

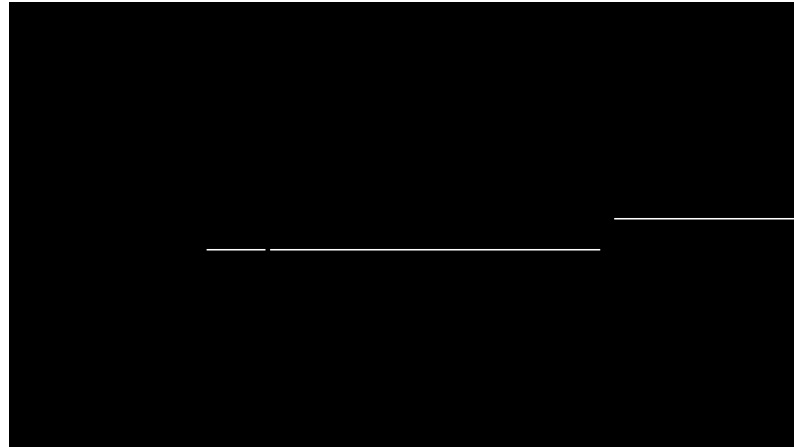
Birmingham today

Birmingham is constantly developing and evolving in its desire to become a leading global university. This is being achieved through our enhanced research power and reach; the distinctiveness of our exceptional student experience; the breadth and depth of our academic portfolio; our size and the extent of our global networks.

There are some example below of how Birmingham is moving towards a future as a leading global university.

Birmingham named University of the Year

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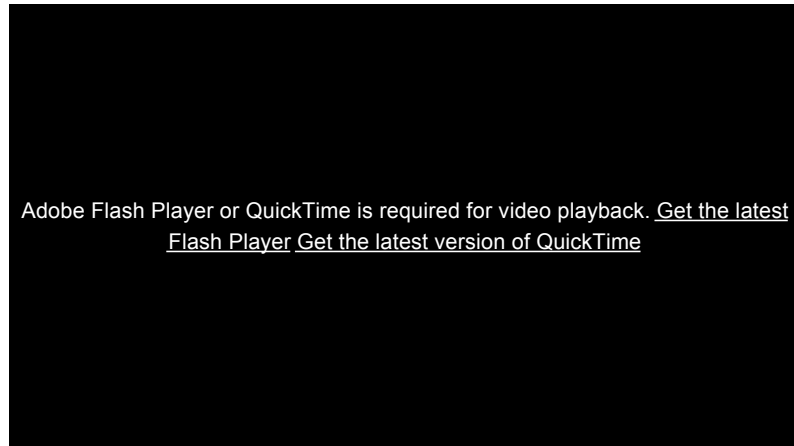


Birmingham was named **University of the Year 2014 in The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide in October 2013** ([/news/latest/2013/09/20-sep-Birmingham-announced-as-University-of-the-Year.aspx](#)). Outstanding performance across the league tables and Birmingham's bold and sector-leading initiatives were recognised by this prestigious accolade.

£15 million gift for Forest Research Institute

Thanks for a **transformational gift of £15 million, an Institute for Forest Research** ([/news/latest/2013/11/07-Nov-13-Major-15-million-gift-to-the-University-of-Birmingham-enables-creation-of-Forest-Research-Institute.aspx](#)) has been established to study the impact of climate and environmental change on woodlands and the resilience of trees to pests and disease .

World's oldest calendar discovery



British archaeology experts discovered what they believe to be the **world's oldest 'calendar'** ([/schools/historycultures/departments/caha/news/2013/beginning-of-time.aspx](#)), dating back to around 8,000 BC. Analysis by a team led by Birmingham shed new light on the luni-solar device, found in Scotland, which pre-dates the first formal time-measuring devices by nearly 5,000 years.

Horsing around with the food chain

The 'horsemeat scandal' provided food for thought for a **Birmingham academic who led the debate** ([/research/perspective/horsemeat-food-fraud-pamela-robinson.aspx](#)) on the demise of cheap processed meat, the complexities of international supply chains and the high-pressure, competitive environment of supermarket retailing.

Robots in the classroom



Birmingham scientists are pioneering research into **using humanoid robots in the classroom** ([/news/latest/2013/02/18-Feb-13-A-class-act-empathic-robot-tutors-in-classrooms-to-facilitate-teaching-and-learning.aspx](#)) to assist teaching practice. Projects include developing empathetic robot teachers and utilising robots as classroom buddies for autistic children.

Small sun hosts mini planet in distant solar system



Scientists have [detected a rocky planet that is smaller than Mercury \(/news/latest/2013/02/20-Feb-13-Small-sun-hosts-mini-planet-in-distant-solar-system.aspx\)](/news/latest/2013/02/20-Feb-13-Small-sun-hosts-mini-planet-in-distant-solar-system.aspx), the smallest planet in our solar system, orbiting a solar-type star 80 per cent of the size and mass of the Sun. The exact dimensions of the star, and the absolute size of the planet, were determined by a team of asteroeismologists led by the University of Birmingham.

Virtual world to help relieve patients' pain



University of Birmingham computer scientists and medical experts have been working with staff at Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham (QEH) to pioneer the use of [computer game technology to alleviate patients' pain \(/news/latest/2013/06/21-June-Virtual-world-to-help-relieve-patients-pain.aspx\)](/news/latest/2013/06/21-June-Virtual-world-to-help-relieve-patients-pain.aspx) and discomfort through distraction therapy.

Senior particle physicist takes on lead role at CERN

[Dave Charlton \(/staff/profiles/physics/charlton-david.aspx\)](/staff/profiles/physics/charlton-david.aspx), Professor of Particle Physics at the University, was [appointed Spokesperson \(/news/latest/2013/03/15-Mar-Senior-particle-physicist-from-Birmingham-takes-on-lead-role-at-the-.aspx\)](/news/latest/2013/03/15-Mar-Senior-particle-physicist-from-Birmingham-takes-on-lead-role-at-the-.aspx) - the overall scientific lead - for the ATLAS project at the Large Hadron Collider, CERN, in March. A large-scale international collaboration of approximately 3,000 scientists, ATLAS and sister experiment CMS are the two largest operating particle physics experiments in the world and recently discovered the elusive particle, the Higgs Boson, a key building block of the Standard Model of particle physics.

New Centre for Research in Race and Education



Twenty years after the death of black teenager Stephen Lawrence, his mother, [Doreen Lawrence helped to launch a new Centre for Race and Education at the University \(/research/activity/education/crre/centre-launch/index.aspx\)](/research/activity/education/crre/centre-launch/index.aspx). The Centre aims to pursue race equality and social justice by working to close gaps in educational achievement and career prospects of black and minority ethnic (BME) people. The first institution of its kind in England, the centre will play a leading role both nationally and internationally.