



UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM

# BIRMINGHAM GLOBAL

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The global university at the  
heart of the UK

# The Global University

*at the Heart of the UK*



**The University of Birmingham is a university of firsts. It is the first English civic or 'redbrick' university, founded in 1900 to unlock the potential of a forward-thinking, ambitious and industrious city.**

We were the first UK university to accept students from all races, religions and backgrounds on an equal basis. Our founders were inspired by a study tour to America; the industrialist Andrew Carnegie was one of our original benefactors. We admitted our first international students in 1903. So we have been global from the outset. Over 120 years later, our global vision is firmly rooted in our local, civic identity. We are committed to ensuring that our University's global influence is at the heart of our region's dynamism.

More than ever, many of the challenges we face are global in nature. Food security affects all countries, as does energy sustainability; climate change is the responsibility of all countries; mass migration crosses many borders, as do pandemics. Regardless of the country we live in, we face the challenges of ageing societies.

Global challenges require global solutions. The scale and complexity of the challenges and solutions make collaboration an imperative, not an optional extra. No matter how great a single university is, excellence and impact require partnership. Global universities are those able to convene and create powerful strategic partnerships – with other universities, with businesses, and with governments.

Hence the core of our global engagement is our approach to international partnerships. This approach is best described by four words: purposeful, committed, comprehensive and sustained.

When we engage with partners, we are clear from the outset what mutual benefits we are seeking. These may come from joint research projects; collaborative educational initiatives; sharing best practice; student mobility and exchange, to name just a few. In each case, we ensure that our partnerships achieve the purpose for which it is developed. Of course, there is always room for the unexpected: the new research ideas that arise from the collaboration, or new areas for collaboration that emerge from conversations. But we are purposeful in all our partnerships.

Because we are purposeful, we are committed. We invest in partnerships to ensure their success. We believe that the best partnerships operate at scale and with ambition. We also believe that the best partnerships are comprehensive, covering many activities. Our most successful partnerships are not confined to just research or just education: they span all areas and cover academic, student and professional services engagement. Finally, our partnerships are sustained. Whether working with governments, funding bodies or other universities, we commit for the long term.

Today's geopolitical uncertainty brings wide-ranging challenges. These underline the importance of partnership. In times like these, the knowledge that institutions can exchange is more crucial than ever, and the University of Birmingham remains committed to our strategic global partnerships. Our approach to international engagement has always been predicated on a long-term perspective, and this will not change. Great universities must remain global in outlook and activity, and the University of Birmingham's strategic partnerships will continue to deliver challenge-based research and educational opportunities that benefit citizens and confront the world's social, economic and environmental threats.

**Professor Sir David Eastwood, Vice-Chancellor**



**RANKED IN  
THE TOP 100  
OF THE WORLD'S UNIVERSITIES\***

**ONE-THIRD  
OF ACADEMIC STAFF ARE  
OVERSEAS NATIONALS**

**OVER 9,000  
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS  
FROM APPROXIMATELY  
150 COUNTRIES**

**OVER 71,000  
ALUMNI LIVE OVERSEAS**

**FOUNDING MEMBER OF  
UNIVERSITAS 21 NETWORK OF  
27 WORLD-CLASS  
UNIVERSITIES FROM  
18 COUNTRIES**

*\*QS World University Rankings 2020  
and US News and World Report:  
Best Global Universities*





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*The BRIDGE Fellowship Programme is an exceptional example of how two institutions can work together to provide the transformative learning experiences that are essential in higher education. When we foster opportunities for our faculty and scholars to engage collaboratively with diverse experiences and viewpoints, it not only benefits their careers and research, but also creates truly comprehensive and diverse learning environments on our campuses.*

Chancellor Robert Jones, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

# Signature Strategic Partnerships

*Responding to Global Challenges*

At the heart of our global engagement are signature strategic partnerships, unique in their depth and breadth of engagement. These collaborations purposefully draw on heritage connections, civic values and mutual strengths to deliver shared global ambitions.



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*A highlight of my jointly awarded PhD degree has been spending time between Birmingham and Melbourne under the Priestley Scholarship. I am fortunate to have mentorship as well as access to resources from both universities, which has enhanced my overall research. The most enjoyable and invaluable aspects of the programme have no doubt been the numerous cross collaboration and networking experiences that I have had.*

**Robert Chin, 2017 Priestley Scholar  
in Computer Science**

## A unique transatlantic bridge to cultivate collaboration and interdisciplinary research

Hailed by *THE* as one of the ‘first substantive links between a UK and US institution’, our partnership with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign was sparked by complementary place-based assets, shared civic missions and wide-ranging research synergies.

The resulting BiRmningham-Illinois Partnership for Discovery, EnGagement and Education (BRIDGE) has established a framework for creative knowledge exchange across disciplines through frequent and purposeful collaborations between faculty, staff and students. Since 2014, we have cultivated over 80 faculty-to-faculty links in fields ranging from the humanities to engineering sciences.

Our distinctive BRIDGE Fellowship programme paves the way to institutionalise faculty links. We have jointly recruited a cohort of high-potential early-career researchers onto tenure-track positions in education, neuroscience, psychology, maternal health

and cultural heritage. Fellows work across Birmingham and Illinois on key global challenges and act as a bridge to cultivate broader engagement between transatlantic research teams.

