

The University of Manchester

public benefit statement and impact

Theme-Enhancing Quality of Teaching / Transformative Student Experiences

Enhancing the Quality of Teaching

One of the challenges in returning from pandemic teaching and learning has been figuring out which changes in practice we actually want to keep. For instance, we found that increasing the proportion of online assessments was very important for equality and inclusion, and helped reduce awarding gaps between different student groups. Our University-wide project 'Assessment for the Future', led by Professor Gabrielle Finn, is using these insights to develop a Manchester approach to assessment that is inclusive, authentic and trustworthy. The project is also leading our response to the pressing challenges (and opportunities) of Generative AI.

In January 2023 we submitted our provider and student submissions for the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF), which is a condition of registration for all higher education institutions in England with more than 500 undergraduate students. A small writing team, working with Planning, the Students' Union and an Action Group drawn from around the University, pulled together a range of case studies showcasing our approach to teaching, learning and student support. We await ratings at the end of September.

TEF draws partly on data from the National Student Survey, and in the meantime we have received our NSS results for 2023. The Survey has changed considerably this year, with new questions and a four-point rather than a five-point scale for responses; so comparisons with previous years are not really possible. The new NSS focuses on an overall 'Positivity Score' based on the percentage of respondents choosing the two more positive options in their answers; our overall positivity score is 74.7%. While we remain in the lower quartile for the sector, 86% of our respondents see their courses

as intellectually stimulating, and our Students' Union had a very positive score of 74% (both above the English sector average of 84% and 72% respectively). The NSS shows that we clearly need to improve assessment and feedback, and aspects of student voice – work we have already embarked on through Assessment for the Future, and our emphasis on partnership and co-creation with our students. Of course, NSS relies on students giving their time to tell us about their experiences, and we are very pleased that this year 74% of our final year undergraduate students responded, 3% above the English sector average, and an uplift of 12% compared with our 62% response rate last year.

Many congratulations to Professor Jen O'Brien and Dr Jenny Silverthorne who have been awarded prestigious National Teaching Fellowships by Advance HE. As only 55 of these awards are available each year for the entire UK sector, this is a real success for Manchester. In the same awards round, we achieved our first ever Collaborative Award for Teaching Excellence, for Optometry. To support other colleagues in developing and enhancing their own teaching practice (with a view perhaps to being our future stars in these national awards!), we held our inaugural Teaching and Learning Conference in July 2023. Resources can be found here [ITL Teaching and Learning Conference 2023 | Institute of Teaching and Learning | StaffNet | The University of Manchester](#) if you missed out – but don't worry, the conference will be back bigger and better next year!

Transformative Student Experiences

Cost of Living

In response to the Cost of Living crisis, we launched a pioneering £9 million financial support fund in collaboration with the Students' Union from summer 2022. This sector-leading initiative aims to support student wellbeing and success.

To address the pressing issue of student living costs, we developed an extensive cost of living support package and resource hub, catering to various financial needs, mental health support, and budgeting advice. The Students' Union were bolstered with £125k to support students with recreational grants, emergency loan funds and hardship payments. Seven "Cosy Campus" spaces have been established, providing students with relaxation areas equipped with hot water, microwave stations, washing-up facilities, and cosy seating with weekly 'free breakfasts' being given out to hundreds of students.

In total, 40,906 students received a direct Cost of Living payment (totalling £6,828,815), alleviating financial stress and enabling them to focus on their studies and personal growth. An additional payment went to 10,000 students from widening participation backgrounds, demonstrating our commitment to making a tangible difference in the lives of our student community.

This £9 million financial support package, announced in November 2022, reflects our unwavering dedication to fostering an inclusive and supportive learning environment, empowering students to excel academically and reach their full potential.

Student Experience Programme

In January 2023, a significant milestone in our ongoing commitment to enhancing the student experience through our Student Experience Programme (SEP) was reached by delivering the final new structures in key student-facing teams, marking a major step forward in our mission to provide exceptional support and services to our valued students.

During the period, several student-facing areas of the University have undergone their final transition to new structures, including the Teaching, Learning, and Student Experience

teams in Schools and Faculties, PGR teams within Faculties, Schools, and central directorates, as well as DSE Student and Academic Services and DSE Campus Life.

