MANCHESTER
1824
The University of Manchester

The University of Manchester

A global institution

The University of Manchester has a global reputation for teaching and research excellence, delivering innovation and impact in our city and across the world.

Contents

5 Hello from Manchester

6 Global partnerships

8 Forming partnerships that build tomorrow

9 Shaping the future through research

10 Discovering the next changemakers

11 Channelling innovation into business

12 Creating social and environmental impact

13 Leading the way in tackling the world's greatest challenges

14 A healthier world

17 A more sustainable world

20 Harnessing AI and digital innovation for good

23 Creativity that inspires change

26 Envisaging a prosperous, inclusive world

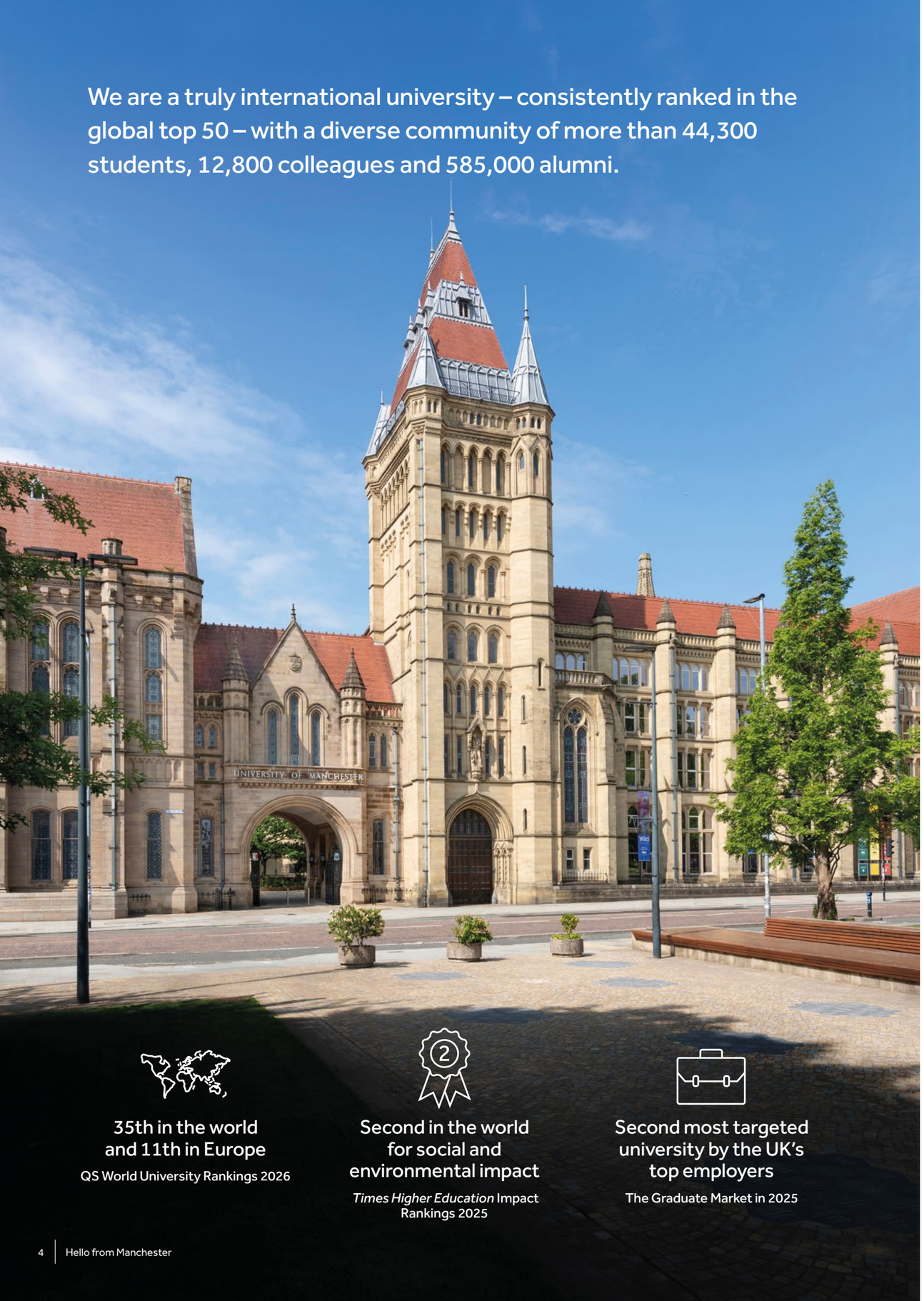
30 Africa Strategy: Investing in collaboration

32 A history of firsts

34 From Manchester for the world

35 Giving for global change

We are a truly international university – consistently ranked in the global top 50 – with a diverse community of more than 44,300 students, 12,800 colleagues and 585,000 alumni.



35th in the world and 11th in Europe

QS World University Rankings 2026

Second in the world for social and environmental impact

Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2025

Second most targeted university by the UK's top employers

The Graduate Market in 2025

Hello from Manchester

The world's greatest challenges transcend borders. From pandemics to energy crises, humanitarian disasters to climate change, it is through international partnerships that we can create a fairer, greener, healthier world. Our leading research capabilities, combined with our commitment to social responsibility, make us the perfect partner for discovery and innovation.

We combine expertise from across disciplines to find solutions to pressing problems in key areas ranging from cancer, poverty and energy. By partnering with other leading institutions, we give students the opportunity to access the best teaching and learning experiences, here in Manchester and around the world. We provide scholarships for the very best students globally from all backgrounds to help them realise their potential and make a positive impact on the world. We connect with businesses, large and small, to exchange knowledge, advance new technologies and help bring crucial products to market. Our innovation capabilities are second to none – from the first stored-program computer to the isolation of graphene, we are always at the forefront of new discoveries.

Our people drive our success: whether that's our 44,300+ students – including one of the UK's largest international student populations – or our leading academics and colleagues, forging strong partnerships with fellow institutions and global companies. We have a rich history of academic excellence, with 26 Nobel laureates among our current and former staff and students, and our 585,000-strong worldwide alumni community embodies our vision and values across the world. Our first global fundraising and volunteering campaign will provide new opportunities for our community to support the next generation of students, researchers, creators and innovators.

An integral part in a city of firsts, we draw our pioneering spirit from our hometown, Manchester – the birthplace of social movements, industrial innovations, music legends and sporting triumphs that shaped the modern world. For more than 200 years, we have taken this drive and determination into our global partnerships, inspiring each other to make an impact in communities around the world.

As we move into our third century, our new strategy to 2035 will define what it means to be a great civic university in the 21st century, by combining excellence with impact, consistently and creatively. We know that what makes us distinctive is how we connect our research, students, partners and civic institutions locally and globally to achieve more together. International partnerships and innovation will go hand-in-hand as we tackle shared challenges through interdisciplinary collaboration.

