The University of Birmingham is proud to be rooted in one of the most dynamic and diverse cities in the country. England’s first civic university, we have been pursuing and sharing knowledge through outstanding teaching and research since 1900.

Our Birmingham campus has grown to more than 600 acres, providing a welcoming home to more than 40,000 students from across the world. Our size has changed, but our civic commitment has not.

To understand how and where the University of Birmingham contributes to its city, region and country, we commissioned London Economics to look at our economic and social impact.

Their comprehensive review, based on data from the 2021-22 academic year, highlights the significant impact we make to the West Midlands and UK economies – totalling £4.4 billion and supporting nearly 20,000 jobs.

Through education and skills, research and development, and our work with students, staff, local communities and partners, we make a positive and lasting impact on individuals and society.

We contribute £4.4 billion every year to the UK economy
That’s more than the West Midlands’s car manufacturing industry (£3.562 billion)

1 in 50 jobs in Birmingham are directly supported by the University
Compared to operational costs of £769 million, the benefit to cost ratio is approximately 5.7:1

We support nearly 20,000 FTE jobs in the UK, and more than 13,000 of those are in the West Midlands

More than 40,000 students

More than 8,000 staff in 2021-22

88% of staff live in the West Midlands

47% of staff live in Birmingham

Find out more here
birmingham.ac.uk/news/economic-and-social-impact-report
Our research and knowledge transfer activity contributes £1.4 billion to the economy.

Every £1 million of research income generates £6.49 million of impact in the UK economy.

Our research ranked in the top 5 in REF2021 in nine units of assessment and ranked top in the UK for research impact in four units of assessment.

Our teaching is worth £1.3 billion to the economy.

We worked with more than 15,000 school pupils across the West Midlands to raise aspirations.

The University trained more than 5,300 teachers, social workers, nurses, doctors and dentists.

36% of our students are first generation from their family to attend university.

We ranked 1st out of Russell Group institutions in Great Britain for UK domiciled graduates in sustained employment and/or further study five years after graduation.

The University’s expenditure is £908 million.

45% of the University’s procurement expenditure took place in the West Midlands, with 24% in Birmingham.

We attracted approximately 870,000 attendees to public events.

Our city centre space The Exchange, museums, the Barber Institute of Fine Art, Winterbourne House and Gardens, and two concert halls bring cultural richness to our communities.

The economic impact of tourism associated with us is £46 million.

26,000 overnight trips to Birmingham were linked with us.

The impact of the University’s expenditure is £908 million.

We have 390,000 alumni across the world.

The majority of alumni believe that their degree helped them get a better job and to prepare them for their career.

Alumni also believe that their degree helped improve a wide range of skills (e.g. critical thinking; analytical, writing, and communication skills).

Through tuition fee income and local spending, our international students generate £690 million of economic impact.

Every seven international students studying at the University generate £1 million to the UK economy.

Staff volunteer at least 39,000 hours and we have 4,900 student volunteers – supporting local community groups and charities.

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