A Leading Global University.
Welcome to The University of Sheffield

99% of research rated as internationally recognised, excellent or world leading (REF 2014)

£155.9m research funding income (2016-17)

28,000 students including 8,000 from overseas

World Top 100 University
(82nd in QS World University Rankings 2018)

Top 3 for student experience for 7 years in a row
(Times Higher Education Experience Survey 2017)

170,000 alumni from 187 countries

We are a member of the prestigious Russell Group of the UK’s leading research-focused universities
“We are committed to changing the world for the better through the power of ideas and knowledge.”

Professor Sir Keith Burnett is President and Vice-Chancellor of The University of Sheffield. He is an eminent scientist and a member of the Council of Science and Technology, which advises the British prime minister on national science and technology policy. He is a campaigner for the internationalisation of higher education and co-founded the award-winning #WeAreInternational campaign. He speaks fluent Mandarin and has been recognised for strengthening educational and industry links between the UK and China.

At The University of Sheffield, we welcome the brightest and best teachers, researchers and students from more than 150 countries. As much today as when the University was founded in 1905, we are committed to our mission to change the world for the better through the power of ideas and knowledge.

It is our global connections and international community that make us a centre of excellence. We cannot hope to shape our world for the better without inviting like-minded institutions, organisations and individuals from across the globe to work with us. We are one of the world’s leading institutions precisely because we are international. We have not achieved greatness in isolation but in partnership and collaboration with those who share our values and ambitions.

Professor Sir Keith Burnett CBE FRS FRSW
President and Vice-Chancellor
Our history and heritage

Our vision of the transforming impact of education has inspired our University since 1905.

Our University’s story began over a century ago with the founding of The School of Medicine in 1828, Firth College in 1879 and the Sheffield Technical School in 1884. The University of Sheffield was formed from these three institutions and was granted its Royal Charter in 1905.

The University was funded by public subscription. Our founders wanted to build a university which would make a difference to their children’s lives through access to education and by improving the city’s health, wellbeing and future prosperity. Over 100 years later we continue to uphold these values in our vision for the future.

Since 1905, The University of Sheffield has established itself as one of the largest and best universities in the UK, consistently positioned in the top 100 in the World University Rankings. We have a reputation for teaching and research excellence across our five faculties and our International Faculty in Greece. Our Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre with Boeing is a world-class centre of scientific expertise and technological innovation.
World-class teaching

“A our priority is to offer our students the highest quality education and experience. All of our academic and teaching staff are committed to ensuring students get the best out of their time at Sheffield.”

Professor Wyn Morgan, Vice-President for Education

We are proud of the expertise, dedication and passion of our students and staff. Our students come here to learn from world-leading experts and we have created a learning and teaching environment that is globally leading too.

Our teaching staff are leading the way with innovative approaches to learning and teaching. We work closely with our students to ensure we are developing new methods and technology which supports them to achieve the best results.

All of our students have access to some of the world’s most advanced learning and teaching facilities.

Through our partnership with Siemens we have become the first university in the world to join the MindSphere Innovation Network (MiNe). This includes the MindSphere Lounge - based in our £81 million building, The Diamond - which is a physical space to show digital innovation as well as host workshops, events and lectures.

The MiNe network aims to connect universities’ facilities and research knowledge into MindSphere. The MiNe brings together academic partners, Siemens, and their customers to find solutions to challenges. Our students and staff have access to MindSphere, Siemens’ Internet of Things (IoT) operating system and data analytics services, alongside support from two Siemens engineers on site.

“Our MindSphere Lounge – a new hub for digital knowledge exchange and innovation”

“W e believe this innovative network heralds a new eco-system enabled by MindSphere, which will provide a vital new model for collaboration between institutions, departments and other key stakeholders to universities.”

Juergen Maier, CEO Siemens UK
Our vibrant international community

Almost a quarter of our students and 20 per cent of our staff are from overseas. Our international values are embedded throughout our institution. Our students and staff are encouraged to take every opportunity to enhance their cultural knowledge and international experience, whether they are on our campus in Sheffield or on a trip overseas.

Life-changing scholarships

We offer scholarships to reward international applicants who show exceptional academic achievement and potential. In 2017, we provided £5 million in scholarships to support students from all over the world to study in Sheffield.