Professor Stephen Flint

Associate Vice-President International
October 2025

Global partnerships

The University of Manchester is globally connected through our research, teaching, partnerships, collaborations and social responsibility. This map showcases a selection of our partnerships across the continents.

Manchester, Melbourne and Toronto Alliance

Trilateral collaboration providing world-class opportunities for industry, researchers and students.

3
continents

187,000
students

45,000
staff

Scan the QR code for more information

North America

The University of Texas at Austin, US
Research engagement with seed fund

University of Washington, Seattle, US
Research engagement

Special relationship partners

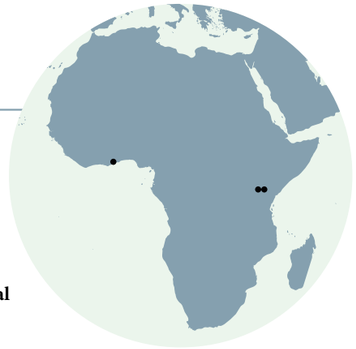
- Morehouse College, US
- Spelman College, US
- Vassar College, US
- Xavier University, US

South America

Universidad de Chile
Research engagement and dual award PhD programme

Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile
Global Humanities Alliance partner

Africa

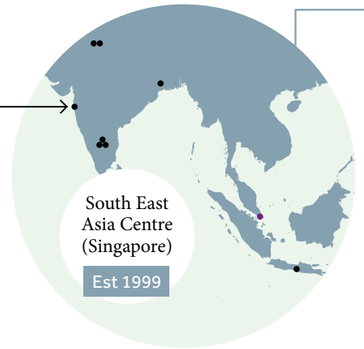


University of Ghana, West Africa
Research engagement

University of Nairobi, Kenya
Global Humanities Alliance partner and research engagement

Kenyatta University Teaching, Referral and Research Hospital, Kenya
Research engagement and partnerships

South and South East Asia



Tata Steel
Mumbai, India
Set up a Centre for Innovation in Advanced Materials at The University of Manchester

Ashoka University, India
Global Humanities Alliance partner, research engagement with seed fund and research and teaching collaborations

O.P. Jindal Global University, India
Research engagement with seed fund and research and teaching collaboration

IISc Bangalore, India
Research engagement with seed fund and joint PhD programme

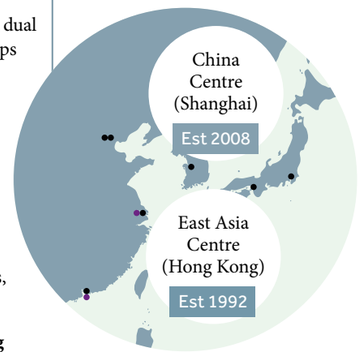
Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bangalore, India
Research engagement with seed fund

IIT Kharagpur, India
Research engagement and dual award PhD programme

Manipal Academy of Higher Education, India
Research engagement with seed fund

Ghadja Mada University, Indonesia
Global Humanities Alliance partner and research engagement

East Asia



Tsinghua University, Beijing, China
Research engagement and partnerships, dual award PhD programme and studentships

Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Shanghai, China
Research engagement and Chinese Scholarship Council Innovative Talent Platform

Peking University Health Science Center, China
Research engagement and partnerships, CSC Innovative Talent Platform

The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Research engagement with seed fund and research collaboration

University of Tokyo, Japan
Research engagement and dual award PhD programme

The University of Osaka, Japan
Research engagement with seed fund

Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology
Research engagement and partnerships

Europe

KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden
Research engagement with seed fund and joint research programmes

Stockholm University, Sweden
Research engagement with seed fund and joint research programmes

Heidelberg University, Germany
Research engagement with seedcorn fund and research partner

University of Bordeaux, France
Research engagement and seedcorn fund

Middle East and North Africa

Tel Aviv University, Israel
Research engagement with seed fund

Mansoura University, Egypt
3,000 medical graduates across 19 years from the Mansoura Manchester Medical Programme, plus jointly run Dental and Pharmacy Programmes

Alexandria University, Egypt
Joint medical and dentistry programmes

40,000+
publications with international collaboration*
2019–2025

8,000+
collaborations with international teams and academics*
2020–2025

* Data generated via SciVal (09.10.2025)

Forming partnerships that build tomorrow

The University partners with leading institutions and businesses across the globe to enhance and propel research, share expertise and provide life-changing opportunities for students.

International partnerships give us the opportunity to learn from others, exchange knowledge, ideas and research, and discover solutions both at a local and international level. Our partnerships create a forum to listen; to pose shared questions, and identify the problems that matter globally.

A global partner

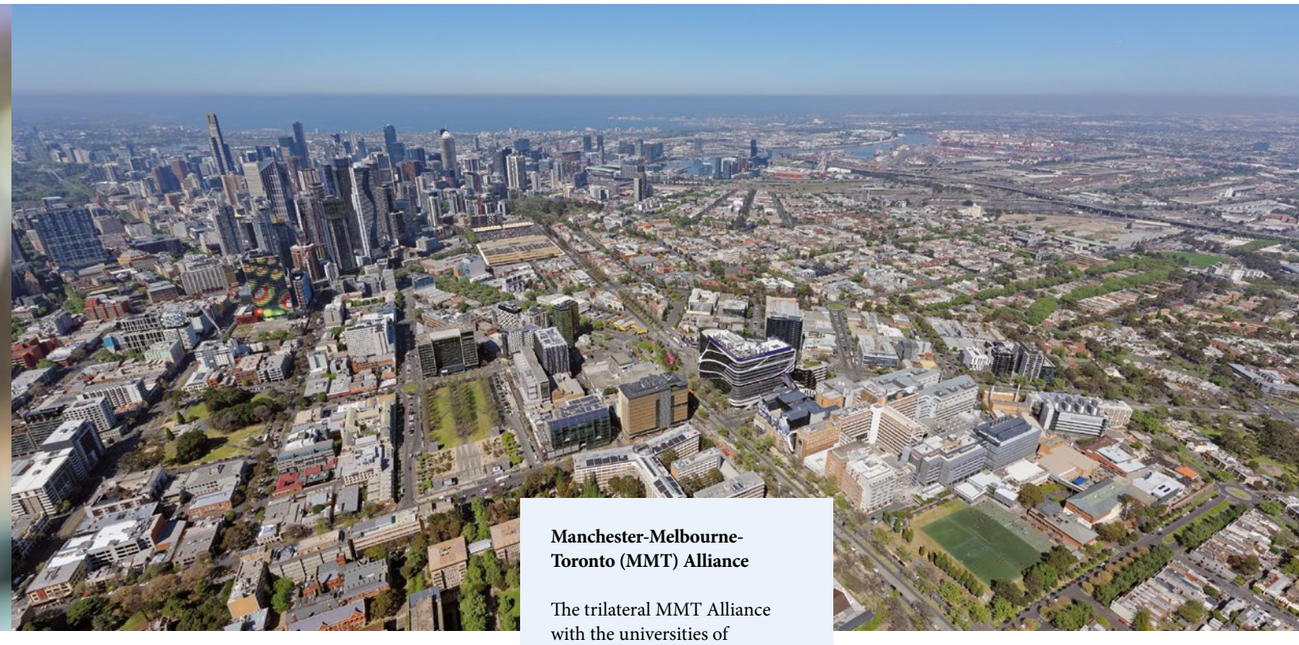
Find out more about our work and the benefits of international collaboration:

uom.link/global

A shared student community, through joint programmes, funding and exchange, provides not only high-quality education, but also the chance to learn, collaborate and strengthen mobility and connections with industry, and regional and national governments.

