During 2016-17 the University Executive Board worked with the academic and professional services leadership of the University to consider what a thriving University of Birmingham would look like in the coming decade. Approved by University Council in June 2017, Birmingham 2026 sets out this ambition. It is built on plans developed by each School and College, supported by a number of signature University-wide initiatives.

Birmingham 2026 is an ambitious yet achievable plan to raise the academic performance of the University by growing research activity and increasing our student and staff numbers over the next decade. It provides clear and challenging goals, charting a course for balanced growth led by our excellence in research and teaching, underpinned by financial sustainability. This is the next stage in the process set out in the Strategic Framework 2015–2020, which recognised our unique role in the region and our ability to use our global influence to make important things happen for Birmingham and the Midlands.
IN 2026 THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM WILL BE

A multi-site global university with Edgbaston at its heart. Students will be able to study for a Birmingham degree at a number of dedicated sites, other institutions and online.

A place of transformative education at the cutting edge of educational delivery. Our teaching and curriculum will be continually reinvigorated and grounded in research.

A recognised ‘rising star’ institution, ranked among the top 100 in all major international league tables and among the top 50 in the majority of fields.

A destination of choice for the best researchers and students in the world.

A more research intensive environment with at least 40% of our income from research, enabling a significant growth in research output and strengthening the translation of research into economic and societal benefit.

An anchor institution in Birmingham, playing a major civic role at the heart of the city, the West Midlands and the wider Midlands region.

Financially strong, with a healthy surplus to continue investment in our academic mission and the student experience.

‘...A CULTURE THAT STIMULATES, NURTURES, ENGENDERS DRIVE, CONFIDENCE AND AMBITION...’
INVESTING IN PEOPLE AND THE INTELLECTUAL ENVIRONMENT

Central to our success will be people. We will invest to recruit more leading-edge researchers and inspiring teachers, and will focus on creating the right environment for undertaking world-class research. Our research culture will stimulate, nurture, and build a common sense of purpose in making Birmingham ‘the place to be’. We will back this up with investment in professional services to support this new activity.

STRENGTHENING OUR RESEARCH POSITION

Our ambition is to be firmly in the top handful of research institutions in the UK by increasing the quality and size of our research capability. This will require a step change across all disciplines in research funding, citations, impact, reputation, and individual recognition as well as signature investments at the institutional level – all underpinned by a rich academic culture and partnerships with industry.
We will invest in more outstanding researchers, teachers and professional services staff.

LEADING INNOVATION IN EDUCATION

We aim to be at the cutting edge of educational delivery and will continue to invest in the student experience to meet evolving demand for flexible, personalised, interdisciplinary learning experiences. We also plan to welcome more high quality students to study with us in Edgbaston, overseas or online.

EXTENDING OUR GLOBAL FOOTPRINT

While sustaining our strength in the home undergraduate market, we aim to maintain our healthy position in international recruitment to the Edgbaston campus, increasing our activities in Dubai and raising our academic reputation in other countries to ensure we are well-positioned when the UK leaves the EU.

Our new Teaching and Learning Block will provide high quality study facilities.
WHAT THIS WILL LOOK LIKE

INCREASE RESEARCH AWARDS BY 10% PER ANNUM TO £350M

SECURE A TOP 100 POSITION IN ALL MAJOR INTERNATIONAL RANKINGS

ENHANCE STUDENT:STAFF RATIOS

GROW OUR STUDENT NUMBERS BY AROUND 11,000, MANY OF WHOM WILL BE STUDYING OVERSEAS

RECRUIT 1,400 ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH-FOCUSED STAFF

BE AMONG THE UK’S TOP 5 RESEARCH INTENSIVE UNIVERSITIES
MAKING IT HAPPEN

Birmingham 2026 is the next stage of the process set out in the Strategic Framework 2015-2020 and will be delivered by all parts of the University. It is a flexible framework which tackles questions such as size, shape, and performance beyond the period covered by the Strategic Framework. It will be integral to our decision-making, helping us regularly to assess progress towards our ambitions and to seize new opportunities when they arise.

FIND OUT MORE FROM YOUR HEAD OF SCHOOL, HEAD OF COLLEGE, OR PROFESSIONAL SERVICE DIRECTOR.

www.birmingham.ac.uk/birmingham2026