"A combination of academic reputation, the wonderful campus and amazing student lifestyle led me to apply to The University of Sheffield. The course content has challenged my thinking and working with other students from all over the world has given me a different perspective.

Winning this scholarship has not only provided financial support but has also boosted my personal development. It has given me a feeling of achievement and the confidence to do great things now and in my future career."

Name: Obaidullah Amin
Course: MSc International Management and Marketing
From: Pakistan
Winner of the Postgraduate Merit Scholarship 2017

Our award-winning #WeAreInternational campaign shows our commitment to ensuring that universities remain diverse, inclusive communities of international scholarship open to students and staff from across the world.

This pioneering initiative now has the support of more than 160 universities, colleges and high-profile organisations worldwide. We will continue to ensure our research knows no geographical boundaries and our students and staff from around the world are able to celebrate their own cultures and friendships.

You can find out more about our commitment to welcoming international scholars to Sheffield at www.weareinternational.org.uk.
Our inspirational alumni

Our alumni hold positions of responsibility and influence in businesses and organisations all over the world.

Dr Helen Sharman OBE (BSc Chemistry 1984)
First Briton in space

Became President and CEO of major research and development organisation, Battelle

Amy Johnson CBE (BA Latin, French and Economics 1925)
First woman to fly solo from Britain to Australia

Penny Hughes CBE (BSc Chemistry 1980, Honorary LLD 1994)
Became President of Coca-Cola in Great Britain

The Rt. Hon. Dato’ Lela Negara Tun Arifin bin Zakaria (LLB Law 1974)
Became Chief Justice of Malaysia

Dame Jessica Ennis-Hill (BSc Psychology, Honorary LittD 2010)
Winner of Olympic Gold for Great Britain in the heptathlon

2009

Our Nobel Prize winners

Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine
1945 – Lord Howard Florey FRS (Joseph Hunter Chair of Pathology 1932-35)
1953 – Sir Hans Krebs FRS (Lecturer 1935-45, Professor 1945-54)
1993 – Sir Richard Roberts FRS (BSc Chemistry 1965, PhD 1968)

Nobel Prize in Chemistry
1967 – Lord George Porter OM FRS (Professor 1955-66)
1996 – Sir Harry Kroto FRS (BSc Chemistry 1961, PhD 1964)
Life-changing research with global impact

Our research has a global reputation. It influences national, regional and international policy and changes lives. We are in the top ten per cent of all UK universities for research excellence with 99 per cent of our research rated as internationally recognised, excellent or world-leading (REF 2014).

We make a difference to people’s lives, whether we are developing a cure for motor neurone disease or making policy recommendations to improve literacy levels among children.

We contribute to international research partnerships including being a founder member of the Worldwide Universities Network.

To find out more about our global reputation for research excellence and a full list of our research centres, institutes and groups, visit www.sheffield.ac.uk/research

Cutting-edge research centres
The Sheffield Institute of Translational Neuroscience
The Insigneo Institute for in silico Medicine
Humanities Research Institute
Sheffield Institute for International Development
Sheffield Political Economy Research Institute
P3 - Plant Production and Protection
The Florey Institute
Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre with Boeing

Our centre to support international development projects and research in Tanzania

Donations from University alumni, students and supporters helped to build a 30-bed residential centre in Tanzania which is now hosting visits from international researchers and independent travellers.

The Field Centre, located at the foot of Kilimanjaro, is a joint venture between our Department of Geography, SIDshare - a student-run social enterprise - and the Kilimanjaro Environmental Development Association (KEDA).

As well as being an ideal base for fieldwork, the Centre provides a source of income to support the international development projects of both SIDshare and KEDA.

Among other work, KEDA has used the Centre to teach basic IT skills to women and young people, using donated computers from the University.

Since 2016, international development masters students from the University have visited the Centre to support local development projects, including providing training and equipment for beekeeping and honey collection.
Increasing survival rates for heart attack victims

Our researchers helped to develop an anti-clotting drug for heart attack patients which has now been adopted as a standard treatment in 80 countries worldwide.

Professor Rob Storey, from the Department of Infection, Immunity and Cardiovascular Disease, led the team who showed that the drug, known as ticagrelor, prevents clots more efficiently than the previous standard treatment and significantly increases the chances of survival in heart attack patients.