Through collaboration, we are co-creating solutions to the world's biggest challenges.

Shaping the future through research



Manchester-Melbourne-Toronto (MMT) Alliance

The trilateral MMT Alliance with the universities of Manchester, Melbourne and Toronto brings together 187,000 students and 45,000 staff across three continents to promote vital knowledge exchange in areas including sustainable consumption, cultural industries, indigenous populations, digital health, advanced materials and cancer. Researchers have access to specialist facilities that support collaborative working, while students benefit from world-renowned teachers, innovative classrooms and leading exchange schemes.

We are not alone in our ambition to create a better world. We partner with leading institutions and businesses globally to advance our joint research and explore transformative solutions that cater to the growing complexities of the modern world.

The ongoing civic engagement between the cities of Osaka and Manchester is complemented by our partnership with Osaka University, and facilitates increased research engagement in several areas. This includes environmental sustainability, advanced materials – such as in photonics, nano and quantum materials – and biotechnology. Overall, the partnership looks to strengthen the science and boost innovation in these key spaces.

We have a partnership with Heidelberg University in Germany and annual research seed funding with universities including the KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm University, Tel Aviv University, The Chinese University of Hong Kong and The University of Bordeaux. We also conduct dual or joint PhD programmes with Tsinghua University, University of Tokyo, The University of Melbourne, IISc Bangalore, IIT Kharagpur, University of Chile and Peking University.

Discovering the next changemakers

Through relationships with fellow leading institutions, we are helping to shape the world's future leaders. Our special relationship partnerships with US colleges, including Vassar, Morehouse, Spelman and Xavier University, create a collaborative environment that supports academic growth, mutual learning and meaningful connections. Manchester is supporting Faculty and student exchanges, joint research projects and the Global Classrooms initiative to enrich the educational experience for students on both sides of the Atlantic.

Within the *Healthy China 2030* policy, it is recognised that China lacks community pharmacies. Our partnership with The China Pharmaceutical University is addressing the gap by enabling Chinese students to develop the skills necessary to work in clinical pharmacy through collaborative teaching and learning.

Student exchange also forms part of our collaborations with Shanghai Jiao Tong University and Peking University Health Science Centre. We have been awarded two China Scholarship Council Innovative Talent Platforms, which allow the exchange between Manchester, Beijing and Shanghai of PhD students and post-doctoral fellows within healthcare and life sciences.

We created joint doctoral programmes with both the Indian Institute of Science in Bengaluru and the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur. In Bengaluru, we're building on research collaborations in graphene, atmospheric sciences, advanced manufacturing and artificial intelligence. In Kharagpur, we're bolstering work in environmental geochemistry, biomaterials and Industry 4.0. Our dual doctoral programme with Universidad de Chile focuses on electronic and electrical engineering.

Two Egyptian universities are collaborating with us to enhance medical training programmes and create a more sustainable workforce that has the skills and qualifications to work

internationally. At Mansoura University, Manchester has helped to expand its medical programme by adapting teaching and learning methods for the Egyptian system, while also making the course more attractive to overseas students. In a second partnership, we have established a joint-award medical programme with Alexandria University, which offers a degree from both institutions. These collaborations also offer staff exchanges, giving educators the opportunity to explore new approaches to teaching.

Channelling innovation into business

Skin ageing and repair research from the University and Walgreen Boots Alliance led to the development of No7 Future Renew, a world-first super peptide blend supporting the skin's natural repair process.

We're based in Manchester, but our partnerships are creating impact across the world. From working with local businesses to boost our regional ecosystem to collaborating with global conglomerates on transformative projects, we're at the forefront of positive change.

Professor Rahul Nair of the National Graphene Institute is partnering with the Carlsberg group to develop next-generation membranes for filtration and separation technology for the food and beverage sector. This is part of the Royal Academy of Engineering's Research Chair scheme, which promotes collaboration between academia and business to tackle engineering challenges. The project will explore how graphene and other 2D materials-based membranes can be used for healthy, sustainable and responsible plant-based food production.

Amentum, a global leader in advanced engineering, has signed a memorandum of understanding with the University to drive pioneering research and develop new technology solutions. The partnership has been instrumental in extending the lifespan of UK nuclear power stations and advancing reactor technologies. Recently, Amentum and EPSRC funded the Centre for Robotic Autonomy in Demanding and Long-Lasting Environments with the University (team pictured left), to develop robotics for hazardous environments and explore the societal, ethical and regulatory impacts of autonomous systems.

For more than 20 years, the University has collaborated with Walgreen Boots Alliance to examine the characteristics of skin ageing and the role of the environment in accelerating the process. This includes testing the efficacy of anti-ageing technologies to inform the development of more effective interventions for consumers. The programme covers a broad range of dermatological research including clinical testing, basic biology, analytical science, pharmacy and regenerative medicine.

Since its initiation, the collaboration has filed seven patents and published 61 academic articles. The University was also successful in its 2023 bid for Prosperity Partnerships funding from the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council. Known as Project Spectrum, the multi-million pound partnership looks to redress a historical imbalance in the existing body of skin research, with darker skin tones underrepresented. It represents an exciting evolution of the collaboration, uniting national and international experts in skin biology, photobiology and gerontology.

Creating social and environmental impact

We were the first university in the UK to have social responsibility as one of our core goals.

Our commitment is exemplified through programmes including Researching the Impact of Attacks on Healthcare. This global, multi-institution, interdisciplinary programme is dedicated to improving understanding of the short- and long-term impact of attacks on healthcare in areas experiencing armed conflict. In 2024 alone, there were 3,623 incidents of threats and violence to health workers across 36 countries.

This research is crucial in helping to improve the resilience of health programmes, enable effective mitigation measures and initiate long-term policy changes.

We're also partnering with global sustainable development consultancy, Arup, to drive cutting-edge research and create impactful change across engineering, mathematics, urban planning, social value and sustainability.

