A Leading Global University.
A Leading Global University.

Welcome to the University of Sheffield

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

£198m research funding income (2017-18)

28,000 students including 8,000 from overseas

We are a member of the prestigious Russell Group of the UK’s leading research-focused universities

World Top 100 University (78th in QS World University Rankings 2020)

Top 10% in Europe for teaching excellence (Times Higher Education Europe Teaching Rankings 2019)

170,000 alumni from 187 countries
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“We are proudly international in every way.”

Professor Koen Lamberts is President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sheffield. Originally from Belgium, he is a cognitive psychologist with an extensive track record in research on human perception and memory. He has a decade of experience in senior roles in Russell Group universities and has also worked in the USA. Professor Lamberts is deeply passionate about the value of international scholarship and collaboration and is currently Chair of the UK Council for International Student Affairs.

The University of Sheffield is known globally for the excellence of its research, teaching and student experience. We welcome the best students, researchers and teachers from across the world to work in pursuit of our founding principle, to transform lives for the better. We are proudly international in every way.

In 1905 our founders wanted to build a university which would make a difference to their children’s lives. Today we are a centre of international scholarship which is achieving this vision on a global scale. It is by working in collaboration with like-minded universities, organisations and individuals that we have become world-leading and we continue to work closely with international partners who share our values and ambitions.

Professor Koen Lamberts
President and Vice-Chancellor

The city of Sheffield

A multicultural city with a reputation for being safe, welcoming and friendly.

A thriving hub of music, culture and sport with a proud industrial heritage.

Centrally located in England – just two hours from London and one hour from Manchester by train.
Our history and heritage

Our vision of the transformative 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

“Our priority is to offer our students the highest quality education and experience.”

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.

The Diamond

- Our £86 million state-of-the-art teaching and learning centre with specialist engineering facilities.
- 19 teaching laboratories which replicate the multi-disciplinary environment which students will experience in industry.
- 1,000 study spaces available 24/7 as well as a range of lecture theatres, seminar rooms and IT services.

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

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 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 vibrant international community

More than 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.

As well as being a world-leading centre of research and teaching, the University of Sheffield is renowned for offering outstanding experience and opportunities to our students. Sheffield’s Students’ Union is the hub of student life. It has been rated number one in the UK for 10 years running (THE Student Experience Survey 2009–2018).

By studying in Sheffield, all of our students join an international community. Both in the city and on campus, we offer regular opportunities for our students to share their culture with others, through our annual International Cultural Evening and our many international student societies.

Life-changing scholarships

We offer scholarships to reward international applicants who show exceptional academic achievement and potential. In 2018, we provided £4 million in scholarships to support students from all over the world to study in Sheffield.

“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

Proudly showing the world #WeAreInternational
Our inspirational alumni

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

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

1930

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

1991

Penny Hughes CBE
(BSc Chemistry 1980, Honorary LLD 1984)
Became President of Coca-Cola in Great Britain

1992

Dr Jeffrey Wadsworth
Became President and CEO of major research and development organisation, Battelle

2009

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

2011

Amy Johnson CBE
1930

Penny Hughes CBE
1992

Dr Jeffrey Wadsworth
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)

Dame Jessica Ennis-Hill
(BSc Psychology 2007, Honorary LittD 2010)
Winner of Olympic Gold for Great Britain in the heptathlon

2012

Dr Amal Al Qubaisi
(PhD Architecture 2001)
First woman to be elected President and Speaker of the United Arab Emirates Federal National Council

2015

Sir Hans Krebs

2015
World-class research

Our research influences national, regional and international policy and changes lives. We are in the top ten per cent of UK universities for the strength and impact of our research (latest Research Excellence Framework in 2014). Our reputation for excellence attracts some of the best minds in the world. These exceptional people are drawn to Sheffield by the opportunity to work at the frontiers of knowledge on research which makes a difference.

Through our flagship research institutes, we are tackling some of the most important social, economic and health challenges facing the world today. Bringing our expertise together from different disciplines into our flagship institutes allows us to create innovative solutions which improve lives.

