



CULTURE AND HERITAGE

The University of Birmingham places a strong emphasis on cultural enrichment, bringing together the proud heritage and cultural prowess of our region with world leading research.

Key messages

- The Shakespeare Institute at the University of Birmingham is an internationally renowned research institution established in 1951 in Stratford-upon-Avon to push the boundaries of knowledge about Shakespeare studies and Renaissance drama.
- Ironbridge International Institute for Cultural Heritage is a globally recognised institution based on a unique and longstanding partnership with the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust which is responsible for the management of one of the UK's premier World Heritage Sites. It is a focal point for cross-disciplinary research, postgraduate teaching and policy engagement on all aspects of cultural heritage.
- The Digital Humanities Hub focuses on collaborative working across the Arts and Humanities with cultural and heritage organisations, digital and creative industries and academics to develop collaborative and innovative digital prototypes. Cross-sector, cross-disciplinary digital humanities partnership is at the core of the Hub's vision, reflecting its belief that we work better together than we do apart.
- Music at the University of Birmingham has a strong history stretching back to 1905, when Edward Elgar was appointed the University's first Professor of Music. The University continues to push boundaries in this field.
- The discovery of the Birmingham Qur'an manuscript coincides with the renewal of Islamic Studies.

Background

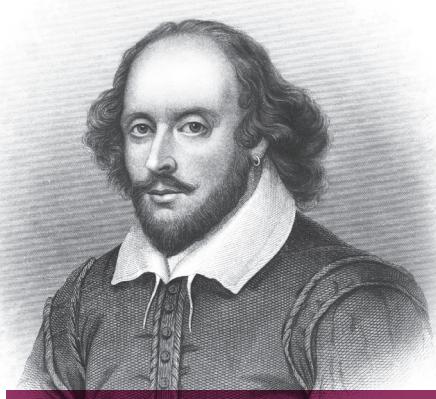
THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM IS UNIQUE IN HAVING RESEARCH INSTITUTES LOCATED AT TWO GLOBALLY IMPORTANT HERITAGE SITES

IRONBRIDGE GORGE



STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM'S WORLD-CLASS CULTURAL FACILITIES INCLUDE THE **BARBER INSTITUTE OF FINE ARTS**, WITH ITS AWARD-WINNING ART GALLERY AND ART-DECO CONCERT HALL, AND THE NEW £16 MILLION **BRAMALL MUSIC BUILDING** WHICH HOUSES THE **ELGAR CONCERT HALL** AND THE **DOME ROOM**



The 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death takes place in 2016 and will be marked by major events taking place around the world, as well as attracting significant media attention. These events include the World Shakespeare Congress 2016, which is being delivered and hosted by the University of Birmingham's Shakespeare Institute, the Royal Shakespeare Company, the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, Shakespeare's Globe and the London Shakespeare Centre, King's College London.

The evidence

- The University's Special Collections, hosted in the Cadbury Research Library, are home to more than four million items, including the stunning Mingana Collection of Middle Eastern manuscripts, which incorporates the Birmingham Qur'an manuscript, recently radiocarbon dated as one of the oldest surviving Qur'an manuscripts in the world.
- Through the Ironbridge Institute the University has privileged access to Europe's largest independent museum at Ironbridge and its nationally designated collections of industrial and decorative arts, along with one of the World's leading libraries and archives on the industrial revolution. The Institute also has formal agreements with noted international research centres including the Collaborative for Cultural Heritage Management and Policy (CHAMP) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the World Heritage Research Centre at Peking University. Alongside international conferences, publications and staff exchanges, the CHAMP collaboration has seen the development of teaching modules at masters level.
- The University's cultural partnerships programme includes the Cultural Intern Scheme, an innovative careers development scheme sponsored by the University and its cultural partners. The scheme offers successful applicants a six-month paid work-based placement with one of ten leading cultural organisations in the West Midlands.



Heritage, as a way by which cultures and societies value, represent and understand the past, is widely recognised not only as an increasingly important resource, which is produced, exhibited and consumed, but also as an essential element in shaping, projecting and challenging identities from the level of the individual to that of the nation state.

Key projects

DIGITAL HUMANITIES HUB:

Increasingly the Hub is working across disciplines and through new partnerships to develop innovative applications of technology to new areas of public engagement, heritage, cultural delivery and health & wellbeing. Projects have attracted a range of funding from the European Regional Development Fund, EU FP7, the AHRC, the BBC and the NHS to a value of over £2.5m, resulting in demonstrable impact as well as research outputs.



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

RESEARCH AND PRACTICE WITH THE SHAKESPEARE INSTITUTE AT THE OTHER PLACE

**THE UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM HAS
ENTERED INTO AN**

**EXCITING FIVE-YEAR COLLABORATION WITH THE
ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY – A PIONEERING
PROJECT THAT WILL SEE THE REINSTATEMENT OF
THE ICONIC STUDIO THEATRE, THE OTHER PLACE.
OPENING IN 2016 TO COINCIDE WITH THE 400TH
ANNIVERSARY OF SHAKESPEARE'S DEATH, IT WILL
BE A HUB FOR CUTTING-EDGE RESEARCH AND
CREATIVE PRACTICE.**

IRONBRIDGE INSTITUTE:

Research at the Ironbridge Institute is grouped into themes including World Heritage, Heritage Policy, and Tourism and Cultural Change and works with leading national and international heritage agencies.