The Equity and Merit Scholarship Programme

The Programme was set up in 2007 to give opportunities to academically-gifted individuals who are making a positive impact on the economic and social development of their home communities. So far, 465 students from Ethiopia, Malawi, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe have been offered scholarships for master's study.

Alumni from the programme have gone on to use the knowledge, skills and experience gained to find innovative solutions to global problems of poverty and inequality. One of the graduates, Emmanuel Ahabwe (pictured above), is now Head of the Social and Affordable Housing Development Department for the Rwanda Housing Authority.

Leading the way in tackling the world's greatest challenges

The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a global call to action on the most urgent challenges facing humanity and the planet. With their unique role in creating and sharing knowledge, universities play a vital part in addressing these issues and driving progress.

Since its foundation, the University has been at the forefront of innovation; taking a pioneering spirit to tackling challenges and providing opportunities for more than 200 years. Today, that commitment shapes our strategy to 2035, *From Manchester for the world*, which brings together students, colleagues, alumni and partners to create solutions for a healthier, greener, culturally richer, more inclusive and prosperous world. Our commitment to the UN SDGs is central to this vision.

We are proud to be the only university in the world to rank in the global top ten for social and environmental impact in every year of the *Times Higher Education* Impact Rankings. Through our research platforms – Creative Manchester, Digital Futures, Sustainable Futures and Healthier Futures – we connect expertise across disciplines to address the causes of inequality, climate change, poor health and more. This is turning knowledge into action that delivers tangible benefits locally and globally.

Each case study in this publication links to one or more of the UN SDGs to highlight how our research and partnerships are helping to build a fairer, healthier and more sustainable future for all.

A healthier world

Our researchers are working with partners to provide fairer access to healthcare services and improve the health of global populations.

Research platform: Healthier Futures

The Healthier Futures platform is The University of Manchester's initiative to tackle health inequalities. Our goal is to remove the unfair and avoidable barriers that prevent people from living healthier lives, in healthier places, with fair access to health and social care. Our work reflects our commitment to the equitable delivery of precision treatments to people of all ethnicities, genders, sexualities, beliefs and backgrounds.

Through partnerships across sectors and on every scale – local, national and global – we draw on our world-class research to shape interventions that advance fairer health for everyone.

We put this into action by building capacity, nurturing interdisciplinary teams, and backing projects that tackle the social factors which shape health. And crucially, we are working in close collaboration with the practitioners, policymakers and communities most affected, ensuring that solutions are designed and led by them.

Improving cancer outcomes in Kenya

Kenya has one of the highest rates of oesophageal cancer in the world. It affects men and women equally, and mortality rates are almost identical to the number of cases. It is a cancer that can progress undetected until late stage, when treatment options are very limited.

Dr Suzanne Johnson, Senior Lecturer and Programme Director in Transformative Oncology at The University of Manchester, is collaborating with Kenyatta University Teaching, Research and Referral Hospital to improve survival rates in Kenya.

> "We are working with our Kenyan colleagues to build a trusted network of researchers, community health workers, clinicians, patients and carers who will enable us to gather data about the early signs and symptoms, lifestyle choices and practices, help-seeking behaviours and access to care. These insights are essential to inform future interventions and build improvement."
>
> **Dr Suzanne Johnson**

Delivering education in modern healthcare

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

The University of Manchester partnered with Mansoura University to expand and modernise medical education in Egypt. The Mansoura-Manchester Medical Programme introduced competency-based teaching methods that encourage independent learning and critical thinking, moving away from the traditional memorisation model.

The programme has since grown significantly from its first cohort of 60 students in 2006; it now welcomes nearly 400 annually, with around half coming from outside Egypt. Students from 45 different countries – including those from conflict-affected regions – have gained access to high-quality medical training, often supported by scholarships.

By preparing graduates to meet the demands of modern healthcare – both locally and internationally – the Mansoura-Manchester Medical Programme is helping to address the predicted 10 to 14.5 million global shortage of doctors by 2030 (highlighted by the World Health Organisation).

A more sustainable world

As the planet faces more climate challenges than ever before, it is the responsibility of leading institutions like ours to find innovative solutions to support the future health of our world.

Research platform: Sustainable Futures

Sustainable Futures harnesses The University of Manchester's world-leading research to confront some of the most urgent environmental challenges threatening our world today.

The platform brings together experts across disciplines to focus on issues such as climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, food security, land use and energy. By combining knowledge and skills, these teams are creating innovative, evidence-based solutions with real global impact for a more sustainable planet.

Working with researchers, policymakers, industry and communities, the platform addresses pressing global needs while advancing Greater Manchester's reputation for environmental sustainability leadership. Our mission is to accelerate systemic change that benefits both people and planet.

Transforming sustainability for a low-carbon future

The Joined Up Sustainability Transformations (JUST) Centre is focused on the pursuit of sustainability transformations that are people-centred, 'joined-up' and socially just. Funded by the UK's Economic and Social Research Council, this five-year Centre explores existing initiatives adopted by communities, municipalities and businesses to pursue low-carbon living (LCL). Focused on five regions in the north of England, UK, and with national and international reach and significance, JUST works with community partners to not only learn from existing LCL initiatives but to also co-produce new ones.

The JUST Centre is born from evidence that there is an urgent need to go beyond technical and behavioural responses to climate change in order to consider the social and political barriers at work. Placing equity, justice and inclusion at its heart, JUST explores the multiple dimensions (economic, ethical, political, socio-technical and political) of LCL transformations and the interactions between them.

It seeks to understand which LCL initiatives work, when, where and for whom – and how those may be scaled up and developed in other areas. It considers what governments, businesses, and communities can learn from place-based, co-produced action research and how sustainability transformations can be accelerated in places that benefit least from dominant economic and political systems.

A JUST toolkit will provide communities, businesses and policymakers with a suite of tools to accelerate joined up sustainability transformations.