This research contributed directly to the drug being approved by regulatory authorities and recommended by the European Society of Cardiology and the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence both as a first-line treatment for acute coronary syndromes and for longer term treatment in the years following a heart attack.

In 2017, Professor Storey – an honorary consultant in cardiology – was named among the prestigious world’s most highly cited scientific researchers of 2017 (Clarivate Analytics).

3D printing helps to restore damaged nerves

Patients with severe nerve damage can suffer a complete loss of limb movement and sensation.

Our engineers and scientists have used a 3D printed device called a nerve guidance conduit (NGC) to guide the damaged nerve ends towards each other so that they can repair naturally.

The new technique uses Computer Aided Design to design the devices which are then produced through a 3D printer. This means they can be adapted for any type of nerve damage and can be tailored to the needs of an individual patient.

The new approach was developed by a team led by bioengineers Professor John Haycock and Dr Fred Claeyssens and Professor Fiona Boissonade from the School of Clinical Dentistry.

Tackling climate change

“We are working to mitigate the effects of climate change – one of the greatest challenges facing humanity today.”

Professor David Beerling FRS

An international team of scientists and social scientists have joined forces to investigate ways to remove large amounts of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere to cool the planet and mitigate ocean acidification.

The Leverhulme Centre for Climate Change Mitigation (LC3M) brings together researchers from the universities of Sheffield, Cardiff, Southampton, California (Riverside), Illinois, the Open University and the South East Asia Rainforest Research Programme.

The Centre, whose director is Professor David Beerling FRS at the University of Sheffield, has received £10 million from the Leverhulme Trust to carry out this research.

Their research will take place in laboratories in the UK but also in field trials in the USA and Malaysian Borneo.
Changing perceptions of women through the power of sport

Four events in Brazil, Argentina and Colombia will draw together academic expertise and first-hand experience of how women practice football and are represented in the sport.

Academics, female footballers and representatives from sport development projects will share their knowledge of the barriers women face when participating in football.

They will seek to understand the potential impact on gender equality and other sustainable development goals if these barriers were overcome.

Professor Wood has received an International Networks Award from the Arts and Humanities Research Council to organise the events and conduct research into this area, alongside co-investigators in Argentina and Brazil.

Identifying dietary changes that could prevent diabetes and obesity

Professor Michelle Holdsworth, from the University’s School of Health and Related Research, is leading an international team of researchers to investigate the factors which drive unhealthy dietary changes.

The pioneering projects are investigating dietary transitions in Ghana and Kenya which, like many other African countries, are experiencing rapid change partly driven by increasing migration to cities.

These changes have resulted in people having unhealthier diets in cities, but there is limited understanding of the factors that drive dietary change - particularly the role that social and physical environments play.

The research is being conducted in collaboration with the University of Ghana, University of Health and Allied Sciences, Ghana, the African Population Health Research Council (Kenya), Loughborough University, University of Liverpool, the French Agricultural Research and International Cooperative Organisation (CIRAD).

Lead researcher Professor David Wood, from the University’s Faculty of Arts and Humanities, said:

“We will not only generate academic understandings of this field but policy recommendations for national and regional football federations.”

Dr Robert Akparibo and Professor Michelle Holdsworth from The University of Sheffield (3rd and 4th from left) pictured with members of the Dietary Change team in Ghana.
A new theory on how plants breathe

Plants ‘breathe’ by taking up carbon dioxide and expelling oxygen through microscopic pores called stomata, which are surrounded by guard cells.

Previous understanding of the process stated that the thickening of the inside of guard cells (radial stiffening) is an important part of the shape change process required for the stomata to open.

The new research, led by Professor Andrew Fleming in the Department of Animal and Plant Sciences, used atomic force microscopy to demonstrate that not all stomatal cells display radial stiffening.

With this new understanding, the research team is now exploring the possibilities of selecting and engineering crops that have improved mechanical properties in their stomata, which could lead to increased agricultural productivity.

The research was a collaboration between biologists and physicists at the University, along with collaborators at the John Innes Centre in Norwich and the Sainsbury Laboratory at the University of Cambridge.

Research published by our scientists has rewritten the textbook definition of how plants breathe.

Shaping international policy on how to care for an ageing population

We are leading a global network who are developing policy recommendations to support the planning, resource and delivery of social care to ageing populations.