*‘BRIDGE has proven hugely beneficial for me – providing the opportunity to travel and experience research in different settings. International collaboration has given me space to explore ideas and think differently about how I approach research.’*

**Dr Justina Žurauskiene, BRIDGE Fellow,  
Population Dynamics and Women’s Health.**

## Building on historic links to create wide-ranging collaboration

As founding members of the Universitas 21 network, the Universities of Birmingham and Melbourne have developed wide-ranging organic research links for nearly two decades. We enjoy historical connections through the British geologist and Antarctic explorer Sir Raymond Priestley, who was Vice-Chancellor of both institutions. It was, therefore, a natural

evolution for our relationship to develop into a comprehensive, bilateral, strategic partnership covering education, research and professional services in 2016.

Academic collaboration now thrives across our institutions with over 70 research links across all disciplines. Birmingham’s Research Leaders Programme provides annual opportunities for our leading academics to meet their peers at Melbourne through a tailor-made programme showcasing best practice, research methods and networking opportunities.

Extending our partnership to education has been a key priority. The Priestley Scholarship programme co-funds 25 joint PhD awards each year, enabling outstanding candidates in Engineering, Physical Sciences and Mental Health to study alongside world-leading academics from both our institutions. A ‘super-sender’ student mobility arrangement sees 30 undergraduates exchanged in each direction every year, and through our International Museums and Collections scheme, students undertake placements at the partner’s cultural institutions.



# Strategic Partnerships

# Global Healthcare

## Spotlight:



### Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation funds Birmingham research to help stop women dying in childbirth

With substantial funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, University of Birmingham maternal health experts are developing a global research network to help stop women dying in childbirth in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). The aim is to stop women dying or suffering complications because of excessive bleeding after giving birth at healthcare facilities across five countries.

Birmingham researchers will collaborate with teams in Kenya, Tanzania, Nigeria, South Africa, Sri Lanka and international partners in a large cluster-randomised trial. The study will be rolled out to 80 health facilities across the five countries with 400,000 women giving birth in the study. The study will last three years and report its findings by January 2023.

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*Every six minutes a mother dies from postpartum haemorrhage (PPH) in low-resource countries, in the prime of her life and often leaving behind a young family; her new-born infant has less than a 20% chance of surviving past the first month.*

*PPH is the leading cause of maternal death worldwide and accounts for 27% of maternal deaths. The condition is often not detected early – denying women life-saving treatment. The more time elapses, the greater the number of lives lost.*



*We're grateful to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for supporting our project, which aims to change provider behaviours so they detect PPH early and put into action a range of interventions that could save the lives of thousands of women and their new-born babies.*

**Arri Coomarasamy, Professor of Gynaecology and Reproductive Medicine at the University of Birmingham**

## Improving health outcomes in low- and middle-income countries

We lead the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Global Health Research Unit on Global Surgery (GSU), in partnership with the Universities of Edinburgh and Warwick, and international partners from the GlobalSurg Collaborative. We are establishing research hubs in sub-Saharan Africa, the Indian sub-continent, South East Asia and Central America to perform critically needed research into surgical services across the world.

Birmingham's Global Health experts are helping to shape the future development of health systems to deliver equitable, quality care in low- and middle-income countries. Capacity building with our partners and ensuring our outputs are relevant to policy makers is central to our approach. Our EquiTrauma collaboration with the University of Rwanda, University of Global Health Equity (Rwanda), Stellenbosch University (South Africa) and University for Development

Studies (Ghana), aims to identify the barriers that are causing delays in access to trauma care in Rwanda, Ghana and South Africa in order to inform recommendations for future interventions.

Clean Cold researchers from the University of Birmingham and Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, are working with the United Nations Environment Programme, United for Efficiency, on a key study to help African nations prepare for the sustainable distribution of an eventual COVID-19 vaccine. Mass, rapid vaccination is an immense challenge for sub-Saharan African countries with significant rural populations and inadequate cold-chain infrastructure. Our fast-track study in Rwanda will define gaps in infrastructure and develop strategies for sustainable COVID-19 vaccine delivery, helping governments, vaccine development agencies, pharma and logistics companies begin to plan for the future.





# A Purposefully European University

Europe has always been and will always be a major strand in Birmingham's global engagement. Around a quarter of our academic staff are non-UK Europeans, as are almost 15% of our PhD students. We have been the most successful UK university for coordinating Horizon 2020 grants, with one of the largest Erasmus+ programmes in the country. As the UK shifts in its relationship with the EU, we are growing and deepening our engagement in Europe. Our European strategy has at its heart a renewed affirmation of our European identity.





