

Mapping Greater Manchester, Civic University Partnership

A Report on Business and Community Interaction of the GM Higher Education Providers

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Overview of the Data Fellowship

This data fellowship is part of the Mapping Greater Manchester project, where we look at the characteristics of five higher education providers (HEP) around Greater Manchester: The University of Manchester, Manchester Metropolitan University, University of Bolton, University of Salford and the Royal Northern College of Music. This is a five-year long project, and this year it was focused on “business and community interaction”, i.e., financial and social interaction with the GM HEPs. This area includes areas such as financial contributions to the HEPs, their investment returns, the amount of people going to their events, among others. In the end, a report is made presenting and summarising this year’s findings.

Data Analysis

I analysed data coming from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) website, where HEPs report yearly on the numbers of certain variables. I worked specifically on the “business and community interaction” data and summarised the findings based on the constraints of our report: looking at the five GM HEPs, in the last five years, comparing them to the UK, GM and Russell Grupo averages. Using MS Excel and Word, I presented the summarised data in a visually appealing way, complemented by general observations and comments on the graphs presented.

Findings

- The primary source of revenue from courses offered by these five GM HEPs is from non-commercial businesses, followed by courses offered to individuals and lastly small, medium and large businesses.

- The main collaborators in research involving public funding were UK research councils, followed by the UK Government, and lastly other institutions and EU Government-related institutions.
- The total attendees to all events (chargeable and free) of the five GM HEPs decreased significantly in the last five years. This is especially true for RNCM’s in actual numbers.
- Out of all businesses, student start-ups employed the largest number of people. This is followed by spin-offs with some HEP ownership, formal spin-offs, staff start-ups and finally social enterprises.

Key Skills Learnt

I have improved various skills. For example, my research and organisations skills when I had to look up the data within the website and filter it for the specific details the project was looking for, such as the five GM HEPs, Russell Group HEPs, the five last academic years, among others. Moreover, my analytical skills were employed when I had to analyse the trends presented in the graphs that summarised the collected data. I had to think of events that might have influenced the changes over time and other factors that might have influenced the difference between the variables. Communication skills were also crucial to convey my analyses. Apart from these, I developed office-related skills, such as teamwork, as I worked together with another Q-Step data fellow. There were some complications along the data fellowship regarding availability of software, but I was flexible and found ways to overcome the access problem.



The Royal Northern Conservatory of Music