The Sustainable Care Research Programme, led by Professor Sue Yeandle from the University’s Department of Sociological Studies, is bringing together academics from a network of partners in 15 countries.

The £2.5 million project will look at current approaches to the care needs of adults living at home with chronic health problems or disabilities and examining these in the context of care systems, care work and care relationships.

The research, which is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council Large Grant programme, will feed directly into the charity Carers UK and help influence policy at local, national and international levels.

“This work will fill knowledge gaps, contribute new theoretical ideas and data analyses, and provide useful, accurate evidence to inform care planning, provision and experience.”

Professor Yeandle
Our global partners

We are proud to work in partnership with more than 400 prestigious universities as well as research institutes and major companies across the globe. Together we share knowledge, facilities and insight which leads to mutually beneficial results through internationally recognised research, outstanding teaching and commercial success.

Our academic partners across the globe

We work with academic partners all over the world, collaborating on research and encouraging international experience through student and staff mobility. We are proud to be one of just 23 institutions in the Worldwide Universities Network (WUN).

“My trip to the University of Bergen was part of the Research Mobility Programme offered by WUN which allows researchers and PhD students to visit international partners to establish and cultivate academic connections and develop research projects.

During my visit I studied and wrote notes for my thesis and I started a new creative project in collaboration with two renowned practitioners in the field, including my host supervisor. It was a great experience which was undoubtedly useful and enriching.”

Department of Music researcher Alejandro Albornoz spent one month on a research visit at the University of Bergen, Norway.

Our exchange agreements with international partners enable our students and staff to spend time in countries including Australia, Canada, China, New Zealand, Singapore, the USA and Europe. Whether it is a year overseas as part of their course, a semester abroad or a summer school during the summer break.

“Studying abroad has developed me as a person so much. Not only in confidence but I am more independent and I have a wider circle of friends.”

MChem Chemistry student Catherine Finnes spent a year studying at Monash University, Melbourne, Australia.
Our partnerships with world leaders in industry

The University’s Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (AMRC) with Boeing specialises in carrying out world-leading research into advanced machining, manufacturing and materials. The AMRC has more than 100 industrial partners including Boeing, McLaren, Rolls-Royce, BAE Systems and Airbus. The centre has a global reputation for helping companies solve manufacturing problems and has become a model for collaborative research between universities and industry.

An example to the world of manufacturing

One of the world’s leading oil and gas exporters is establishing its own version of the AMRC in a bid to diversify its economy and attract major foreign investment.

AMRC Oman - known in-country as Intaj-Suhar - is a clear example of how the collaborative approach pioneered by the University of Sheffield is being seen across the world as a role model.

“As the originators of the AMRC model, we have been able to show how world class research can help manufacturers of any size add value to their business.”

AMRC Executive Director, John Baragwanath

Advancing space exploration

In September 2016, the University’s AMRC signed an agreement to launch a joint research centre with the Shanghai Academy of Spaceflight Technology (SAST).

AMRC will work with SAST to develop strong, thin-walled structures for commercial space rockets.

The partnership also gives academics and industry professionals access to training in advanced manufacturing techniques.

With an annual budget of $60 billion, SAST is a key partner in China’s ambitious space programme, which includes the development of the Tiangong Space Station.

Developing a new generation of wind power

We are working with the biggest names in industry to make the UK a world leader in offshore wind technology.

Researchers from our Faculty of Engineering are leading a £7.6m project to reduce the cost of electricity from offshore wind. Their findings could provide the basis for a new generation of more advanced wind turbines and strengthen the UK’s reputation as a global leader in the field.

The project sees our experts collaborate with colleagues from the universities of Durham and Hull, alongside industrial partners Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy and DONG Energy, the world’s largest developer of offshore wind.
Why work with us?

Among our current international partners are many prestigious universities and some of the biggest names in industry. Partnering with us means access to more than 2,000 academic and research staff and a wealth of experience of working with and in industry.

We see working in partnership as a two-way process which offers the mutual benefits of enhancing global experiences for our students and staff, strengthening the depth and impact of our research and bringing new perspectives to our teaching. Our strategic vision is to continue to grow our international partnerships to help us understand the world and make it better.

If your organisation shares our values and aspirations and you feel that we could work together successfully to connect knowledge and cultures across national borders then please get in touch.