*EUniWell Design Thinking Student Challenge, Leiden; and EUniWell partnership launch, Köln*

Image: © Dustin Preick

## Advancing European well-being



**EUniWell Policy Commissions will bring leaders from the public, private and third sectors together with EUniWell academics to generate new thinking on well being issues of global, national, local and civic concern. Our inaugural Policy Commission on 'Well being in a Covid World' is chaired by Stefano Manservigi, former Director General of the European Commission's Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development.**

The European University for Well-being – EUniWell – is at the core of Birmingham's strategic European engagement, offering both a symbolic and practical demonstration of our renewed commitment to Europe in a post-Brexit landscape. EUniWell is an ambitious transnational alliance, uniting 244,000 students and 36,500 staff from the Universities of Birmingham, Firenze, Köln, Leiden, Linnaeus, Nantes and Semmelweis with 102 associate partners drawn from seven regions of Europe. In July 2020, EUniWell was selected as a 'European University of the Future' in the European Commission's Erasmus+ programme.

EUniWell has come together in response to the Council of Europe's 2019 invitation for member states to pursue a horizontal, cross-sectoral, knowledge-based approach to advance the 'Economy of Well-being'. We aim to play a critical role in shaping research-based policy and pedagogy to inform decision making, underpin skills development, and realise a measurable impact on European

citizens' quality of life. Using our collective research expertise, educational leadership and civic engagement, EUniWell will meet the challenge set out by the Council.

EUniWell addresses well-being across four interdisciplinary research arenas aligned with OECD and Council priorities, and Sustainable Development Goals: i) health, ii) individual and social well-being, iii) environment and iv) teacher education. By supporting learning at all ages – not just for university students, but also for life-long learners and the training of teachers – EUniWell will enhance the skills of European citizens, contribute to equality and diversity in our cities and support multilingualism and multiculturalism across our respective societies.



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*The partnership with Birmingham provides new opportunities for our students and staff to work together and creates new synergies. I'm very pleased that we have renewed and intensified our collaboration.*

**Rector Magnificus Karen Maex,  
University of Amsterdam**

**The I3 partnership between the University of Birmingham, Fraunhofer UMSICHT and Jiangsu Industry Technology Research Institute, Nanjing, investigates new energy storage and waste management innovations. This three-way, multi-country bridge provides a comprehensive research and innovation pipeline from fundamental research to close-to-market innovation.**

## Building ties with our closest neighbour

The deep cultural, political and economic ties the UK shares with the Republic of Ireland make it a natural partner for collaboration. Our new broad-based strategic partnership with Trinity College Dublin spans research, education and organisational development, and is structured on three shared priority areas: Bioengineering; Digital Humanities; and Clinical Trials and Training. Together, we are developing new educational opportunities in healthcare technology, leading research into digital authority, and, by exchanging best practice across our Clinical Research Facilities, transforming Advanced Therapy trials.

## A shared DNA enables us to focus on shared priorities

Over the last decade, the University of Birmingham and the University of Amsterdam have enjoyed a strong history of research collaboration and staff and student exchange. As institutions, we share common DNA: we are both comprehensive, research-intensive, civic and located in diverse cities, committed

to working globally on major societal issues. The recent establishment of a new strategic framework, focused on equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI); and medical training and research has strengthened our long-standing successful relationship.

## Sister city connections

Frankfurt and Birmingham have been sister cities since 1966. Complementing the University of Birmingham's established sister-city links with Guangzhou and Nanjing, the University of Birmingham developed ties with Goethe University in 2011, and our shared civic connection has provided a continuing anchor point for impactful research and active exchanges between our institutions. In celebration of our cities' 50-year twinning anniversary, we delivered a major joint conference, 'The University and the City', focused on sport, physical activity and community engagement.

## New routes for applied research

In Germany, we are taking forward new strategic partnerships with national research agencies to embed University of Birmingham

expertise in the scientific fabric of European research infrastructure. We have established a joint Virtual Collaborative Centre in Chemistry and Materials Science with the Federal Institute of Materials Research and Testing in Berlin, and an Energy-focused partnership with the Fraunhofer Institute for Environmental, Safety, and Energy Technology, UMSICHT.

Our long-standing collaboration agreement with the European Joint Research Council in Brussels spans energy, nanotechnology, environmental omics, micro plastics, vehicle emissions and urban change, increasing the impact of University of Birmingham research in relation to European policy-making.

For ten years, Birmingham's Europe Hub in the heart of Brussels has provided a physical focal point for our European engagement, ensuring that students and researchers are well-connected to European institutions and initiatives.





# Global Research

## Highlights

### The Birmingham engine driving global transport improvement

The Birmingham Centre for Railway Research and Education (BCRRE) is the largest university-based centre for railway research and education in Europe. Working with over 50 companies in 20 countries, BCRRE is delivering research that is changing the way that railways operate. In Singapore and India, we are developing programmes to train the world's rail engineers of the future through a unique postgraduate educational partnership with Singapore Metro, and a joint MSc programme in Railway Engineering with the National Rail and Transport Institute of India (NRTI).

Working with the Guangzhou Metro Corporation, we are making rail travel safe, comfortable and energy efficient for the 8.2 million people using Guangzhou's Metro system every day. Supporting Brazil's \$15 billion investment into railways, we are collaborating with the Ministry of Infrastructure (MINFRA) on cutting-edge research and education programmes that will support Brazil's drive to

overhaul its rail network. BCRRE researchers are assessing the current state of railway infrastructure in sub-Saharan Africa, and informing recommendations on future rail investment for low-income countries.

