The University of Sheffield

Sheffield gained its Royal Charter to open as a University in 1905. When it first opened, the University had only 503 students and 71 members of staff. We now have almost 28,000 students and over 8,000 staff based in buildings on over a mile long stretch of campus.

The University of Sheffield is recognised as being one of the original ‘redbrick’ institutions. It is a member of the prestigious Russell Group, which is comprised of 24 research-led UK universities. The University is made up of 54 academic departments which are grouped into 5 faculties: Arts & Humanities; Engineering; Medicine, Dentistry and Health; Science; and Social Sciences.

Welcome to the University of Sheffield

Information Hubs have been placed in key locations across the campus.

At these hubs you’ll be able to talk to our students who will answer any questions you have. They’ll also be able to help you find your way around and talk to you in general about life as a Sheffield student. Only the times of your departmental talks are fixed so you can choose how and when to do the tour. To cover all of the stops on the tour, we recommend that you allow one hour. Details of subject exhibitions and locations can be found in your Open Day guide.

Open Day
Self-Guided Campus Tour

1. The Students’ Union

The Sheffield Students’ Union plays a key role in the lives of our students providing support, representation, activities and entertainment for all. The fantastic, modern building features cafes, shops, bars, an advice centre and an activities & sports zone where students can join over 400 sports clubs and societies.

2. Hicks Building

The Hicks Building is home to the Departments of Physics and Astronomy and the School of Mathematics and Statistics. The building is named after mathematician and physicist William Hicks – the first Vice Chancellor of the University.

3. The Octagon Centre

This multi-purpose venue is an internationally-recognised conference centre and music venue, as well as being used for lectures and graduation ceremonies. In the Octagon today you can listen to general talks about the University, get a real student perspective from some of our current undergraduates, hear from our university accommodation and find out about funding your studies from finance experts.

4. Firth Court

Firth Court was opened in 1905 by King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra. It is currently home to the Department of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology and the Department of Biomedical Science. Visitors are welcome to look around the foyer, quad and first floor at some of the historic features, but please be aware that access to some areas may be restricted. For further information, please call at the Porter’s Lodge located on the left as you enter the building.

5. Alfred Denny Building

The Alfred Denny Building is home to the Department of Animal & Plant Sciences. It’s also home to the Alfred Denny Museum, which contains specimens of animals from across the globe and letters from Charles Darwin written to Henry Denny (Alfred Denny’s father).

6. Western Bank Library

Western Bank Library is a Grade II listed building. It contains one million books, has 730 study spaces and is open seven days a week. The library backs onto Weston Park providing great views, making it a relaxed and tranquil place to study (currently closed due to building works).

7. The Arts Tower

Opened in 1906 by the Queen Mother, this Grade II listed building is the tallest university building in the country at 78m tall. It is mainly an administration block although the School of Architecture and the Department of Landscape Architecture still occupy the top floors. The Arts Tower houses the extremely rare paternoster lift system. With 38 cars, it is the largest working paternoster in the UK.

8. Dainton and Richard Roberts Buildings

The Dainton and Richard Roberts Building is home to the Faculty of Science. The East Wing was renamed Richard Roberts after the Nobel Prize winning Alumnus.

9. University Arms

A real ale pub for University staff, students and visitors alike. It serves hearty meals and has a great beer garden.

10. Information Commons

The Information Commons is a fully integrated learning environment combining both library and IT services, with approximately 100,000 in-demand texts, around 1500 study spaces and over 500 PCs. Students benefit from specifically designed group study areas and IT classrooms. There is wireless networking throughout. The building is swipe access only to ensure it is reserved solely for the use of current students.

11. Jessop West

Designed by well-known Berlin architect Sauerbauch Hutton this building provides meeting and seminar spaces for History, English and Modern Languages, as well as exhibition spaces for more general use. It holds state of the art practice rooms and recording studios for Music students.

12. Jessop Building

Previously the Victoria Wing of Sheffield’s Jessop Maternity Hospital, the University has been careful to retain the look and feel of this building which is intrinsically linked with the city. It now houses offices, practice and teaching rooms for the Department of Music.

13. The Diamond

This £81 million building – our largest ever investment in teaching and learning – has created a fantastic place for modern interdisciplinary teaching. As well as specialist Engineering teaching facilities the building houses a range of lecture theatres, seminar rooms, open-plan learning spaces, library services and social spaces available to all students.

14. St Georges Church

St George’s was built in 1821. It was purchased and converted into a lecture theatre by the University in 1994, following its closure several years earlier. It also provides accommodation for some postgraduate students on the upper level.

15. Sir Frederick Mappin

This grade II listed building is named after Sir Frederick Mappin, who was one of the key instigators in the creation of the University. It now houses the Faculty of Engineering along with the Sir Henry Stephenson and Sir Robert Hatfield Buildings.

16. The Soundhouse

This innovative black rubber box building replicates the look of a sound speaker. It holds state of the art practice rooms and recording studios for Music students.

17. Regent Court

Regent Court is home to the Departments of Computer Science and The Information School. The Departments of Economics and Journalism are located next door. Archaeology is just round the corner on West Street.

18. Goodwin Sports Centre

Goodwin Sports Centre is our sports facility hosting three full sized synthetic turf pitches, three small sided synthetic turf pitches, a multi-purpose 638sqm sports hall, swimming pool, bouldering wall, four squash courts, a tennis court and the superbly equipped S10health Fitness Centre.

Disabled access around the University

Please see our new app AccessAble UOS, which provides guidance to accessible routes around campus and into buildings, or find more information about accessibility here: www.sheffield.ac.uk/visitors/disabilities.