and the iconic Lovell Telescope just a short drive away at our Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre. We were also a key partner in the EuroScience Open Forum (ESOF), hosted in Manchester in 2016. This was the first time a UK city had been chosen to host this biennial, pan-European, general science conference, which welcomed 4,500 leading thinkers, innovators, policy makers, journalists and educators from more than 90 countries to Manchester.

Added to all of this is the fact that Manchester is a more affordable place to live and work than London. It's also a diverse, welcoming place, with up to 200 languages spoken by long-term residents.

It's no surprise that many of our graduates find that they are able to achieve their career ambitions by staying in Manchester.

## **An international institution**

While we're proud of our place in – and relationship with – the city of Manchester, we have a global impact – and we place great value on what students and staff from around the world can bring to our University.

We have more international students than any other UK university, with 14,475 coming here from outside the EU – more than a quarter of the student body. Similarly, around a quarter of our staff come from outside the UK.

The University has four global centres. Each has an established international presence and strong links with the local business community. Our centres in Dubai, Hong Kong, Shanghai and Singapore offer a growing range of online and blended learning programmes, supporting MBA students learning by combining face-to-face and digital activities.

Our reach doesn't end there. We have the largest alumni community of any campus-based university in the UK, with more than 500,000 former students in more than 190 countries.

## **The future**

Like all higher education institutions, The University of Manchester is operating in an uncertain environment.

The number of universities has grown greatly in recent times, with many institutions investing substantially in their success. With the emergence of flexible and distance-learning options, and increases in tuition fees, the expectations of students are evolving.

The big questions of the world increasingly need collaborative, interdisciplinary solutions that will see universities working together rather than in competition. And in the UK in particular, universities constantly face the possibility of changes in funding and policies that affect students from this country and beyond.

At Manchester, we intend to meet these challenges by focusing on our strengths to ensure our place as a great university. Rankings are important to us, but more important is our impact on the world, through our commitment to world-class research, an outstanding learning and student experience, and social responsibility, and on the Greater Manchester region, through the

provision of knowledge, enterprise, talented graduates, employment opportunities and cultural engagement.

Our vision is based on being better still at what we do best.

We're well underway with our Campus Masterplan – one of the biggest estates investments ever seen in UK higher education. Highlights include the Manchester Engineering Campus Development and Brunswick Park – featuring a colourful mosaic by Hans Tisdall – for the enjoyment of our students, staff, visitors and local community. Our North Campus will be transformed into ID Manchester, a £1.5 billion innovation district that will play a vital role in the future of the UK science and technology sector. Meanwhile, at Jodrell Bank, we'll be home to the international headquarters of the Square Kilometre Array, the world's largest radio telescope.

We'll continue to build on our provision of distance-learning options and Massive Open Online Courses – opening up the benefits of a Manchester education to an even greater number of people across the globe.

And as the number of our alumni grows ever larger, the global citizens we help to develop will make their mark, ensuring that our expertise and values make a difference to societies local and international.

We are The University of Manchester, and we want to work with you to make a better world.