



UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM

# Birmingham Global

The global university at  
the heart of the UK

We collaborate  
We activate

[birmingham.ac.uk](http://birmingham.ac.uk)



# The global university at the heart of the UK

**Ranked in the top 100**  
of the world's universities\*

---

**35th**  
most international university\*\*

---

**Over one-third**  
of academic staff are overseas nationals

---

**Over 12,500**  
international students from over 160 countries

---

**Over 101,000**  
alumni live overseas

---

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

\*\*Times Higher Education 2024

Founding member of the Universitas 21 network of **29 world-class universities from 19 countries**

---





“ The University of Birmingham was founded on the vision of Joseph Chamberlain in 1900 to provide a university for the people of Birmingham. But we have been global from the outset. 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. 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 Adam Tickell, Vice-Chancellor and Principal**





“ 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.



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

Hailed by *Times Higher Education (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 **BiR**mingham-Illinois Partnership for **D**iscovery, **EnG**agement and **E**ducation (**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*

“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*

## 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, 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 co-funds joint PhD awards, 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 over 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.



# Spotlight: Strategic partnerships in global healthcare

## **The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation funds Birmingham research to help stop women dying in childbirth.**

With substantial funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, University of Birmingham maternal health experts have developed a global research network in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Birmingham researchers collaborated with teams in Kenya, Tanzania, Nigeria and South Africa, as well as other international partners. They conducted a large cluster-randomised trial which aimed to stop women dying or suffering complications because of excessive bleeding after giving birth at healthcare facilities across four countries.

The E-MOTIVE trial was carried out in 80 health facilities across the four countries with over 210,000 women giving birth in the study. The findings identified a new treatment approach which reduced severe bleeding by 60 per cent and resulted in dramatic improvements in outcomes for women.

The work has now pivoted to look at the viability to roll out and scale up the approach. E-MOTIVE

has recently been shown to be cost-effective and is being implemented at scale in 20 of the highest burden countries in collaboration with the World Health Organization, who have updated their international guidelines as a consequence. The trial's success has been widely publicised and was identified by the Gates Foundation as one of the most promising interventions to help meet their aim of saving 2 million lives from maternal causes of death by 2030.

“PPH is the leading cause of maternal death worldwide and accounts for 27 per cent 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 & Melinda Gates Foundation for supporting our project, which demonstrates that provider behaviours can be changed so they detect PPH early and put into action a range of interventions that can 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 vaccines. 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 vaccine delivery, helping governments, vaccine development agencies, and 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 fifth of our academic staff are non-UK Europeans, as are almost 10 per cent of our PhD students. We are currently (in 2024) 4th in the UK for overall project participation within Horizon Europe Pillar 2\* and have one of the largest networks of European exchange partners, providing study abroad opportunities in Europe to over 350 students every year. 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.





## Advancing European well-being

Our membership in the European University for Well-being (EUniWell) is both a symbolic and practical demonstration of our renewed commitment to Europe in a post-Brexit landscape. EUniWell is an ambitious transnational alliance, uniting around 300,000 students and 50,000 staff from the Universities of Birmingham, Firenze, Köln, Konstanz, Linnaeus, Murcia, Nantes, Semmelweis and Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv with over 100 associate partners drawn from across Europe. In July 2020, EUniWell was selected as a 'European University of the Future' in the European Commission's Erasmus+ programme and in 2021 was awarded additional H2020 funding to pursue further collaboration in relation to research.

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.

On a practical level, this means enabling researchers from across our alliance to identify and pursue opportunities for collaboration on relevant, topical well-being issues. We also seek to enhance the skills of European citizens, contribute to equality and diversity in our cities, and support multilingualism and multiculturalism across our respective societies. This is all underpinned by civic collaborations with a great variety of societal actors, including schools, city councils, and the private sector.



EUniWell Policy Commissions 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 was chaired by Stefano Manservigi, former Director-General of the European Commission's Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development.





Joint UoB-IFNUL summer school delivery team

## Standing together with Ukraine

In 2022, following the Russian invasion of Ukraine, we established a long-term twinning partnership with Ivan Franko National University of Lviv (IFNUL). Our work supports the #TwinForHope campaign launched by Universities UK, which highlights the impact that partnerships between universities are having as they twin to share resources, learning and ideas during the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine.

Backed by UK Research & Innovation (UKRI) funding, our Twinning for Identity, Sovereignty and Resilience research programme is creating an 'English-Ukrainian Dictionary of Legal Terms' - helping to address issues created by historical use of post-Soviet legal language in Ukrainian law. Working in partnership with Ukraine's Constitutional Court, we have defined the first 1,000 terms in this unique handbook for scientists, human rights defenders, and legal experts further developing the country as a constitutional democracy.

More broadly, our twinning partnership is building research networks that strengthen Ukraine's resilience and help British researchers

better understand and respond to the crisis across areas such as: the effects of Russian military occupation on Ukrainian reconstruction; rebuilding Ukrainian identity and community through theatre and performance; cross-border resilience of critical transport infrastructure; and Post-Soviet security.

