

The University of Manchester public benefit statement and impact

Impact in Teaching, Learning and Student Experience

The University of Manchester is committed to excellence in teaching, learning and broader student experiences. We aim to attract all students who can benefit from a Manchester education, regardless of their background, to study with us – and to go out afterwards to contribute to society and to achieve success and happiness in their careers.

According to the national Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) 2023, we're doing pretty well. In September 2023 we were delighted to be awarded TEF Silver overall, with Silver for Student Experience, and Gold for Student Outcomes. While we know we have work to do in improving aspects of our student experience (especially in assessment and feedback and student voice), our Gold rating for Student Outcomes is something we can all be proud of. It shows that students stay the course after their first year; achieve good degrees; and have a highly effective springboard into excellent careers.

One of the best aspects of preparing that TEF submission was working with our Students' Union (UMSU). Every year our Teaching, Learning and Students teams are privileged to work closely with an exceptional group of Student Union Officers, who developed an independent TEF Student Submission alongside Students' Union staff. This is just one part of the extraordinary range of work UMSU does every year with and on behalf of our students. Their research projects in 2023-24 involved speaking to over 18,000 students (exponentially up from the 6,040 who were involved in 2018-19). Over 15,000 students voted in at least one SU election over the past year; and the SU has elected, trained and supported 1,649 course reps. A new student representation policy means there are no gaps in representation across the University for the first time – with students now being able to put

themselves forward to be reps and to access training without taking part in elections, which can be daunting for new arrivals and for students from particular backgrounds. The SU is a greatly appreciated and expert source of advice, handling over 18,000 enquiries and 3,107 cases in the past year; and memberships of their 482 student societies have continued to rise to 22,951, meaning that nearly 1 in 2 of our students is engaged in at least one student group. This is above pre-pandemic levels, providing important evidence that students are re-engaging with social and co-curricular opportunities that support their sense of belonging and build confidence.

As reported last year, the University and the Students' Union also cooperated closely on supporting students through the cost of living crisis. While inflation has reduced, pressures on student finances have not; and we continue to work towards providing additional, tailored financial support for our students. While the University does provide considerable funding from our own resources, many donors, alumni and friends are also keen to help, notably through our new Manchester Access and Success Fund (MASF) which is an important part of the University's new fundraising and volunteering Campaign. This year, MASF has supported students to join societies and buy sports kit which they could not otherwise have afforded; and to take part fully in graduation, where expenses for photography, gown hire and guest attendance can mount up. We have also seen a range of extremely generous donations intended to enable care leavers and care experienced students to come to Manchester and thrive when they are with us, including the Sadler Bursaries www.manchester.ac.uk/about/news/15m-gift-from-simon-sadler.

Financial and other assistance for underrepresented student groups is crucial to our Access and Participation Plan (APP), submitted to the Office for Students in May 2024. The plan outlines six objectives to address key

risks in equality of opportunity for access, success, and progression. We aim to enable successful transitions into Higher Education, address access barriers, boost confidence, and provide tailored support through mentorship, transparent guidance, and collaboration with schools, colleges, charities, and the wider Greater Manchester community. Our approach includes initiatives to improve attainment, leverage data and technology, and ensure inclusive environments where all students feel connected and succeed. This includes creating comfortable spaces for commuting students and analysing student demographics like ethnicity and gender to ensure fair support for everyone. Feedback on the plan is expected in the coming months.

In collaboration with our students, we have been continuing the significant task of re-writing all our policies around assessment and feedback. We are both 'translating' these into language that is still clear, but much more student-facing and friendly; and ensuring we are doing assessment in the right way and as a crucial part of student learning. We were pleased to have Senate's agreement that University of Manchester assessment should follow the core principles of being inclusive, relevant and trustworthy.