Credit: Norsepower

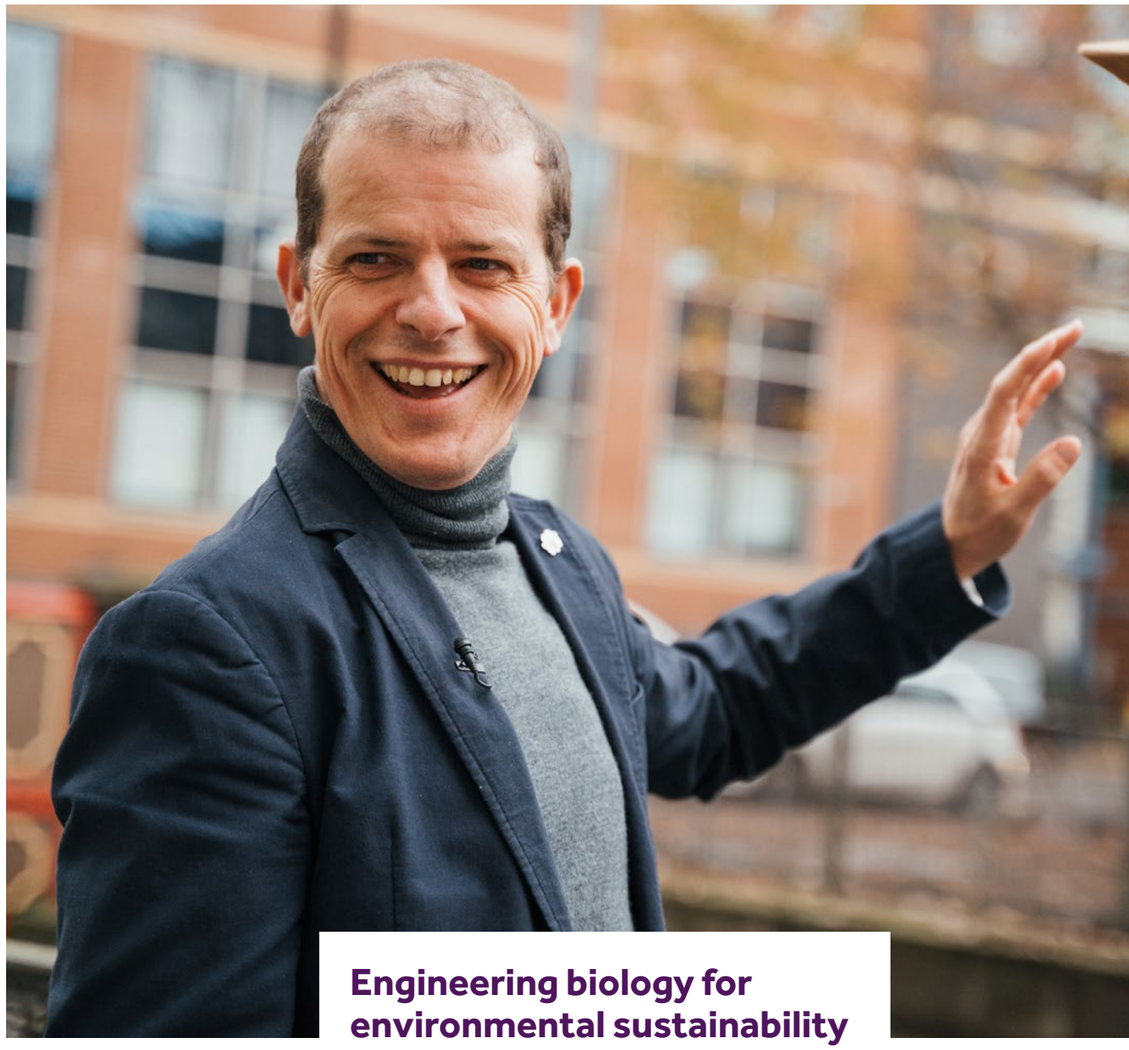
Driving maritime decarbonisation at local, national and global levels

The Tyndall Centre at The University of Manchester is leading research to cut greenhouse gas emissions from international shipping. Our work combines technological innovation with policy engagement to accelerate near-term decarbonisation at local, national and global levels.

Locally, our research with industry has led to the deployment of low-carbon shore-power electricity infrastructure at the Port of Aberdeen and identified solutions to policy-barriers hindering shore-power's wider deployment.

Nationally, our researchers are using advanced modelling and optimisation tools to assess how modern sails and improved voyage planning can reduce fuel use by over 30%. This evidence is helping industry and policymakers understand how ships can cut emissions this decade.

Globally, by setting out emissions pathways compatible with the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C temperature limit for the shipping sector, our research has directly informed negotiations at the International Maritime Organization, shaping its 2023 climate strategy and supporting the UK government's submissions.



Engineering biology for environmental sustainability

The University of Manchester is working with leading institutions in South Korea to develop innovative technologies that support a more sustainable world. Through the Engineering Biology Korea UK (EBKU) partnership, researchers are exploring how biology can help solve environmental challenges and reduce reliance on fossil-based processes.

Neil Dixon, Professor of Sustainable Biotechnology, is based at the internationally recognised Manchester Institute of Biotechnology and is part of this international team. His research focuses on using engineered microbes to create sustainable materials and chemicals. These biological solutions have the potential to transform industries by enabling cleaner manufacturing and supporting a circular economy.

The EBKU partnership brings together experts from both countries to share knowledge, accelerate innovation and develop practical applications in areas such as bio-manufacturing, waste reduction and low-carbon technologies. By combining scientific expertise and resources, the collaboration is helping to address some of the most pressing environmental issues of our time.

This partnership reflects the University's commitment to global collaboration and real-world impact. It demonstrates how international research networks can drive progress and deliver solutions that benefit both local communities and the wider world.

Harnessing AI and digital innovation for good

Digital innovation and artificial intelligence are transforming the way we live, work and respond to global challenges. At The University of Manchester, we bring together world-leading expertise across disciplines to shape these technologies for public good.

Research platform: Digital Futures

Digital Futures unites more than 2,000 researchers from 30 disciplines across all three of The University of Manchester's Faculties. By building multidisciplinary communities, the platform tackles major research challenges, supports new and emerging fields, and works with partners to advance Greater Manchester's ambitions as a leading digital city-region.

Our researchers address the great issues facing the world in the 21st century, where science, engineering, society, economy and quality of life overlap. By combining expertise across disciplines, Digital Futures delivers both cutting-edge research and solutions that respond to the needs of the government, business and communities.

The platform's work is organised into five pillars – Cultures, Environments, Health, Economy and Society – reflecting the breadth of our capabilities and the impact we aim to achieve.