In education, our jointly delivered and hugely successful summer school—"Unlocking Ukraine: A Journey through Language, History and Culture"—brought IFNUL academics and students to campus to teach alongside Birmingham counterparts. This allowed IFNUL to preserve their tradition of teaching Ukrainian language and culture to non-Ukrainians. As one of the first UK offerings of its kind, it raised the profile of Ukrainian culture and context to a broader audience, including students, the general public, diasporic Eastern European communities, and hosts of homes for Ukraine.

We are proud to play our part in supporting Ukrainian universities through the conflict and working with them to emerge stronger than before.



“ 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*



## 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. Our partnership focuses on equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) and has strengthened our long-standing successful relationship.

## New routes for applied research

In Germany, we are taking forward strategic partnerships with national research agencies to embed University of Birmingham expertise in the scientific fabric of European research infrastructure. We have a long-standing collaboration agreement with the Federal Institute of Materials Research and Testing in Berlin. The agreement spans energy, chemistry, material research, and life and environmental sciences, increasing the impact of University of Birmingham research in relation to statutory regulation and standardisation policies. We also have an I3 partnership between the University of Birmingham, Fraunhofer UMSICHT and Jiangsu Industry Technology Research Institute, Nanjing, which 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.

## 84 Marie Curie

fellows from 2017 to 2021

Since 2017, we have received funding for **970 research projects** from 380 international organisations



# Global research Highlights

## The Birmingham engine driving global transport improvement

The Birmingham Centre for Railway Research and Education (BCRRE) is the largest of its kind in Europe. Working with over 50 companies in 20 countries, BCRRE's research is changing the way that railways operate and innovate. For example:

- In Singapore and India, we have developed programmes to train the world's rail engineers of the future;
- Across Africa, South America and the Middle East we have developed and delivered short courses in railway technology, business and operations;
- We are working with the Guangzhou Metro Corporation in China to make rail travel safe, comfortable and energy efficient for its 8.2 million users;
- Supporting Brazil's \$15 billion investment into railways, we are collaborating with the Ministry of Infrastructure (MINFRA) on cutting-edge research and education programmes.

Our impact extends to other countries in the Global South, helping emerging economies to

fast-track their railway sector to contribute to achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The centre has collaborated in thought leadership in Ethiopia and Tanzania, and has conducted a large-scale research on the implementation of hydrogen locomotives for railways in Sub-Saharan African countries.

BCRRE researchers are integrating hydrogen and battery power to help meet ambitious goals for the UK's trains and technology which could have global impact, such as the HydroFLEX train featured at COP26 in 2021. We have created digital twins of infrastructure and railway operations to undertake analysis and optimisation in the virtual world, allowing multiple scenarios without even leaving the lab!

In 2017, the University of Birmingham was awarded the prestigious Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education for BCRRE's contribution to making railways around the world safer and more efficient. In 2022, we co-hosted the landmark World Congress on Rail Research in Birmingham. And the University leads the UK Railway Research and Innovation Network (UKRRIN) – a £92 million partnership between the rail supply industry and 17 UK universities that is establishing the UK as a world-leading centre of railway research and innovation excellence.





## 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 A Systems Approach to Air Pollution India (ASAAP 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, as well as 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. It also pays 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.

Universitas 21 (U21) is a prestigious global network of research-intensive universities dedicated to fostering international collaboration and enhancing the quality of higher education worldwide. By connecting member institutions, U21 facilitates the sharing of knowledge, ideas, and best practices, promoting a diverse and inclusive academic community.

The University of Birmingham is an active member of Universitas 21, leveraging this membership to enhance its global engagement and academic offerings. Through U21, the University of Birmingham participates in various collaborative projects, research initiatives, and student exchange programmes that benefit both staff and students.

Different opportunities include the Three Minute Thesis® competition, the RISE (Real Impact on Society and Environment) awards and the Early Career Researcher workshops which are the genesis of the Research Leaders' Group. There is also the Universitas 21 Global Citizens program which is a three-week, student online leadership development course and the U21 Sustainable Micro-internships programme.



**25,326**  
**academic**  
**papers**  
published since 2021

**61%**  
written in  
collaboration with  
international  
co-authors

International  
research funding:  
**£180M**  
awarded by  
international funders  
in the last five years

Research conducted  
in collaboration with  
**7,542**  
institutions  
worldwide





# Celebrating over a decade of commitment in Brazil

The University's decision to officially launch our Brazil Institute in 2023 caps over 13 years of strategic engagement in Brazil. Our long-term commitment has yielded resilient partnerships that deliver real impact. We have wide-ranging research relationships with over 180 institutions from almost all states, with a particular concentration in São Paulo, and a combined research impact that registers over six times the world average.

In May 2023, we signed a protocol of intent with Brazil's Minister of Education, Camilo Santana, setting out our shared commitment to collaborate more closely through the creation of a Brazil Institute at the University to strengthen Brazil-UK cooperation in research and education. Amidst the regrettable but steady decline of Latin American Studies centres, set up in UK universities in the 1960s, the launch of the University of Birmingham Brazil Institute (UBBI) now creates a significant new UK research centre.

