

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..

Community Open Day 2012

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With plenty of activities and events to choose from, as can be seen from our extensive [programme \(/Documents/oncampus/6756-Community-day-programme-\(WEB\)-AW-Final.pdf\)](#) (PDF - 2.23 MB) the 2012 Community Day was a huge success thanks to your support.

It was estimated that around 10,000 visitors descended on campus. Everyone had the chance to explore our museums, [historic house and garden \(http://www.winterbourne.org.uk\)](#) and [fine art gallery \(http://www.barber.org.uk\)](#), get involved in our latest research on health and sustainability, and enjoy local food from the [farmers' markets \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/community/facilities/retail/FarmersMarkets.aspx\)](#).

During the event we asked some of the general public visitors about the Community Day and engagement with the University.

- 63.2% agreed or strongly agreed that 'the University communicates well with its local community', 22.8% neither agreed nor disagreed and 14% disagreed
- 92.4% agreed or strongly agreed that 'the Community Day is an effective way for the University to communicate with its local community'
- 72.6% agreed or strongly agreed that they 'understand more about the work taking place at the University having attended the Community Day'
- 70.6% agreed or strongly agreed that they 'know more about University facilities available to them having attended the Community Day'

Thanks for making 2012's event memorable, the only question is... how will we beat that in 2013? Come along next year on Sunday the 9 June 2013 and see why we received such an enthusiastic response!

Visitor to the Community Day: "I just wanted to let you know that I attended the University's community day on Sunday with my family and had a wonderful time. My oldest son spent most of the time at the dinosaur dig! He couldn't believe the size of the dinosaur skulls."

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 [Birmingham Science City website \(http://www.birminghamsciencecity.co.uk/\)](#) for more information and download [the Birmingham Science City Prospectus \(PDF - 460KB\) \(http://www.advantagewm.co.uk/Images/Birmingham-science-city-prospectus_tcm9-5032.pdf\)](#) 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.