Finally, enhancing our teaching and learning depends on supporting our excellent teachers and teaching leaders. We are delighted to have been successfully reaccruited by AdvanceHE to deliver and assess Fellowships at every level from Associate Fellow to Principal Fellow, a major success for our Institute for Teaching and Learning. And we are currently celebrating the announcement of a new National Teaching Fellowship (NTF) for Dr Minjie Xing, Senior Language Tutor in the School of Arts, Languages and Cultures; and for the second consecutive year, a CATE (Collaborative Award for Teaching Excellence), this time for the University of Manchester Library Student Team www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/library/news/display/?id=31891). These awards are

extremely competitive, with only 55 NTFs and 17 CATEs this year for the whole sector, so this is excellent news. It also means that Jennie Blake, Head of Teaching and Learning Development for the Library and Academic Lead for Student Success, is the University's first 'triple crown' awardee, with a National Teaching Fellowship, a CATE award and a Principal Fellowship of the HEA. Well done, Jennie!

With plans and progress already advancing on a range of projects for 2024-25, we expect to provide updates next year on:

- Improvements in our package of financial support for students;
- Supporting staff and students through technological innovation, including our new Central Learning Environment and Engagement Analytics;
- Progress on the Residences Project;
- Our Student Mental Health Charter application and action plan.

Research impact

The University is committed to using our research expertise and pioneering spirit to deliver solutions to the world's biggest problems and transform lives. The research beacons (www.manchester.ac.uk/research/beacons), platforms (www.manchester.ac.uk/research/structure/platforms) and institutes (www.manchester.ac.uk/research/structure/institutes) collectively enhance our research impact, drive innovation, address societal challenges, and foster collaboration across disciplines and industries.

October 2024 marked the 20th year since the isolation of graphene. Our experts' work in this area has been highlighted at the Graphene Industry Showcase and at The Cockcroft Ruthford lecture with Professor Sir Andre Geim (www.manchester.ac.uk/about/news/immersive-event-showcases-graphenemanchesters-capabilities-to-industry). Our researchers continue to make progress in solving real-world problems, for example, by creating the world's purest silicon, which is crucial for advancing quantum computing.

In the area of biotechnology, our researchers have received funding to advance knowledge on applying engineering biology to improve

healthcare and the environment. The launch of the Industrial Biotechnology Innovation Catalyst (www.mib.manchester.ac.uk/ib-innovation-catalyst) will support translating fundamental biotechnology research from the lab to the real world.

The One in Two cancer research podcast (www.manchester.ac.uk/research/beacons/cancer/one-in-two-podcast), which has a global audience, demonstrates how our outstanding cancer researchers are helping to level-up access to cancer prevention, detection and treatment across the globe. A new state of the art National Biomarker Centre (www.manchester.ac.uk/about/news/cancer-research-uk-national-biomarker-centre-opens) will help experts detect cancer at an earlier stage.

Energy researchers are working to resolve current challenges; developing solutions that can deliver rapid reductions in carbon emissions and exploring how new technologies, from nuclear fusion to biologically produced hydrogen, could change the way we produce and use energy forever.

Addressing global inequalities remains a focus with our research efforts aimed at understanding and mitigating social disparities. This interdisciplinary work spans areas of health, education, and economic development, aiming to create more equitable societies locally and worldwide.

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

Creative Manchester are working with colleagues across Greater Manchester as part of the UK's first Centre of Excellence for Music and Dementia (www.manchester.ac.uk/about/news/uks-first-centre-of-excellence-for-music-and-dementia-hosted-by-manchester-camerata).

Digital Futures has been developing new industry relationships with NVIDIA and Epic Games, exploring potential research collaborations in the areas of air pollution monitoring, transport network planning and virtual (in silico) clinical trials.

Healthier Futures has received investment from the University to use interdisciplinary research and

stakeholder engagement and outreach to better understand the root causes of health inequalities and how to reduce them.

Our Sustainable Futures platform has contributed significantly to the University being awarded accreditation status by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) (www.unep.org), one of only twenty universities worldwide to receive this accolade.

As part of the Bicentenary Festival (universallymanchester.com), our research platforms unveiled The Art of Research, pieces of street art inspired by research from across the University.