In collaboration with Brazilian partners, the UBBI is dedicated to tackling multidisciplinary

scientific challenges that are critically important for Brazil, the UK and wider world. A prime example is the Chico Mendes Visiting Chair Programme, awarded to the UBBI by the Brazilian federal funding agency for graduate education, CAPES (Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior). Named after Brazilian land-rights leader and environmentalist Chico Mendes (1944-1988), the five-year programme will bring 15 Brazilian academics to Birmingham to build research partnerships across Environmental Sciences, Climate Change, Ecosystems, Sustainability, and Societies and Environment - the defining global challenge of our times.

**“** I firmly believe that the UBBI will not only further consolidate the University of Birmingham's position as a key academic gateway to Brazil in the United Kingdom but also stand as a landmark in the cooperation between our two countries in the field of education.

*His Excellency Mr Antonio Patriota, Ambassador of Brazil to the UK, speaking at the on-campus launch of the UBBI in November 2023.*



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 over 100 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, 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, and have been awarded scholarships to support women scholars across Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

The establishment of the UBBI will strengthen and support the distinctive portfolio Birmingham has cultivated with Brazil: research that is defined by place-based relevance, whether in health, nanotechnology, environmental science, transport, or energy. 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 comparative studies into atrial fibrillation across disadvantaged populations in Brazil, China and Sri Lanka.

## 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 is developing 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.





Celebrating the launch of the University of Birmingham Brazil Institute at the British Embassy in Brasilia.

## Forestry

Amazon FACE in Manaus, led by UNICAMP's Center for Meteorological and Climate Research Applied to Agriculture, is a parallel experiment to BIFoR FACE in Staffordshire, led by the Birmingham Institute of Forest Research (BIFoR). Together, the forest Free-Air Carbon Dioxide Enrichment (FACE) facilities constitute by far the world's largest experiment to study the effect of our changing atmosphere on nature. Researchers seek to predict how tropical and temperate forests would respond if the level of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) in the atmosphere was 50 per cent higher than its current level. Collaboration between the facilities is supported by the large-scale, multi-national QUINTUS project, led by BIFoR, and funded by the UK's Natural Environment Research Council. The scientists hope the data collected will support decisions on ways of mitigating or even preventing the impacts of rising atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> levels. 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 the UBBI and its 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 former 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 per cent

of fellowships to Indian women scholars. The new India Institute Women in Research fellowship aims to advance the efforts to close the gender gap and promote female leadership and excellence in research.

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



“ 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

We have established a permanent footprint in India through our University of Birmingham India Office in New Delhi. Our team of 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 coordinated INDIA H2O, a consortium involving 20 partners from the EU and India. The project, funded by Horizon 2020 and the Indian government's Department of Biotechnology, developed 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

Our capacity-building work supports India's national ambitions in sports development and competition, including through the Tokyo Olympics and the Commonwealth Games 2022.

### Sustainable cooling

Landmark projects with the states of Haryana and Telangana to accelerate the deployment of energy-efficient refrigeration for food and vaccine supply chains across India.



# 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. A 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.

### Combatting childhood obesity

In partnership with the Guangzhou Centre for Disease Control, the Chirpy Dragon 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. Our 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 creates 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 over 6,000 Chinese students studying across our campuses in Edgbaston and Dubai, and at our Jinan University-University of Birmingham Joint Institute (JBJI). We continue to innovate to enable students to combine pathways across China, UK and the UAE. Notably, through JBII, we deliver mathematics based programmes that allow Chinese students to experience both international and local teaching methods and gain degrees from both institutions.

## Our engagement with China is supported by an effective global infrastructure:

### 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

The University of Birmingham China Institute provides a focal point bringing together people, ideas, funding opportunities and academic excellence.

### The University of Birmingham Hong Kong Foundation

The University of Birmingham Hong Kong Foundation harnesses the transformative power of philanthropy, helping us to address issues that matter to Hong Kong and the wider region. Funds generously donated by alumni are distributed by the board of Directors twice a year, enabling us to strengthen and deepen local research partnerships and to help the best and brightest students from Hong Kong to study at Edgbaston.





# 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.

## 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.*

“ 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.*



## Student exchange

We partner with over 300 institutions worldwide for study abroad opportunities, with 1,500 incoming and outgoing exchange students per 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.*

**Over 300**  
global exchange  
partners

---

**1,500**  
incoming and  
outgoing  
students  
per year





# 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 opened our landmark second-phase campus in 2021, which embodies our belief in innovation. This hi-tech facility

allows 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 provides 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:  
**[birmingham.ac.uk/dubai](https://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. The Covid pandemic limited the international flow of people—although ideas continued 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 ORB, Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President (International)

For more information, please visit:  
**[birmingham.ac.uk/international](https://birmingham.ac.uk/international)**





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 Scholar.** 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 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:  
**[birmingham.ac.uk/international](http://birmingham.ac.uk/international)**



Designed and printed by



UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM

Creative  
Media

Edgbaston, Birmingham,  
B15 2TT, United Kingdom  
[birmingham.ac.uk](http://birmingham.ac.uk)