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

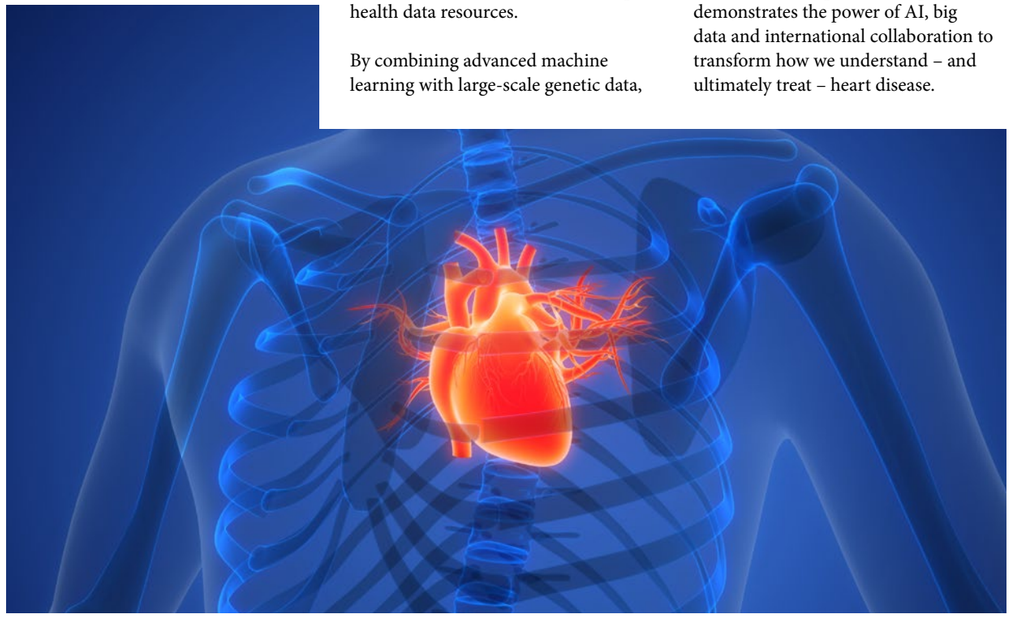
17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Unveiling the genetics and anatomical basis of the beating heart using deep learning

The University of Manchester's Centre for Computational Imaging and Modelling in Medicine at the Christabel Pankhurst Institute for Health Technology Research and Innovation led a pioneering study that used deep learning to uncover the genetic factors that shape the heart. Working with partners in the UK, Argentina and the US, the team analysed more than 50,000 three-dimensional MRI scans from UK Biobank – one of the world's leading health data resources.

By combining advanced machine learning with large-scale genetic data, the researchers identified dozens of previously unknown genetic markers linked to the structure and function of the heart's left ventricle. These discoveries provide fresh insight into the biological mechanisms behind cardiovascular disease and open new possibilities for precision treatments.

Funded by the Royal Academy of Engineering, the British Heart Foundation, the Royal Society and CONICET in Argentina, the project demonstrates the power of AI, big data and international collaboration to transform how we understand – and ultimately treat – heart disease.



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Enabling machine learning in real-world environments

We are proud to collaborate with ELLIS Institute Finland on a groundbreaking initiative to tackle artificial intelligence's biggest challenges – enabling machine learning systems to work effectively in real-world environments.

The project takes a new approach that blends human expertise with machine learning through design-build-test-learn cycles. This method mirrors how experimental science operates by adding a simulation stage where human insight guides model development. Through this, the team aims to overcome the limits of current AI systems, which struggle to generalise beyond narrow training data.

This pioneering international partnership between leading institutions in Manchester and Helsinki is set to deliver breakthroughs with impact reaching far beyond both cities, shaping the future of AI research worldwide.


Credit: Centre for Information Resilience

Combatting online gender-based violence in Ethiopia

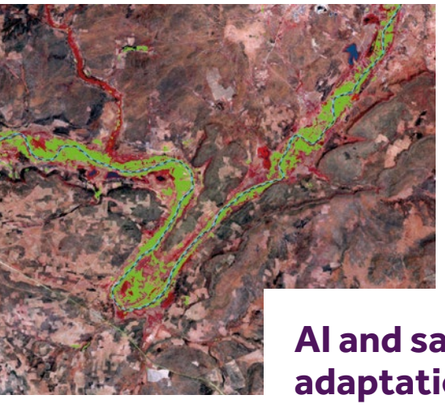
5 GENDER EQUALITY

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

The rise of online abuse is a growing challenge worldwide, and in Ethiopia, women are often the most affected. To address this, researchers at The University of Manchester worked with the Centre for Information Resilience on A Data-driven Analysis of Technology-facilitated Gender-based Violence project – to tackle online misogyny and technology-facilitated gender-based violence in Ethiopia.

The team created new tools and datasets in four major Ethiopian languages, including a keyword list and an annotated database of harmful content. These tools provided a clearer picture of how online violence is experienced and led to a detailed report and 34 practical policy recommendations.

The findings were shared widely through the media, a national conference and international forums, and have already shaped new strategies to reduce online violence against women in Ethiopia.



AI and satellite data driving climate adaptation in Sub-Saharan Africa

13 CLIMATE ACTION

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Expanding and improving access to irrigation is vital for climate adaptation and food security in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). Yet, in many SSA countries, reliable information about existing irrigation is limited, making it difficult to plan and invest effectively.

Our research combines advances in Satellite Earth Observation imagery, AI and cloud computing to map irrigation across the region at a scale and resolution never seen before. These detailed maps show where and when farmers are adopting irrigation, helping governments, development agencies, NGOs and private sector organisations in SSA target investment where it will have the greatest impact.

The project also focuses on building skills in AI within local governments and organisations in SSA. By strengthening national and regional capacity to use these ever-evolving tools, the research is helping to ensure irrigation services reach the farmers who need them most while advancing progress towards the UN SDGs.

Creativity that inspires change

Our vision for a cultural and creative world is to harness the power of arts, heritage and creativity to inspire change, strengthen communities and connect people across the globe.

Research platform: Creative Manchester

Since its founding in 2018, Creative Manchester has grown from a small research project into one of the University's four major research platforms.

We partner with leading cultural figures and organisations, including UNESCO, Manchester International Festival and Carcanet Press, to create opportunities for collaboration across research, teaching and the cultural industries.

Our work is structured around three themes – Creative Industries and Innovations, Creativity, Health and Wellbeing, and Creative and Civic Futures – each helping to shape projects with real social and cultural impact across the city, the UK and beyond.

Creative Manchester is positioning the University as a hub of creativity, driving research that connects local, national and international communities.

Sharing stories of identity and resilience through repatriation

Manchester Museum's collaboration with the Anindilyakwa community of Groote Eylandt is a powerful example of how repatriation can be a gain rather than a loss. In 2023, the Museum returned 174 cultural heritage items – a milestone that has since led to the groundbreaking exhibition Anindilyakwa Arts: Stories from our Country.

Created in partnership with Anindilyakwa artists and Elders, the exhibition in the Museum's Belonging Gallery shares powerful stories of identity, belonging and resilience, offering audiences in Manchester a deeply personal perspective on the country's contemporary arts practice.

As part of the exhibition, families in Manchester are also being given a rare opportunity to handle museum objects. Annual sessions with Dadikwakwa-kwa – a set of beautifully decorated shell dolls – help to bring the collection to life and ensure this cross-community partnership continues to grow.

Rediscovering Manchester's Black music heritage

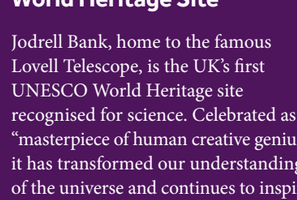
In June 2025, the Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre hosted Creative Manchester's annual research showcase as part of its Solstice and Equinox series. The event brought together leading voices from music, culture and academia to explore Manchester's untold music heritage.