Engagement with policymakers locally and nationally takes place through Policy@Manchester and the Greater Manchester Policy Hub (www.policy.manchester.ac.uk/gm-policy-hub). In the last year our researchers have contributed to policy discussions on a wide range of issues including health, poverty, sustainable communities and transport.

Research Exploitation

Collaboration with business and other partners to develop innovations and the exploitation of our intellectual property (IP) form a fundamental part of our research impact. Our work during 2023/24 has helped develop valuable new products and services, which have been commercialised nationally and internationally by our partners and through the formation of spin-out companies creating jobs and growth, principally in our region.

Forging diverse, mutually beneficial, long-standing partnerships with business remains a core priority. Our Business Engagement and Knowledge Exchange team (BEKE) supported 154 new awards with industry totalling £37.6m (↑58%). The latest HESA industry research income data (www.hesa.ac.uk/data-and-analysis/finances/income) ranks us 6th nationally with £25.4m from industry (↑14% and 3 places).

We have significantly developed our support for SMEs, establishing our first SME strategic partnership, and are proudly ranked 2nd in the UK for SME contract research (www.hesa.ac.uk/data-and-analysis/business-community/services). A Manchester-based SME that accessed support through the Graphene Engineering

Innovation Centre's Bridging the Gap project said:

"It (the R&D underpinning product development) just wouldn't have happened. It couldn't, we didn't have the background knowledge, the materials knowledge of where to source the materials, or of the different techniques that were available" - BEP Surface Technologies Ltd.

The University remains a sector leader in Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs) securing 6 new awards during 2023/24 bringing the total portfolio to 22 projects and £6.2m. Our competitively awarded Impact Acceleration Account (£15.6m), one of the largest and most diverse in the UK, has been used to nurture new partnerships, drive application, impact and support innovation.

We have continued to grow and strengthen our institutional strategic business partnerships and now boast one of the largest and diverse portfolios in our peer group, with 22 strategic partners. Renewal of the Wallgreen Boots (www.manchester.ac.uk/about/news/university-of-manchester-boots-and-no7-beauty-company-renew-20-year-partnership-to-supercharge-skin-science-advancements) Alliance 20-year multi-million-pound partnership supporting a key national skincare business; and securing new partnerships with Tata Steel, in partnership with the Royce Institute and Siemens Energy were notable highlights this year (kef.ac.uk/dashboard).