Globally, as governments set bold emissions targets to tackle the intensifying climate crisis, BCRRE researchers are integrating hydrogen and battery power to help meet ambitious goals for the UK's trains; technology which could have global impact.

The global expertise concentrated within BCRRE led to the University of Birmingham being awarded the prestigious Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher Education in 2017 for our contribution to making railways around the world safer and more efficient.

The University also leads the UK Railway Research and Innovation Network (UKRRIN) – a £92 million partnership between the rail supply industry and eight universities to carry out research that will establish the UK as a world-leading centre of railway excellence.



# Global Research

## Highlights

### Protecting the world's most vulnerable populations from poor air quality

The University of Birmingham is forging international and interdisciplinary partnerships to help meet the global challenge of air pollution, in order to control emissions and reduce public-health impacts. On campus, we host one of three new air quality supersites in the UK, using state-of-the-art monitoring systems to identify harmful pollutants more accurately than ever before. Our strength lies not only in establishing the causes of air pollution, but in applying that learning to provide scientific advice in support of policy development.

In Delhi, rated as the world's most polluted city for ambient air pollution, we are working with the Indian Population Council and IIT Delhi on the ASAAP India (A Systems Approach to Air Pollution India) project to develop options to mitigate air pollution. In China, our atmospheric scientists are examining the causes and impacts of poor air quality and atmospheric pollution events in

Beijing, and the prediction of future extreme weather events in China and East Asia. We are leading a major international research project looking at how rapid urbanisation in three African cities – Addis Ababa, Kampala and Nairobi – impacts air quality. Working with UK and East African experts in air pollution, urban planning, economic geography, public health, social sciences and development studies, we are developing a framework for improved air quality management in East African cities.

### A global approach to the philosophy of religion

The Global Philosophy of Religion Project is the first major initiative aiming to make the philosophy of religion a truly global field. Funded by the John Templeton Foundation, the project is run out of the Birmingham Centre for Philosophy of Religion, in partnership with the Institute of Life and Death Studies at Waseda University in Tokyo. It promotes philosophical research addressing underrepresented religious traditions in diverse geographical regions, with a particular focus on Africa, Asia, Latin America





and the Middle East, and special attention to traditions that are broadly construed as theistic, such as African traditional religions, Hinduism, Islam, Jainism, Judaism, Shinto, Sikhism and Zoroastrianism, as well as Christianity.

This project complements the wider partnership between the University of Birmingham and Waseda University. The partnership comprises a number of projects, including an examination of the shared challenge of skilled and unskilled labour shortages in the UK and Japan. Our renowned Shakespeare Institute collaborates extensively with Waseda's celebrated Tsubouchi Memorial Theatre Museum, named after Waseda Professor Shoyo (Frank) Tsubouchi (1859–1935), the first major translator of Shakespeare into Japanese.

A global framework for research collaboration and skills development

As founding members of the Universitas 21 network, we engage with 27 other globally-renowned, research-intensive universities in wide-ranging innovative international activities.

The U21 network provides a rich environment for institutional learning and we are proud to lead the Research Collaboration Group and Educational Innovation Group. In 2021, we will host the U21 AGM and symposium. Every year, our students participate in U21's programme of summer schools across the world. Our long-running U21 Museums and Collections Award gives students opportunities to spend a month working at the Universities of Melbourne or Lund. Funded by the U21 Global Education Enhancement Fund, we are collaborating with U21 partners in Australia, Mexico and South Africa to equip students with new digital tools to deliver better health services in different socio-political settings.

**U21**  
UNIVERSITAS 21

**31,616**

**ACADEMIC PAPERS**

PUBLISHED BETWEEN 2014 AND 2019

**56%**

WRITTEN IN COLLABORATION WITH  
AN INTERNATIONAL CO-AUTHOR

INTERNATIONALLY CO-AUTHORED  
PAPERS CITED ALMOST

**THREE TIMES THE  
WORLD AVERAGE**

INTERNATIONAL  
RESEARCH PROJECTS:

**£16.2M**

AWARDED TO 144 PROJECTS

RESEARCH CONDUCTED  
IN COLLABORATION WITH

**5,655**

**INSTITUTIONS  
WORLDWIDE**



# A Decade of Commitment *in* Brazil

2020 marks the tenth anniversary of the University of Birmingham's strategic engagement in Brazil, a milestone that we celebrated with the launch of the Birmingham Brazil Forum, a new virtual gateway showcasing the breadth and depth of our work. Our long-term commitment has yielded resilient partnerships that deliver real impact. We now have wide-ranging research relationships across Brazil: we collaborate with 90 institutions from almost all states, with a particular concentration in São Paulo.

Birmingham's success in Brazil stems from the supportive infrastructure set up early on to foster relationships and deliver outcomes. Our signature Brazil Visiting Fellows programme has created a network of some 80 Brazilian academics that stretches from Pernambuco in the North to Rio Grande do Sul in the South. Through dedicated joint pump-priming schemes with Brazilian funding agencies like FAPESP, we have nurtured talent and invested in Brazilian expertise. Over four rounds of activity, we have supported strategic research relationships and created a pipeline for broader external grant applications, in the process becoming one of FAPESP's priority UK partners. Funded by the British Council, we have led capacity-building projects with UNESP, USP, UNICAMP and UFMG to further the Brazilian Ministry of Education's mission to 'internationalise HE' in Brazil.