A highlight of the event was an in-conversation between internationally renowned Soul II Soul founder, Jazzie B and acclaimed historian, broadcaster and the University's Professor of Public History, David Olusoga OBE. Set against the iconic Lovell Telescope, the discussion traced the influence of Black British music and subculture on today's cultural landscape.

The showcase also premiered *The Jazzie B Archives*, a film created in collaboration with the British Pop Archives and Creative Manchester. It documents Jazzie B's involvement in a University of Manchester research project and offers an intimate look at his personal archive, his Caribbean heritage, career and the rise of Soul II Soul.

UNESCO City of Literature

Manchester is home to historic libraries, publishers, festivals and a vibrant writing community shaped by voices like Anthony Burgess, Elizabeth Gaskell and Lemn Sissay. As a UNESCO City of Literature, it is part of the global network of Creative Cities, celebrating diverse voices and placing reading and writing at the heart of local and global culture.



UNESCO City of Lifelong Learning

UNESCO recognises Manchester as a City of Lifelong Learning, and we reflect this by partnering with organisations to deliver flexible, high-impact learning opportunities for all career stages that address real-world business challenges. We work with partners across industries to design bespoke courses, co-develop new training approaches and validate in-house programmes, ensuring they meet rigorous academic standards.

Jodrell UNESCO World Heritage Site

Jodrell Bank, home to the famous Lovell Telescope, is the UK's first UNESCO World Heritage site recognised for science. Celebrated as a "masterpiece of human creative genius", it has transformed our understanding of the universe and continues to inspire global audiences through discovery, culture and education. Jodrell Bank is also headquarters to the Square Kilometre Array Observatory – the world's largest radio telescope project.

Envisaging a prosperous, inclusive world

Our vision for a prosperous and inclusive world is rooted in creating opportunity and equity on a global scale. We are committed to advancing economic wellbeing, reducing inequalities and building resilient systems that enable all communities to thrive.

Global Development Institute

For more than 65 years, The University of Manchester has led the field in Development Studies. Today, the Global Development Institute (GDI) is Europe's largest dedicated institute for development research and teaching, bringing together more than 500 master's and PhD students with world-leading academics.

Our researchers tackle urgent global challenges – poverty, inequality, climate change, migration, digital transformation and urbanisation – working with partners across the Global South to deliver sustainable solutions.

Ranked second in the UK in the last Research Excellence Framework and 11th in the world (QS 2024) for Development Studies, we are proud to lead Manchester's contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. With a global alumni community of 10,000 alumni (Global Development Studies) shaping policy and practice worldwide, GDI is driving ideas and action for a fairer, more sustainable future.

5 GENDER EQUALITY

Accelerating gender equality in India, Brazil and the UK

Women remain underrepresented in science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine (STEMM) worldwide, hindering diversity, innovation and economic growth.

To accelerate progress towards gender equality in STEMM in higher education and research institutions, The University of Manchester has worked in partnership with more than 15 institutions in India, Brazil and the UK through two major initiatives, Gender Advancement for Transforming Institutions (GATI; India-UK) and the Women in Science (WiS; Brazil-UK) programmes over 2021–2024.

With support from the British Council (Going Global Partnerships), AdvanceHE and India's Department of Science and Technology, these partnerships have enabled stronger networks, informed locally contextualized gender equality action plans, fostered international sharing of best practice, and promoted systemic change. The University's involvement in these projects was highlighted at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW69) in 2025.

These partnerships have created vibrant communities of practice that continue to accelerate gender equality in STEMM internationally, building a more equitable future for all.

Transforming emergency care through global partnership

The Humanitarian and Conflict Response Institute (HCRI) supports the University's commitment to socially responsible and humanitarian research. Through initiatives such as the Kisii County Ambulance Service Development Programme, we translate research into tangible improvements in global emergency healthcare.

Through the Developing Humanitarian Medicine research project, we are exploring the evolution of humanitarian medical practices and norms. Collaborating with NGOs such as Médecins Sans Frontières and UK-Med, our research will inform humanitarian practice and transform the use of evidence from the recent past.

These initiatives demonstrate our humanitarian approach, combining interdisciplinary research with direct collaboration to improve health outcomes, strengthen emergency response systems, and ensure that the science of humanitarian care stays connected to the people it serves.

Catalysing inclusive change in African cities

Africa is the world's fastest urbanising region, with its rapidly growing cities providing both a huge challenge and a critical opportunity. Led by academics at the Global Development Institute, the African Cities Research Consortium (ACRC) is an innovative approach to the challenge of catalysing sustainable and inclusive change in urban centres.

With £32m in funding from FCDO, ACRC is using 'action research' to bring together academics, think tanks, community organisations, government officials and business to tackle complex problems in Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Uganda and Zimbabwe. By generating new evidence and fostering mutual understanding, we're demonstrating how issues around waste, sanitation, youth, employment and climate resilience can be improved for the most marginalised communities.

Strengthening emergency response in Kenya

Road traffic accidents are a leading cause of serious injuries and fatalities in rural Kenya – yet many communities have limited or no access to trained first responders or coordinated systems to act quickly. This gap can result in delayed care and preventable deaths.

To address this urgent challenge, the University is working with the Kisii County Government, Kisii University, St John Ambulance Kenya and volunteers from the North West Ambulance Service to establish the region's first professional ambulance service. Together, we are building the workforce, skills and systems needed to deliver high-quality emergency care in line with the Kenyan Emergency Medical Care Strategy 2020–2025.

By 2029, depending on further funding, 72 officers will be trained to fully operate the region's fleet of 11 ambulances. In addition, the programme will train 750 members of the public in life-saving first aid and establish a recognised, self-sustaining Community First Response training programme at Kisii University.

This initiative ensures that emergency care is available and sustainable for the future – strengthening resilience and creating a healthier world.

Global Humanities Alliance

The Global Humanities Alliance (GHA) brings together eight leading universities to strengthen the global role of the humanities and social sciences. By combining diverse expertise, the Alliance addresses shared challenges such as sustainability, digital transformation and knowledge diversity.

Each member is committed to working together to ensure our students are fit to be engaged, value-driven, and knowledgeable citizens of the world.

As a founding member, The University of Manchester plays a key role in advancing this mission. We expand international research in areas such as creativity, inequality and sustainability, while enriching the student experience with globally connected education that prepares graduates to thrive in an interconnected world.

Africa Strategy: Investing in collaboration

Through our Africa Strategy, the University seeks to work with institutions across the African continent to work on shared questions and co-create solutions that will deliver lasting impact.