Student Minds University Mental Health Charter Programme

In September 2021, The University of Manchester announced its participation in the Student Minds University Mental Health Charter Programme, underscoring our commitment to the mental health and wellbeing of our students and staff. This initiative entails a thorough assessment of our current approach to mental health and wellbeing, guided by the University Mental Health Charter Framework.

The Charter Programme has given an additional focus and impetus to our existing institutional priority of student and staff mental health and wellbeing. It has helped to shine a light on our whole-University approach, encouraging us to reflect on our current approach and practice across all of the different framework themes. It has also provided us with a real opportunity to build on our developing practice of working in partnership with students in this area.

In 2023/24 we will conclude the peer assessment and independent evaluation stages of the programme and develop an ambitious action plan to further build on our whole-University approach to supporting the mental health and wellbeing of our students and staff.

Redevelopment of Fallowfield Campus Student Accommodation

In June 2023, we announced our visionary plans for the redevelopment of student accommodation on the Fallowfield campus, taking a significant step forward in enhancing the residential experience for our vibrant student community. The redevelopment will create new, high-quality, purpose-built student accommodation on the Fallowfield campus, providing a supportive and safe environment for students to thrive.

As part of a carefully phased redevelopment, we are committed to increasing the supply of modern bedrooms and student socialising

spaces, creating a truly inclusive residential experience. Local stakeholders, residents, and the wider community were invited to engage and share their valuable feedback on the emerging plans, as we recognise the significance of involving all stakeholders in this transformative project to ensure it aligns with the needs and aspirations of the local community.

We will replace existing bedspaces with up to 3,300 new state-of-the-art bedspaces, resulting in a total of up to 5,400 beds across the Fallowfield campus. By expanding the accommodation options, the University seeks to increase the number of available beds by up to 950, providing students with more choices and options for high-quality, modern living quarters across this popular campus.

Research impact

Research is fundamental to The University of Manchester. We're committed to the discovery of new knowledge as well as using our research expertise and pioneering spirit to deliver solutions to the world's biggest problems and transform lives. This is exemplified through our **Research Beacons, Research Institutes and Research Platforms**.

The University of Manchester's **five research beacons** exemplify how our pioneering discoveries, interdisciplinary collaboration and cross-sector partnerships are tackling global challenges.

Over the last year our researchers have continued to make a significant contribution to the drive towards net zero. Researchers have driven policy changes in nuclear energy ensuring all options are considered as part of the UK's low carbon energy future and have addressed the electrification challenge by exploring increased transmission capacity alongside the innovative decarbonisation of electricity networks.

Experts are harnessing bioprinting capabilities in space to protect the health of space explorers, while researchers in the National Graphene Institute are developing next-generation membranes for filtration and separation technology to enable more healthy, sustainable, and responsible plant-based food production.

Our biotechnologists are at the cutting edge of developing more

sustainable medicines, creating new building materials, improving disease diagnostics and finding solutions to the global plastic waste problem.

A multidisciplinary team of over 300 scientists and researchers and 400 clinicians and operational staff, the largest concentration in Europe, have moved into the new £150m cancer research centre at The Christie NHS Foundation Trust's site. Scientists working in the new Cancer Research UK Cancer Biomarker Centre are expediting new medicine development through global clinical trial sample analysis.

Researchers have continued to address inequalities both at home and around the world, including analysing the effects of austerity, highlighting the role of climate change on migration, challenging racial bias in the judiciary, and aspiring to improve health in the city region and around the globe.

Our platforms have connected and amplified collaborations across the University contributing to research, impact and engagement locally and beyond.

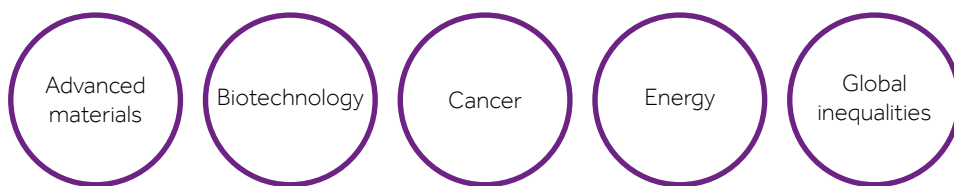
Through Creative Manchester, we have actively engaged in public research and cultural events, making impactful contributions to Manchester international festivals. Collaborations across the cultural sector have fostered community partnerships and enhanced student employability opportunities.

Our Sustainable Futures research platform has driven impactful interdisciplinary research in environmental sustainability supporting market ready innovations in energy, low carbon and construction and is working in partnership with industry and policy makers to improve plastics circularity.