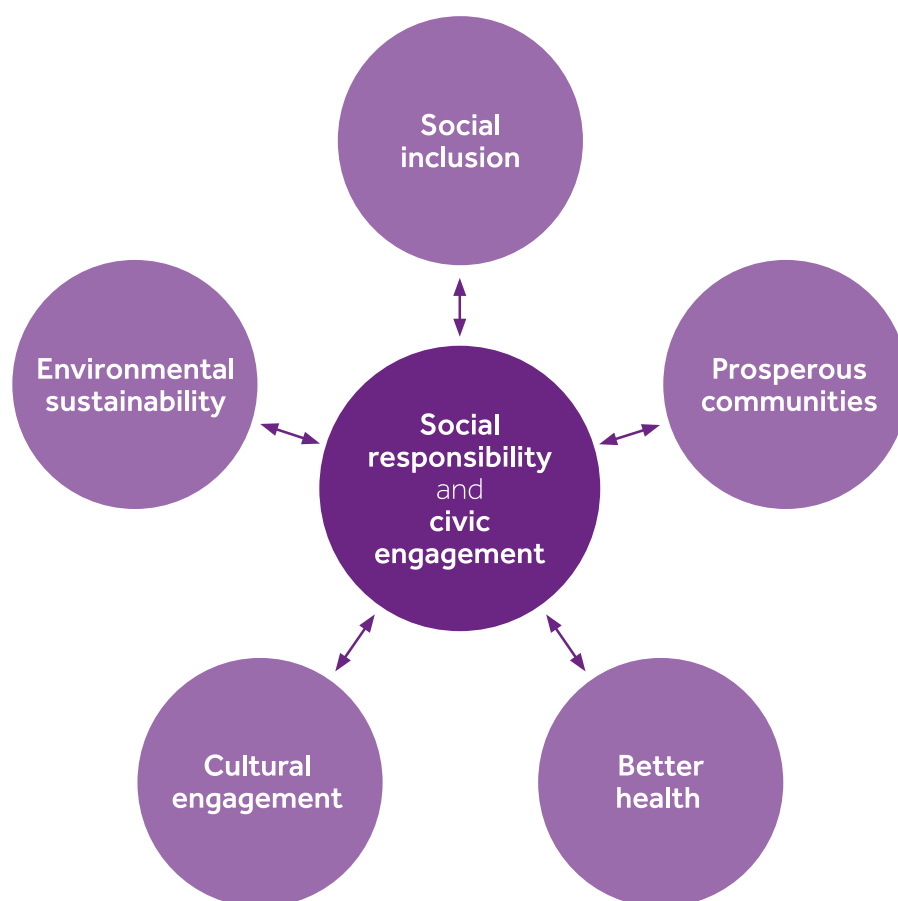
The University of Manchester Innovation Factory Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary responsible for the commercialisation of IP, launched 7 new deep-tech and life science spinout companies in 2023/24. A total of £9.2m of first-time and £66.5m of follow-on investment was secured in spinout companies, and £2.3m of licensing income was generated from IP developed at and owned by the University providing innovative solutions to health and other societal challenges. We maintained our sector leading position for IP and Commercialisation in the KEF.

The University continues to attract important infrastructural investment to the region. Following the announcement of a Greater Manchester Investment Zone, we received £5m to run a deep tech

accelerator programme and our £1.7bn joint venture with Bruntwood SciTech (BST), ID Manchester (trading as Sister), also received £15m to fund infrastructure. This Investment Zone focusses on advanced materials and manufacturing and will build on our longer-term ambitions to be able to scale deploy innovations in our growth businesses, e.g. through Atom Valley. The site of UK Biobank's new £75m headquarters at Manchester Science Park was officially marked for construction in 2024. The site will be located alongside fast-growth life science businesses, and it is supported by a £127.6m award from the UK Research and Innovation Infrastructure Fund.

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: Social Inclusion, Prosperous communities, Better health, Cultural engagement and Environmental sustainability'. This plan 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

We were awarded a prestigious Silver Charter Mark for our work to advance race equality. We gained Disability Confident Leader status from the Business Disability Forum. And all nine Schools in the University hold Athena Swan Awards for gender equality – five at Silver and four at Bronze level. More than 400 students from Ethiopia, Malawi, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe have now benefited from our longstanding Equity and Merit Scholarship awards, where talented Master's graduates use their Manchester education to make a significant contribution to sustainable development in their home nations. We received a transformational £1.5 million gift (www.socialresponsibility.manchester.ac.uk/all-news/1-5-million-gift-from-simon-sadler-enables-provision-of-a-new-bursary-for-care-leavers) from British businessman and University of Manchester alumnus Simon Sadler to launch a new bursary for students leaving care. And our Great Science Share for Schools (GSSfS) initiative, a pioneering campaign dedicated to fostering scientific curiosity and education among young learners, engaged a record 658,675 young people across 40 countries. It was also granted the prestigious patronage of the United Kingdom National Commission for UNESCO (www.socialresponsibility.manchester.ac.uk/all-news/a-milestone-in-science-education).

[manchester.ac.uk/all-news/1-5-million-gift-from-simon-sadler-enables-provision-of-a-new-bursary-for-care-leavers](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/all-news/1-5-million-gift-from-simon-sadler-enables-provision-of-a-new-bursary-for-care-leavers)) from British businessman and University of Manchester alumnus Simon Sadler to launch a new bursary for students leaving care. And our Great Science Share for Schools (GSSfS) initiative, a pioneering campaign dedicated to fostering scientific curiosity and education among young learners, engaged a record 658,675 young people across 40 countries. It was also granted the prestigious patronage of the United Kingdom National Commission for UNESCO (www.socialresponsibility.manchester.ac.uk/all-news/a-milestone-in-science-education).