Through our commitment, the University of Birmingham has been well placed for the growing number of large-scale funding awards that prioritise Brazilian partners. With funding from the UK's National Institute for Health Research, and in partnership with the University of São Paulo, we are advancing research into chronic pulmonary disease and progressing



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*The 'Birmingham Brazil Forum' is an extremely welcome initiative. It will enable more people to engage and learn about Birmingham's collaborations with Brazilian counterparts and about Brazil itself. It is yet another good reason for us to celebrate our special partnership with the University of Birmingham and, in a broader sense, bilateral academic cooperation between Brazil and the UK.*

**His Excellency Fred Arruda,  
Brazilian Ambassador to the UK**

*Birmingham Brazil Fellows at the  
Brazilian Embassy, London*



comparative studies into atrial fibrillation across disadvantaged populations in Brazil, China and Sri Lanka. Supported by the International Ocean Discovery Programme, a Birmingham geologist will lead the 'Equatorial Atlantic Gateway' expedition across the Brazilian continental margin to recover extensive sediment records of the long-term history of the Equatorial Atlantic environments.

Our research focus in Brazil is increasingly defined by its place-based relevance. Across microbiology, oceanography, sport, forestry and railways we are delivering research projects that have in common the measurable impact they deliver at a local level.

## Research routes into Brazil

### Infectious diseases

Supported by the Brazilian Ministry of Health, and in collaboration with FioCruz Bahia and the University of São Paulo (USP), Birmingham expertise in portable genome sequencing provided a new understanding of the genetics of the Zika virus and its rapid spread in Brazil and beyond. This research paved the way for the 'UK-Brazil Joint Centre for Arbovirus Discovery, Diagnosis, Genomics and

Epidemiology' supported by national and state funding bodies in the UK and Brazil. This partnership between Oxford, USP and Birmingham will develop novel sequencing and bioinformatics methods to aid the interpretation of genome and metagenome scale data generated in clinical and public health microbiology.

### Sustainable cities

In collaboration with USP, the FAPESP-funded 'Re-Inhabiting the City' project focuses on the sustainable reoccupation of underused or abandoned buildings and open spaces in the city of São Paulo, proposing solutions that create comfortable places, resilient to climate change and occupied by a vibrant healthy community. Previous joint research with UNESP addressed poverty levels amongst Brazilian children by examining young people's understanding, experience and unequal participation in the food-water-energy nexus in Brazil.

### Forestry

The Birmingham Institute of Forest Research (BIFoR) is leading the large-scale, nationally-funded QUINTUS research project, with the University of Campinas as a partner, to

determine how mature temperate forests respond to rising atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>. This new experimental understanding will be used to develop and test the next generation of computer models and predict future rates of climate change.

### Imaging

In partnering with Brazilian universities and research centres, the University of Birmingham has gained access to facilities, expertise and opportunities simply unavailable elsewhere. Most notably, we have established the first UK on-site presence at Brazil's premier research facility in Campinas, the Center for Research in Energy and Materials (CNPEM). In doing so, Brazil has become the key international partner country for our joint Centre of Membrane Proteins and Receptors (COMPARE) with the University of Nottingham.

Our Brazil engagement is built to last. Through careful stewardship, collaboration schemes and cross-institutional commitment, we look forward to our wide-ranging Brazilian partnerships maturing further over the coming decade.



# Forging Comprehensive Connections *with India*

The University of Birmingham India Institute is the focal point for our engagement with India. Established in 2018, the Institute brings Birmingham and India closer together to deliver impactful research, create innovative education initiatives and extend our influence across the globe.

The Institute is testament to the University's long history of engagement with India, with the first cohort of Indian students attending the University in 1909. Since then, we have provided education to many outstanding Indian alumni, and our Chancellor, Lord Karan Bilimoria, is the first Indian-born Chancellor of a British university.

Set up to forge new connections between Birmingham and India, the Institute has created a supportive network for academics, research councils, institutions, government offices and commercial partners. The India Institute Fellowship Scheme supports talented Indian scholars undertaking joint research projects at Birmingham. In 2018–19, we awarded 80% of fellowships to Indian women scholars, advancing the Indian government's effort to close the gender gap and promote female leadership and excellence in science.

The University's academic interest in India is complemented by the close connections we enjoy with Birmingham's vibrant Sikh community, the largest British Indian population in the UK. Working closely with the Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jatha, we welcomed 15,000 visitors onto campus in 2019 for a



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*The University is playing a pivotal role in taking to a much higher trajectory the already strong strategic partnership between the two countries through facilitating closer people to people interactions.*

**Acting Indian High Commissioner to the UK, Charanjeet Singh**

*Dr Jagbir Jhutti-Johal OBE, with the Archbishop of Canterbury and Bhai Sahib Dr Mohinder Singh Ahluwalia with delegates from Guru Nanak Sewak Jatha and the Church of England outside the Golden Temple, Amritsar*



five-day celebration marking the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the founding Guru of Sikhism.