With the support of Policy@Manchester, expert insights on space policy, productivity and economic performance, and health inequalities have informed engagement with politicians and policymakers. Researchers are contributing to the development of a race equality strategy for the Greater Manchester Combined Authority.

Our new Health Inequalities strategic interdisciplinary initiative will bring together researchers from primary care, medicine, business, law, policy, health economics, urban planning, data science, engineering and

Research impact

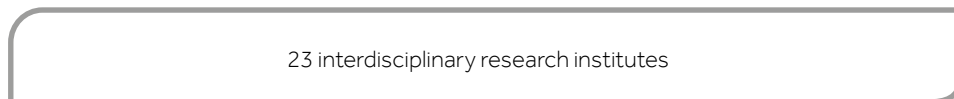


Beacons

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

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.



environmental health to work with external communities and stakeholders to close gaps in health inequalities locally, nationally and globally.

Research Exploitation

Enterprise and innovation are a critical part of our culture. Collaboration with business and other partners to develop innovations and the commercialisation and exploitation of our intellectual property (IP) form a fundamental part of our research impact. New companies and jobs have been created in the 2022/23 academic year, and valuable new products and services have been developed which have been commercialised nationally and internationally by our partners and through the formation of spin-out companies.

2022/23 was a good year in Business Engagement and Knowledge Exchange with new strategic partnerships established, existing partnerships renewed with several large multinational companies and awards from industry totalling £34.8m. The University continues to perform well in Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs) with eight new KTPs and five new projects awarded under the pilot scheme Accelerated Knowledge Transfer to Innovate. Our competitively-awarded Impact Acceleration Account (£7.9m), which is the 3rd largest in the UK and largest in the North, has been used to nurture new partnerships, drive

application and impact and support innovation. Our partnerships continue to support regional economic growth; 53% of business partners for KE projects were with SMEs, and 55% were based in the North West. The University was ranked 3rd nationally for collaborative research funding (£70.9m) in the last Higher Education Business-Community Interaction survey and we were awarded a sector leading position for Research Partnerships in the 3rd iteration of the Knowledge Exchange Framework (KEF). We were 6th in Europe for the number of collaborative publications with industry.

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 six new deep-tech and life science spinout companies in 2022/23. A total of £4.3m of first-time and £78.5m of follow-on investment was secured in spinout companies, and £3.3m of licensing income was generated from IP developed at and owned by the University. We were also awarded a sector leading position for IP and Commercialisation in the KEF. From 2004 to 2022, the University has exceeded its commercialisation KPI by achieving over £1bn of economic impact; £521.4m of gross value added and £541.9m of third party investment capital for the University's spin-out companies.

The Henry Royce Institute, headquartered at the University, received a further £95m for advanced materials research to accelerate the commercial exploitation of materials research and collaborate with business. The University was also at the centre of four new projects that have received a share of millions of pounds awarded to the GM Innovation Accelerator to turn cutting edge technologies into businesses in GM. Projects include the Turing Innovation Catalyst (cited in the budget speech) which aims to accelerate GM's £5bn digital economy by supporting existing start-ups and creating new ones, particularly in the field of AI (artificial intelligence). The Catalyst will also connect local people to opportunities and create an inclusive and diverse pipeline of AI practitioners with industry-relevant skills.

The University was also awarded funding to support GM's Advanced Diagnostic Accelerator, Development and Validation of Technology for Time Critical Genomic Testing, and the Sustainable Materials Translational Research Centre, with a particular focus on the Atom Valley Mayoral Development zone. Finally, the £1.7bn innovation district ID Manchester published its Strategic Regeneration Framework.

Theme Social Responsibility and Civic Engagement

The University of Manchester is unique in UK higher education in having social responsibility as a core goal. Significant progress has been made in all five areas of our Social Responsibility and Civic Engagement Plan. This has five key themes: Social Inclusion, Prosperous communities, Better health, Environmental sustainability and Cultural engagement. It is underpinned by a focus on People, Partnerships, Processes and Performance. These are just a small number of highlights achieved over the period.

Social inclusion

A new EDI strategy was launched based around three key priorities: Inclusive environment and culture; Diversity and equity across our community; Inclusive practice. Evidence was gathered and submitted for a new Race Equality Charter mark. We were rated 30th of all employers in the country for LGBTQ+ inclusion.