Our flagship research institutes

Energy
Finding low-carbon solutions to the world’s biggest energy challenges.

To find out more, visit www.sheffield.ac.uk/research/flagship-institutes

Neuroscience
Improving the lives of patients and families affected by devastating neurological diseases.

Healthy Lifespan
Tackling the global epidemic of multimorbidity – the presence of two or more chronic conditions.

Sustainable Food
Finding dynamic solutions to sustain and improve the world’s future food supplies.
Neck support technology transforms lives of Motor Neurone Disease patients

A revolutionary neck collar designed to ease pain and make everyday tasks much easier for patients living with motor neurone disease (MND) is now available to healthcare professionals and individuals across the world.

The Head Up collar, funded by the National Institute for Health Research’s (NIHR) Invention for Innovation (i4i) programme and the Motor Neurone Association, has been brought to market as a result of our innovative partnership with Sheffield Hallam University and Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

A frequent problem caused by MND is the loss of strength in the neck, causing patients’ heads to droop to the side or the front.

Eighty per cent of patients who trialled the collar felt it helped them and they wanted to carry on using it after the trial had finished.

Improving global food security

A new study, led by Professor David Beerling, director of our Leverhulme Centre for Climate Change Research, could help reduce the amount of CO₂ entering the atmosphere and change the way we manage our croplands.

The pioneering research by scientists at the University of Sheffield together with international colleagues suggests that adding fast-reacting silicate rocks to croplands could capture CO₂ and give increased protection from pests and diseases while restoring soil structure and fertility.

Other benefits include reducing the usage of agricultural fertilisers and pesticides, lowering the cost of food production, increasing the profitability of farms and reducing the barriers to uptake by the agricultural sector.
Understanding changes in meaning in the English language

Writing from the 16th and 17th century has been used to create a linguistic model which maps changes in meaning and word association in the English language.

A research project, led by the University of Sheffield and funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, has developed a new online resource, which provides users with access to the ‘linguistic DNA’ of early modern writing.

The process works from the principle that words which occur near each other represent linguistic associations, which in turn represent conceptual relationships.

Researchers used a combination of computational and statistical techniques to analyse these associations – such as body-mind-spirit – in 60,000 texts containing over a billion words.

This model has now been used to support the Oxford English Dictionary in their research into the multiple meanings of English words and to analyse comments on YouTube.

Helping thousands who are at risk of losing their sight

Blindness caused by corneal scarring is a worldwide health problem which can result from eye injury or a hereditary medical condition.

A team of researchers led by Professor Sheila MacNeil and her team at the University of Sheffield have developed a treatment for the condition which gives patients improved vision and quality of life.

In collaboration with the LV Prasad Eye Institute in Hyderabad in India, the team has developed a technique using a small piece of tissue from the patient’s unaffected eye. This tissue is attached to a biodegradable membrane and placed into the damaged eye. The body then grows these healthy cells to form a new cornea.

Eye infections affect 840,000 people a year in India and can lead to a loss of sight.
Making water safe to drink in Egypt’s rural communities

A collaborative project between the University of Sheffield and Port Said University in Egypt is developing a system to produce fresh, safe drinking water for rural communities.

The biosolar system – which is entirely powered by solar energy and biowaste – uses a membrane distillation system to produce water from sources which would not otherwise be safe to drink, such as seawater or standing brackish water. The smart integration of solar energy and biogas will ensure a reliable and constant provision of drinking water.

Researchers from the University of Sheffield modelled and designed the system and colleagues at Port Said will use the model to build and monitor a pilot plant in a farming community in Egypt.

The system is designed to serve 5–10 households, who do not currently have immediate access to safe drinking water.

It is hoped that the project, funded by the British Council’s Newton Fund, will lead to a future partnership collaboration in Global Challenge Research Funding.

Shaping international policy on how to care for an ageing population

We are leading a global network of researchers 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 Sue 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 worldwide enable our students and staff to spend time in destinations 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.

“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

The University’s AMRC has 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. 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.

“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
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.

Contact us

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