We have established a permanent footprint in India through our University of Birmingham India Office in New Delhi. Our team of four staff facilitate the University's activities in-country, and provide a hub to engage with local partners and stakeholders, and increase our impact and visibility.

## The home of Sikh Studies

Birmingham is the first Russell Group university in the UK to teach Sikhism Studies at postgraduate level, and we are one of only two institutions worldwide to host a prestigious Guru Nanak Sikh Chair. Funded by the Indian government, the award recognises our long history and continuing commitment to India and the British-Indian community, and furthers the University's civic mission and global outlook.

The Guru Nanak Chair will work with the University's Edward Cadbury Centre for the Public Understanding of Religion and the Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues to promote research into the life and philosophy

of the revered first Sikh Guru. Through our India Office in New Delhi, the Chair will engage with in-country partners and communities to create fellowships in peacebuilding, inter-faith understanding and community cohesion – reflecting the three core values of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji.

## Research spotlights

The India Institute collaborates with leading academic, industrial and government partners in India to influence policy and advance research solutions. We have 40 joint research partnerships with Indian partners tackling Indian and global challenges from urbanisation to surgical research. Highlights include:

### Developing technology to reuse contaminated water

The University of Birmingham is co-ordinating INDIA H<sub>2</sub>O, a consortium involving 20 partners from the EU and India. The project, funded by Horizon 2020 and the Indian government's Department of Biotechnology, is developing technologies to reuse water that is too contaminated to drink untreated.

### Improving surgical outcomes

Our leading surgeons have established a joint unit focused on driving surgical research in India and other countries. The University of Birmingham's Global Health Research Unit in Surgery, supported by an agreement with the Indian National Health Authority, works with 30 Indian hospitals to tackle preventable post-surgical complications, which result in over 500,000 deaths globally.

### Capacity building in sport science and performance

With our exceptional track record in sports science, we are running training programmes for Sports Authority of India-sponsored Indian coaches and athletes. Our capacity-building work supports India's national ambitions in sports development and competition through the forthcoming Tokyo 2020 Olympics and the Commonwealth Games 2022.

### Improving farmers' incomes

A landmark project with the state of Haryana on clean cold-chain is helping farmers boost their income sustainably by reducing waste from field to market. The model deployed in India is being rolled-out to Tanzania, Ethiopia and Malaysia.



# Sustained Sister City Relationships *in China*

In China, our comprehensive engagement builds on shared civic connections between the city of Birmingham and its Chinese sister cities. By establishing strategic relationships with the municipal governments of Guangzhou, and, more recently, Nanjing, we have created a supportive infrastructure for regional development and a gateway for partnership development across Southern and Eastern China.

## Making an impact in Guangzhou

Birmingham's well-established partnership with the Guangzhou municipal government delivers significant research projects with measurable impact for the third-largest mainland city in China. Since 2012, Birmingham researchers collaborating with Guangzhou-based experts have delivered more than 40 joint research projects in transport, healthcare and advanced engineering, through partnership with the Guangzhou municipal government. The 2019 London Economic-commissioned 'Impact Study' valued the economic and social impact of the University of Birmingham on the city of Guangzhou at ¥327 million (£36.9 million). Some highlights include:

### **Building capacity in primary care**

We have promoted better healthcare widely across the province and country. Working with partners, we have delivered professional development training to over 200 General Practitioner (GP) 'best practice trainers' and more than 800 GPs.

### **Combating childhood obesity**

In partnership with the Guangzhou Centre for Disease Control, the Chirpy Dragon



Our engagement with China is supported by an effective infrastructure on campus and in-country:

**The University of Birmingham Office in Guangzhou**

Our permanent office co-ordinates research activity, manages relationships with stakeholders and supports new education initiatives in Guangzhou and across China.

**The China Institute**

Established in 2012, the China Institute provides a focal point bringing together people, ideas, funding opportunities and academic excellence.

**The University of Birmingham Hong Kong Foundation**

Launching in 2020, the Foundation has pledged over HKD \$5 million in initial philanthropic funding for research and educational programmes at the University, benefiting Hong Kong and mainland China.



programme sought to improve the health of Guangzhou children through a four-year obesity reduction scheme. Our academics worked with 61,000 six- to seven-year-olds from 43 primary schools to enhance the nutritional quality of school meals and increase physical activity in and outside school.

**Delivering positive pregnancy outcomes**

The prospective observational Born in Guangzhou Cohort Study investigated social, biological and environmental influences on pregnancy, and child health and development, in urban southern China. In 2018, we opened a Joint Research Institute in the Guangzhou Women and Children's Medical Centre to utilise our 30,000-strong 'Birth Cohort' data for studies into inherited and environmental factors contributing to disease.

**Treating tuberculosis**

Our Joint Centre for Translational Medicine Research with the Guangzhou Institutes of Biomedicine and Health has discovered potential new drugs for the treatment of tuberculosis. Five novel compounds have been patented in China and are progressing to pre-clinical testing and early-phase clinical trials, with the goal of treating one million cases of drug-resistant tuberculosis every year.