Staff in our Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences engaged a record 524,415 young people across 31 countries through the Great Science Share for Schools initiative.

A new impact report showed that 800 schools participated in 2,115 access and student success initiatives.

Prosperous communities

- > **10,000+** new jobs created
- > **Over 1,500** new homes
- > **New civic square and nature-led public spaces**
- > **Bringing historical buildings back to life**
- > **Retail, leisure, office and innovation spaces**
- > **Sustainable and regenerative**

We have engaged local communities and stakeholders with a new strategic regeneration framework for ID Manchester – our new £1.7bn joint-venture with Bruntwood SciTech. This innovation district will create over 10,000 new jobs and tackle some of humanity's greatest challenges.

Four new projects were launched as part of the government's Innovation Accelerator programme to support inclusive economic growth. We have been working with the Greater

Manchester Combined Authority and Rochdale Development Agency to support and develop the Atom Valley Mayoral Development Zone. Our Venture Further Awards supported the entrepreneurial talent of students and recent graduates with start-up funding. And we were proud to see our University feature as a good local employer in a special feature with the Manchester Evening News.

Better health

We developed new Standards for Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement (PPIE) were produced. An annual celebration of PPIE was organized involving local patients and citizens. A network for colleagues taking forward service learning in undergraduate education has been developed, focused on local public health priorities. And a new Health Tech Matters podcast was launched.

Environmental sustainability

A new strategy for Environmental Sustainability was developed and launched based around six key themes: Risk and climate resilience; Responsible procurement; Resource management; Travel and transport; Valuing nature; Construction and refurbishment. This is important because the University's Scope 1 and 2 carbon footprint fell by only 1.6% last year, far short of the 13% pathway (though is predicted to fall by ~10% in 2023).

We have published a report into the climate impact of our endowment investments which showed the carbon intensity of our endowment investments have reduced by 55% from 2019. We undertook work to understand our fuller 'Scope 3' emissions. And two labs have received gold Laboratory Efficiency Assessment Framework (LEAF) certificates after their audit in February.

Cultural engagement

Our University cultural institutions have worked to advance each of our core goals through their world-leading collections and engagement. Manchester Museum has received record numbers since its reopening early in 2023. This £15m initiative, which has benefited from significant contributions from supporters and external funders, has seen us open a two-storey extension with a new temporary exhibition space, the Lee Kai Hung Chinese Culture Gallery, a new

South Asian gallery, a Belonging Gallery and a re-imagined top-floor focused on collaboration with incubated social justice and environmental charities.

The Whitworth has appointed a new Director, Sook-Kyung Lee, to build on its mission to use art as a positive force for social change. The Jodrell Bank Centre for Engagement received a number of awards for its science engagement work at the new First Light Pavillion. The John Rylands Research Institute and Library has confirmed plans to transform the researcher and public-visitor experience, thanks to the John Rylands Next Chapter project, a £7.6 million capital investment. And our Creative Manchester platform worked with local partners to achieve excellent status by UNESCO for our UNESCO city of literature designation.

People, Partnerships and Processes.

Underpinning our five social responsibility and civic engagement priorities are a focus on people, partnerships and processes. We developed and launched a new Public Engagement Framework. We undertook a self-assessment for our work on Public and Community Engagement as part of the government's Knowledge Exchange Framework. An application was made for the renewal of our Engage Watermark at the Gold level. A new Greater Manchester Citizens' Panel was launched to involve and engage with local residents. A new online Social Responsibility and Civic Engagement Series received over 500 engagements from staff with all elements. We hosted our annual Making a Difference Awards which recognised 16 winners across 8 categories for impact on social responsibility. And our annual Community Festival opened our doors to over 2,000 people from local communities to come onto campus and find out more about our work.

Performance

Performance on social responsibility and civic engagement is measured in two key ways through the *Our Future* plan. Our first measure is to feature in the top quintile for Public and Community Engagement in the Knowledge Exchange Framework. We are currently hitting this target. Our second measure is to feature in the top 2% of universities globally in the Times Higher Education University Impact Rankings. This ranking is based

on our performance towards achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In 2023, 1,705 universities submitted data to this ranking across 115 countries. Manchester came in the top 0.12% of universities in the world. We were placed second overall in the world, first in Europe and first in the UK. We are now the only university in the world to feature in the global top 10 of universities in each of the five years since the rankings were developed in 2019.



Community Festival