

Community engagement

We are proud of our origins in the city of Birmingham. Today, our research, graduates, staff and partnerships all contribute towards the health of the city and the region's business, communities and citizens.

The University contributes to the city and region in a number of ways. From our Community Day to the research-based relationships with local businesses, we continue to deliver Joseph Chamberlain's vision of a university committed to improving the future of the city.



Working with the region

Our Research and Commercial Services team work with our academic colleagues to develop an extensive portfolio of projects, which benefit regional businesses and industries; many of them supported and funded by [Advantage West Midlands \(http://www.advantagewm.co.uk/\)](http://www.advantagewm.co.uk/), the Regional Development Agency.

Community Open Day - opening our doors to the city

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Our University was built with the support of the local region and its people; support which is vital to its continued success.

To celebrate over 100 years of partnership, in June 2010 we held our first Community Day, welcoming the people of the city and region onto our campus to give them an opportunity to explore first-hand the work that takes place here.

Visitors were able to get involved in our latest research, learn how our students support the local community and enjoy fun activities with our many societies. If that wasn't enough, guests were invited to explore the campus, taking in our museums, botanic garden and art gallery, and then enjoy language taster sessions, sporting activities, a fun fair, and much more.

Visitor to the Community Day: "I attended the Community Day at the University last week with my family and I just wanted to tell you how much we all enjoyed it. There was much more to do than we ever expected..... Please can you organise another one next year so that we may see some more of the University and learn a few more things!"

Birmingham Science City Initiative

The Birmingham Science City Initiative sits at the heart of the University's partnership with the city and the region. Science Cities were launched in 2005 [to] attract a critical mass of innovative businesses and become drivers of regional growth'.

Birmingham has partnered with the University of Warwick to develop cutting-edge research initiatives in the following areas: advanced materials; digital media; energy; medical technology, and healthcare and transport technologies.

BSC ideas for life: "Birmingham Science City will develop and use science and technology to improve the prosperity and quality of life of the city-region, the West Midlands and the UK. This will be achieved together with a wide number of partners from private and public sectors and the region's HE institutions and research organisations."

You can [visit the Advantage West Midlands website \(http://www.advantagewm.co.uk/\)](http://www.advantagewm.co.uk/) and download [the Birmingham Science City Prospectus \(PDF – 460KB\) \(http://www.advantagewm.co.uk/Images/Birmingham-science-city-prospectus_tcm9-5032.pdf\)](http://www.advantagewm.co.uk/Images/Birmingham-science-city-prospectus_tcm9-5032.pdf) here.

Outreach activities with schools and colleges

As part of our commitment to ensure access to a University education to any student with the potential to succeed, we work with local schools and colleges to spot talent. We have an extensive programme of initiatives developed in collaboration with teachers that result in large numbers of local young people enrolling at Birmingham, or another higher education institution, who otherwise might not have had the opportunity.

Access to Birmingham (A2B)

The A2B Scheme, created in 2000, is designed for students from families or communities who have little or no experience of higher education. It provides the opportunity to find out what applying and studying at university involves. To apply for the scheme, students must be from a state school or college in the greater West Midlands area that has signed up to the A2B scheme with the University's Outreach Office. Students must also meet the criteria for the scheme.