**Future-proofing advanced manufacturing**

Building on our long-standing research partnership with Guangdong Academy of Science, we have set up a Joint Advanced Manufacturing and Innovation Centre in Guangzhou to facilitate technology transfer in manufacturing, including 3D printing, machinery and material processing.

**An innovative approach in Nanjing**

Our strategic partnership agreement with Birmingham's sister city Nanjing spans research, innovation and cultural projects with partners across Jiangsu province:

**Increasing access to Shakespeare**

In collaboration with Nanjing University and Phoenix Publishing and Media Group, the Shakespeare Centre, China, gives millions of Chinese people access to the University of Birmingham's world-renowned Shakespeare Institute.

**Driving innovation in energy, waste and recycling**

With Jiangsu Industrial Technology Research Institute (JITRI), we are addressing the industrialisation of energy, waste and

recycling across Jiangsu province to create a research and innovation bridge between the UK and China.

**Fighting cancer and aiding the regeneration of the human body**

Our Joint Research Centre for Data Science in Biomedical Research with Southeast University opened in 2019, creating a world-class research and training environment to help solve major health problems facing China and the wider world.

**Educational pathways**

Chinese students have been studying with us for over a century. Today, we have some 5,000 Chinese students studying in Birmingham, but we continue to innovate to enable students to combine China and UK study pathways. Most notably, we have established a Joint Institute with Jinan University, delivering mathematics-based programmes that allow Chinese students to experience both international and local teaching methods and gain degrees from both institutions.



# Learning Opportunities

We work with wide-ranging partners across the world to deliver flexible and personalised first-class learning experiences across all levels of study.

## Birmingham International Summer School (BISS)

With seven academic programmes, ranging from Biomedical Sciences and Cultural Heritage, BISS offers international students a taste of University of Birmingham academic life every summer.

*'BISS offered me an unparalleled cultural and educational experience. Everyone I met was super-outgoing. I learned so much, not just about film and media, but also about other cultures. I made friends for life from all around the world in the short time I was here and Birmingham will always hold a special place in my heart.'*

**Joseph Deblasio, BISS Film & Media programme, Syracuse University, USA.**

## Pathways

Pathways enable students in Malaysia and China to take advantage of local study entry points for University of Birmingham degree study.

*'I was deeply impressed by the final-year project. In the laboratory and the school, my supervisor gave me a great deal of freedom, which stimulated my autonomy as a student. My top tip for studying at Birmingham is don't be afraid of your limitations, and be confident in yourself. Two years is enough time for you to adapt and improve yourself.'*

**Tingxuan Wang participated in our 2+2 Biological Sciences programme with Huazhong Agricultural University in Wuhan, and graduated from the University of Birmingham in 2019.**

*'The best point of my course would be how active the department is in terms of industry connections. Very often we get notifications and postings about opportunities for internships or placements with well-known engineering companies.'*

**Beatrice Ong May Ching, enrolled in our 2+2 partnership with Taylors University in Malaysia in Chemical Engineering.**



# 372

## ACTIVE EXCHANGE

AGREEMENTS WITH  
PARTNER INSTITUTIONS  
FROM 44 COUNTRIES

# 858

## STUDENTS STUDY

WITH US THROUGH OUR  
INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE  
AND STUDY ABROAD  
PROGRAMMES EVERY YEAR

### Student exchange

We partner with 372 institutions worldwide for study abroad opportunities, with 858 international students electing to spend their exchange placement at Birmingham every year.

*'Coming from an international household, cultural diversity was a decisive factor for studying in Birmingham. Yet Birmingham's central geographical location allowed me to travel throughout the UK and fully indulge in British culture during my exchange.'*

**Pimantheb Flury, ZHAW School of Management and Law, Switzerland.**

*'I could have never imagined how great my time at the University of Birmingham would be. The incredible variety of events, programmes and support offered to international students made me feel welcomed and ensured a comprehensive learning and living experience abroad.'*

**Rebecca Schreier, Katholische Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt, Germany.**



## University of Birmingham Dubai

The University of Birmingham Dubai welcomed its first students in September 2018 and from day one, we have been dedicated to delivering a first-class learning experience to our students, led by academics who are experts in their fields.

A global university with a civic outlook, we are committed to contributing to UAE society through our high-quality education and research excellence, as we establish ourselves at the heart of Higher Education in Dubai and the UAE.

Our research has global impact, providing solutions to major issues. We will bring this research strength to partnerships supporting the UAE's vision and strategy. We are already exploring research opportunities with both government and industry partners that will help us realise our longer-term vision and contribution.

Following our recognition as a Ministry of Education university, we are looking forward to opening our landmark second-phase campus in 2021, which will embody our

belief in innovation. This hi-tech facility will allow us to deliver a 'smart campus' approach to teaching, learning and assessment for our students in Dubai, enabling them to develop and grow, graduating as high-achieving and employable problem-solvers, just as in Birmingham.

With more study programmes offered each year, we are delivering undergraduate and taught postgraduate education opportunities in Accounting and Finance; Artificial Intelligence; Computer Science; Business Management; International Business; Economics; Mechanical Engineering; Money, Banking and Finance; Psychology; and Teacher Training.