Prosperous communities

Following public consultation (www.manchester.ac.uk/discover/news/public-consultation-launches-for-new-17bn-innovation-district-id-manchester) Bruntwood SciTech and the University of Manchester published a Strategic Regeneration Framework for the ID Manchester (trading as Sister) site to set out the scale, ambition and opportunities this new innovation district will bring to the city and beyond.

We achieved the maximum possible rating of 'very high engagement' for intellectual property and commercialisation in the government's Knowledge Exchange Framework. Our Masood Entrepreneurship Centre (MEC) awarded funds to a number of social and environmental start-ups at the annual Venture Further Awards. And significant progress was made on our four Greater Manchester Innovation Accelerator projects (www.socialresponsibility.manchester.ac.uk/all-news/major-government-funding-for-greater-manchester-innovation-in-materials-health-and-ai) – The Manchester Turing Innovation Hub, The Greater Manchester Advanced Diagnostics Accelerator, the Development and Validation of Technology for Time Critical Genomic Testing (DEVOTE) programme and The Sustainable Materials Translational Research Centre. These are taking the research in our University and translating that into good jobs, inclusive economic growth, and better health outcomes for citizens across the whole of Greater Manchester.



Great Science Share for Schools

Better health

We entered into a tripartite agreement with local universities and county governments in the Western region of Kenya to build six new healthcare campuses. This has involved licensing University of Manchester programmes, staff development and technical advice in medicine, dentistry, pharmacy and nursing. Five new *One in Two* podcasts were released across all major listening platforms to engage people around the world with our cancer research and clinical innovations. New student-led health clinics were developed on campus as part of a drive to embed social responsibility into Pharmacy teaching and learning at The University of Manchester. And co-produced research from our Lydia Becker Institute in partnership with the local Ardwick community on levels of clean



ID Manchester (trading as Sister)

air led to the development of a new Green Route initiative so that local people could avoid the worst exposure to toxic pollutants.

Cultural engagement

Our University cultural institutions have worked to advance our core goals through their world-leading collections and engagement. The Whitworth won the Creative Community category in this year's Spirit of Manchester awards for their original project, *Still Parents: Life After Baby Loss*. They also became the first gallery in the North-West of England to achieve Gallery of Sanctuary status (www.socialresponsibility.manchester.ac.uk/all-news/the-whitworth-is-awarded-gallery-of-sanctuary-status), pledging to welcome people from a forced displacement background. Our Manchester Museum was proud to host a delegation for the unconditional return of 174 cultural heritage items to the Aboriginal Anindilyakwa community, helping to create a more socially responsible future for our museum based on inclusivity, imagination, and care. They were also unveiled as one of five finalists for Art Fund Museum of the Year 2024, the world's largest museum prize (www.socialresponsibility.manchester.ac.uk/all-news/manchester-museum-announced-as-finalist-for-museum-of-the-year-awards-2024). Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal visited Jodrell Bank to mark the occasion of Jodrell Bank Observatory being awarded UNESCO World Heritage Status (www.manchester.ac.uk/about/news/jodrell-bank-welcomes-her-royal-highness-the-princess-royal-in-celebration-of-unesco-world-heritage-status). And our John Rylands Research Institute and Library opened the 'We have always been here' exhibition to explore stories of identity in its collections, especially those from its Ahmed Iqbal Ullah RACE Centre.