Africa Futures Doctoral Scholarships in Science and Engineering

Providing opportunities both for the career development of outstanding early career scientists and engineers from Africa and also building upon existing partnership with Africa institutions, The University of Manchester Science and Engineering Doctoral Futures Scholarships represent a strong symbol of our commitment to positive impact partnership for Africa. This year's cohort of starting scholars represent all of North, West, East and South regions of Africa, and include both natural science and engineering focussed projects. Project themes include the development of anti-malarial vaccines, understanding climate change related targets in the mining industry and using AI to protect vulnerable people from online bullying and attacks. These projects are strongly cross-disciplined, with several involving collaborations not just with partners in Africa but also across Faculties at The University of Manchester.

Global partnership improves breast cancer outcomes in Kenya

Breast cancer is one of the most pressing health challenges in Kenya, with late diagnosis leading to poor survival rates. Until recently, many women faced waits of up to nine months between finding a lump and receiving a diagnosis.

The University of Manchester has helped to establish the country's first Comprehensive Breast Care Centre for Excellence at Kenyatta University Teaching, Referral and Research Hospital. Built on models developed in Manchester, the centre offers rapid access to screening, diagnosis and treatment. Today, the time from referral to diagnosis has been reduced to just one day.

Manchester experts have supported the hospital by advising on equipment, training healthcare professionals and sharing research that underpins clinical practice. The result has been improved access to care and a greater capacity to treat patients within Kenya, reducing the need for families to seek treatment abroad.

This collaboration is helping Kenya achieve its Vision 2030 ambition of providing healthcare for all and serves as a model of how international partnerships can improve outcomes for cancer patients across Africa.

Protecting communities from waterborne diseases in East Africa

In East Africa, contaminated water is a major source of illness, spreading diseases such as cholera, typhoid and schistosomiasis. Boreholes, often used as a solution, are frequently polluted with harmful chemicals, while climate change intensifies the problem through flooding and drought. These pressures increase the risk of zoonotic diseases in landscapes where people, livestock and wildlife share limited water sources.

The University of Manchester is working with partners in Kenya and Tanzania to investigate how water availability and quality shape disease transmission. The project combines innovative tools for monitoring wildlife health with community engagement and training for early-career researchers across the region.

By strengthening surveillance and building a lasting network of veterinarians, academics and conservationists, this collaboration is informing sustainable water management and public health strategies, helping reduce disease risks and improve health outcomes across East Africa.

A history of firsts

Founded in 1824, The University of Manchester is home to some of the world's greatest discoveries and pioneering ideas. In 2024 we celebrated our bicentenary, reflecting on 200 years of education, research and innovation, while looking forward to what our third century could bring.

1824

Manchester Mechanics' Institution

Part of a national movement for the education of working men, the Manchester Mechanics' Institution was founded to teach the science of practical application to mechanics and artisans.

1880

The first civic university

Owens College becomes part of the Victoria University of Manchester, England's first civic university, built by and for the people of Manchester.

1904

Catherine Chisholm CBE

The first woman to graduate from Manchester Medical School, Catherine Chisholm established the Duchess of York Hospital for Babies in 1936 and the Manchester Paediatrics Society in 1948. She is considered the founder of modern neonatology.

1917

Changing the world forever

Nobel Prize winner and CARA's first President, Ernest Rutherford creates the first artificially-induced nuclear reaction and, in turn, initiates the field of nuclear physics.

1918

Votes for women

University Law alumna Christabel Pankhurst campaigns for women's right to vote and helps get The Representation of the People Act passed.

1945

Fifth Pan-African Congress

The fifth Pan-African Congress takes place in Manchester in October 1945. It was the first time since World War II that emerging African leaders, including those who became the first presidents of Kenya, Malawi and Ghana, took on the struggle to demand freedom for the African Nations.

2025

Strategy to 2035

In October 2025 we launched our first decadal strategy, *From Manchester for the world*. Built with our community, this strategy sets out the bold leaps we'll take to become a great civic university for the 21st century.

2004

The home of graphene

Sirs Andre Geim and Kostya Novoselov are the first to isolate the properties of graphene, a 2D material thinner than a human hair, yet 200 times stronger than steel.

1957

Tracking the stars

Sirs Bernard Lovell and Charles Husband complete the Lovell Telescope at Jodrell Bank – the largest steerable dish radio telescope in the world at 76 metres.

1950

The beginnings of artificial intelligence

Based at the University, mathematician Alan Turing creates The Turing Test, a method of determining whether a machine can demonstrate human intelligence.

1948

Britain's first Black professor

Sir William Arthur Lewis is appointed Chair of Manchester, making him the first Black professor in Britain. His work later wins him the Nobel Prize in Economics.

1948

The birth of modern computing

The Manchester Small-Scale Experimental Machine, known as 'the Baby', becomes the world's first computer to successfully run a program stored electronically in its memory.

From Manchester
for the world

Our strategy to 2035

Becoming a great 21st century university

The world is changing, fast. Climate, tech, geopolitics – everything is shifting.

But this isn't the first time Manchester has risen to the moment. We were born as an answer. The first modern civic university, built for an industrial age. Now, it's our turn to define what a great university looks like for the 21st century, creating knowledge for the public good, locally and globally.

This is our North Star: *From Manchester for the world*

Discover our strategy to 2035:
manchester.ac.uk/2035

Giving for global change

CHALLENGE ACCEPTED

At The University of Manchester, turning world-changing discoveries into practical impact is what we do. From initiating the field of nuclear physics to isolating graphene, from building the first programmable computer to challenging social norms, we've led the way. Born in the world's first industrial city, we've always pursued new ideas, creating knowledge for public good - from Manchester, for the world.

But today's challenges demand more. The great universities shaping our future are going to be the ones that get their work out into the world and make a difference, faster. Creating impact that otherwise wouldn't happen. That's why we're mobilising our entire community through fundraising and volunteering. By connecting our brilliant people, academics, students, partners, alumni and civic leaders, we can achieve more.

With your support, we're turning giving into global change. Together, we can get cancer drugs out of labs and into patients more quickly. We can become Europe's most impactful innovation network. We'll harness our cultural institutions as engines of inclusion and creativity. And we'll prepare students from all backgrounds to become the leaders and citizens who will take us forward.

Because the future won't be shaped by those who wait. It will be shaped by those who say: **Challenge accepted.**

Scan the QR code or visit manchester.ac.uk/give to find out how our fundraising and volunteering campaign is driving change.

Tackling sustainability with wonder material graphene.
Challenge accepted.

Dr Vivek Koncherry
Founder of Graphene Innovations Manchester, backed by donor support

Find out more about our global work

The University of Manchester
Oxford Road
Manchester
M13 9PL
United Kingdom

manchester.ac.uk

Royal Charter Number RC000797
3962 10.25