Home to almost 3,000 students, our new campus will provide a vibrant space for teaching, research and engagement with our communities – helping us deliver the highest-quality education underpinned by a growing research focus in a leading global educational hub.

For more information, please visit:  
[www.birmingham.ac.uk/dubai](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/dubai)



# Routes to Birmingham

We hope that we have given you a flavour of our global engagement and our purposeful, committed, comprehensive and sustained approach to partnerships. We have a number of signature partnerships, which operate at scale, with breadth and depth, and over a sustained period. But of course, as a global university, we work with numerous other partners in many different countries.

We partner internationally with other research-intensive universities; with government agencies; with non-government organisations; with companies. We are active members of many international networks, and often founders of them. We think that one key measure of a global university is the scale of its international collaborations. We see this as becoming more, not less critical, even if there are headwinds from time to time.

Our partnerships are based on the flow of people and ideas. Student exchange is an integral part: we find a mark of a strategic partnership is the large number of students flowing in both directions. Academic staff exchange is also, of course, a key component of successful partnerships. But we are equally committed to the exchange of non-academic staff with our partners, so that knowledge and best practice in the administration of universities can be shared. Our partnership activities, therefore, span all aspects of university life: research, education, administration, civic engagement. For us, the sign of a successful partnership is the number of different but complementary strands to the collaboration.

International collaboration is not necessarily easy. The UK's withdrawal from the European Union potentially challenges existing models of engagement in Europe. Global pandemics, in the short-term at least, limit the international flow of people – although ideas continue to be exchanged. Global political tensions may impede international collaboration. But the history of higher education is international: the origins of universities lie in the exchange of students and the free flows of academics. It is not being too optimistic to believe that the future of higher education is international.

The University of Birmingham is certainly more committed than ever to its global engagement. We are always looking to do more, especially with like-minded institutions who share our approach to partnerships. Over a number of years, we have developed a number of schemes to support partnerships; some of them are described opposite. I hope you will explore them and find opportunities to engage with us.

We look forward to partnering with you.

**Professor Robin Mason, Pro-Vice-Chancellor  
and Vice-President (International)**

For more information, please visit:  
[www.birmingham.ac.uk/birmingham-global](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/birmingham-global)





**We offer outstanding opportunities for academics at all stages of their careers to join our vibrant intellectual community and help shape the research agenda of the future.**

#### **Birmingham Marshall Scholarship**

Funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Marshall Scholarships finance up to 40 young Americans to study for a graduate degree in the UK.

#### **Fulbright Awards**

The Fulbright Commission fosters academic exchange between the UK and US. We are Fulbright's most active partner, offering Birmingham-based awards across all levels of the scheme:

- **Fulbright Distinguished Chair**

A prestigious six-month secondment for a prominent US professor to undertake research and build links in the UK.

- **Fulbright-University of Birmingham Research Scholarship**

A three- to nine-month research, lecturing or teaching placement across any research-active department at the University.

- **Fulbright-University of Birmingham Postgraduate Scholarship**

A one-year scholarship, either as part of a programme of study at a US institution, or on a one-year programme at Birmingham.

#### **Chevening Scholarship Programme**

The UK government's international awards programme, typically provides funding for a one-year Masters degree to develop global leadership across a range of fields.

#### **Brazil Visiting Fellows Scheme**

Offering early-career university lecturers or post-doctoral researchers, currently working at universities in Brazil, the opportunity to spend up to three months at the University of Birmingham.

#### **India Institute Fellowship Scheme**

Supporting the two-way exchange of academics between the University of Birmingham and India, promoting research collaboration, individual training and sustainable partnerships through joint projects.

#### **Institute of Advanced Studies Fellowship Programmes**

Vanguard Fellowships and Distinguished Visiting Fellowships attract outstanding researchers operating at the cutting edge of their disciplines, to work collaboratively with colleagues at the University of Birmingham.

#### **BRIDGE Fellowship Scheme**

In partnership with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, this unique programme brings together international research teams in the UK and US for three- to five-year fellowships across priority research areas that address major global challenges.

#### **Cadbury Research Fellowships**

Four-week residential fellowships at the Department of African Studies and

Anthropology for early-career scholars based at African institutions.

#### **Priestley PhD Scholarships**

Our joint PhD programme with the University of Melbourne offers researchers in Mental Health, Engineering and Physical Science subjects the opportunity to study at both our universities.

#### **Global Challenge PhD Scholarships**

Supporting talented students to explore, analyse and provide innovative solutions to key challenges in the modern world, from fighting inequality to stopping the spread of disease.

#### **Commonwealth Shared Scholarships**

A joint initiative with the UK government supporting postgraduate students from developing Commonwealth countries, who would not otherwise be able to study in the UK.

#### **Staff Exchanges**

Our staff mobility schemes provide opportunities for a two-way exchange with partner institutions across Europe to share best practice, or undertake teaching and training.

For more information, please visit:  
**[www.birmingham.ac.uk/routes-to-birmingham](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/routes-to-birmingham)**



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