Our Creative Manchester platform worked with local partners as part of Manchester City of Literature's Festival of Libraries, highlighting the work of our Centre for New Writing, Linguistic Diversity Collective and programmes in American Studies. Ten podcasts were released as part of our bicentenary Talk 200 series (www.manchester.ac.uk/discover/bicentenary/talk-200), including contributions from Professor Chris Whitty, Chancellor Nazir Afzal OBE and author Andy Spinoza. And



The launch of the new 'Green Routes' initiative in partnership with communities in Ardwick



Universally Manchester Festival 2024



Making a Difference Awards

Universally Manchester – a four-day festival to celebrate our bicentenary year – saw thousands of people engage with 150 activities across 4 days in June to mark our 200th anniversary.

Environmental sustainability

We signed a landmark deal for 65% of our electricity demand being met through a brand-new 104,000 panel solar farm (www.socialresponsibility.manchester.ac.uk/all-news/104000-panel-solar-farm-set-to-power-the-university-of-manchester). This decade-long Corporate Power Purchase Agreement (cPPA) will reduce our carbon emissions by 12,000 t/co₂ every year – enough to power 21,000 homes. We won the 2030 Climate Action prize at the prestigious UK and Ireland Green Gown Awards (www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/bmh/about-fbmh/news-and-events/news/display/?id=30677) in recognition of our “forward-looking and innovative” work to decarbonise our University’s operations. And our Geography laboratories were certified as operating to a Gold standard in the Laboratory Efficiency Assessment Framework (LEAF).

We have been engaging staff and students to monitor wildlife on campus through use of iNaturalist, a free, easy to use app. We delivered a new Sustainability Careers Week to help students explore roles in environment and sustainability sectors. And our

campus was brought alive with over 46 events as part of Sustainability Action Month (www.socialresponsibility.manchester.ac.uk/all-news/sustainability-action-month-a-month-of-impact-and-inspiration).

People, Partnerships and Processes.

Underpinning our five social responsibility and civic engagement priorities are a focus on people, partnerships and processes. We worked with the National Co-ordinating Centre for Public Engagement (NCCPE) on a 12-month independent review of our commitment to public engagement (www.socialresponsibility.manchester.ac.uk/all-news/university-of-manchester-wins-platinum-engage-watermark-for-excellence-in-public-engagement). This led to the highest possible Platinum Watermark status (www.publicengagement.ac.uk/engage-watermark) – one of only two universities to achieve this status. We worked with our regional Civic University Board partners to lead a Greater Manchester Citizens’ Panel, encouraging citizen voice to be reflected in the priorities of our region’s universities. Our Civic University Board have also progressed partnerships with our Further Education Colleges, supported the development of the Greater Manchester Student Assembly and worked on a programme mapping

our green skills provision.

We were proud to play a lead role in Manchester becoming a UNESCO City of Lifelong Learning in recognition of outstanding efforts to make lifelong learning a reality across our city region. We delivered our 10th annual Making a Difference Awards (www.socialresponsibility.manchester.ac.uk/all-news/making-a-difference-awards-2024-winners-and-highly-commended) to celebrate the inspiring social responsibility achievements of our staff, students, alumni and external partners. And hundreds of student projects were profiled as part of national Student Volunteering Week and outstanding individuals recognized at our prestigious annual Volunteer of the Year awards.

Performance

We have two key measures of success for social responsibility and civic engagement.

Measure 1: *Top quintile in the government’s Knowledge Exchange Framework (KEF) for Public and Community Engagement.* We currently perform in the highest quintile, helped in large part by our Platinum Watermark status for public engagement.

Measure 2: *Top 2% of universities globally in the Times Higher Education University Impact Rankings.* Out of a record 2,152 universities from 125 countries, Manchester was ranked first



World ranking

in the UK, first in Europe and second in the world performance towards the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), easily falling within the target to be in the top 2% of universities globally. We are the only university in the world to be top-10 ranked in every year since their inception in 2019. In addition to this, we received news that, in a newer QS Sustainability ranking based on performance on Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) measures, we were also placed first in the UK, first in Europe and third in the world.



Novelist Anthony Burgess studied English at the University.



Dame Christabel Pankhurst, graduated in law when it was illegal for women to practise.



Sir Arthur Lewis, Britain's first Black professor, (1979 Nobel Prize for Economics).