



INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY: **OUR IMPACT**

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HAVING OUR SIGHTS ON WHERE WE WANT TO BE: AN INTRODUCTION FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

The University of Wolverhampton occupies an important position in both the UK and the international higher education sector. We are committed to our regional community and to offering our students and collaborators the very best experience possible, through knowledge creation and skills development.



An essential aspect of this, and of the vibrant life of the University of Wolverhampton, is our ability to have a real Impact on the worlds of science, learning and skills, policy and practice, as well as business and knowledge exchange.

This new Impact Statement for the University of Wolverhampton sets out ambitious objectives, driving the University onward to embed Impact at the heart of all we do, to build on our considerable achievements so far and to achieve success for our students. Our motto 'Innovation and Opportunity' is reflected in our vision and goals which are aimed at achieving excellence in our activities and processes.

Over the last decade, we have seen significant changes in the UK Higher Education sector, as well as further afield. The University of Wolverhampton is growing and adapting continuously, which gives us the ability to meet challenges wherever and whenever they occur and positively transform our local environment, our Place.

These twin imperatives are reflected in our aims for the coming decade:

- The success of all our students
- The success of our Place.

As we implement our new Strategic Plan, Strategy 2030, we see this as an opportunity to continue working together, both internally and with external partners, to position our University as a sector-leading, Place-based institution putting students first, revitalising the economy and demonstrating outstanding influence, reach and impact.

Professor Geoff Layer
Vice-Chancellor



THE UNIVERSITY OF OPPORTUNITY

Impact is a strong fit to our mission and is instrumental to its success. Impact is what others do with our research and the changes that they make. Impact is our vehicle to 'maximise opportunity through generating knowledge, innovation and enterprise'. Individually and in partnership, University experts develop solutions and insights addressing the great challenges facing the world. There are many benefits arising from their excellent research, some of which occur in short term, while others develop over years or generations.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR IMPACT

The following are the University's Impact Objectives¹:

- **Our Wider Impact** – we are seen by partners, funding bodies, and the communities we serve as effective and successful in improving the regions we operate within.
- **Our Students' Achievement** – all of our students progress and achieve at, or above, expected levels with student demographic groups performing at a similar level.
- **Our Students' Employability** – 96% of our students gain graduate level employment⁵ with no differences between demographic groups.
- **Our Research** – we have a strong, impactful research portfolio across the University. This is an excellent opportunity to build upon the excellent work done as part of the Research Excellence Framework.
- **Our Business Engagement** – industry is embedded within our business and course provision. We are strongly engaged with business in the region and with the local industrial strategy.



¹ <https://www.wlv.ac.uk/about-us/corporate-information/strategic-plan-kpis/>



INCREASE
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In order to succeed against these indicators, we are undertaking the following tasks:



OUR IMPACT TASKS

- To build awareness of Impact across the research staff and PhD students of the University.
- To develop participation regarding Impact among academic staff and professional services.
- To commit to incorporating best practice about Impact.
- To contribute to the Impact assessment of the Institution.
- To influence policy, policymakers and practice in the delivery of the best outcomes.

OUR IMPACT OUTCOMES

University of Wolverhampton research generates applicable knowledge and outcomes and expands the potential of human thought and action.

We encourage our researchers to think creatively about how their work intersects with the world outside academia, and we provide mechanisms and processes to bring their wealth of knowledge, creativity and insight to the people and organisations who need it most.

This need for 'significant influence and Impact' is set out in our Strategic Plans:

- Impact occupies a central place in learning and teaching.
- The wider Strategy for Business Engagement is bound up with the values of Innovation and Opportunity the University of Wolverhampton embodies.
- In recent years, the University has made a strong, positive and enduring contribution to the conservation, renovation and repurposing of many of the city's most important buildings under the £250m 'Our Vision, Your Opportunity' investment programme, such as the Springfield site.
- Mechanisms for embedding Impact in the West Midlands Local Industrial Strategy are most closely aligned with the Knowledge Exchange Framework (KEF). Key pathways include aspects like staff industry secondments, both academia to industry and vice versa; joint funded PhDs; placements for research students in industry; rewarding Impact; and leadership for Impact.

- The University is developing a Community Engagement Strategy to set out the community engagement activity it does. This is being achieved alongside strong and enduring participation in the Local Industrial Strategy² to ensure both elements of our commitment to Place develop together.
- The University is entering into a Civic Agreement with the city of Wolverhampton and this is an important Impact milestone for jobs, careers and for the local area as a whole. This underlines the role and importance of Place, both as a University embedded in the community and as a key constituent of our strategy for the coming decade.



WOLVERHAMPTON IN NUMBERS

University of Wolverhampton

- Founded as a Mechanics Institute in 1827. Today we have 22,553³ students and 2,682 staff.⁴ We are based in the city of Wolverhampton, which was originally founded as a town in 985.

Our Students

- 96% of our students go on to get a job within six months of completion.⁵ For postgraduates, this figure is 98%.⁶
- We have students from over 130 countries.⁷
- We have 134,284 alumni in 134 countries.⁸

Student Satisfaction

- In the National Student Survey (NSS) 2019, we had an overall satisfaction of 84% and 10 courses with 100% student satisfaction.
- In the Postgraduate Research Experience Survey PRES 2019, we were ranked 11th out of 103 universities for quality of supervision, 22nd for our research culture and 28th overall. In terms of the wellbeing of our students, we were 10% above the Russell Group Benchmark.



University Income

- We had the following research and grant income in Financial Year 2018/19:⁹
 - o Funding body grants – £19.10m
 - o Other grant income – £14.12m
 - o Other income – £10.35m
 - o Research income – £4.23m

University Infrastructure

The University Estate extends over 44 hectares and has spent £250m on infrastructural development.¹⁰ This includes:

Location	Investment
Springfield Campus	£100m
Digital Campus Programme	£30m
Science Centre	£10.1m
Telford Campus	£10m
Cyber Security Centre, Hereford	£9m
Walsall Campus	£4.8m

The West Midlands Region

- The region has £99bn Gross Value Added (GVA), which is 5% national output.¹¹
- The Black Country, which forms part of the region, breaks down as follows:¹²

Area/Category	Black Country	W'hampton
People	1.19m	259,926
Jobs	463,000	100,000
GVA	£21.7bn	£4.9m
Employment rate	68.3%	65.8%
Average resident earnings	£25,505	£24,964

Further information on the GVA of the University will be available from the forthcoming Economic Impact Report.

³ University of Wolverhampton Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2019, p9.
⁴ 2018 Annual Report.

⁵ Destination of Leavers from Higher Education report 2018.

⁶ Graduate Destinations data for 2017, the latest for which data is available.

⁷ For 2019.

⁸ For 2019.

⁹ University of Wolverhampton Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2019, p6.

¹⁰ See the 2018 Annual Report and University of Wolverhampton Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2019, p7.

¹¹ HMG - West Midlands Local Industrial Strategy, May 2019, p4.

¹² The Black Country Annual Economic Review, March 2019, Black Country Consortium, p4.

Summary

Our research and teaching innovation gives rise to Opportunity for all who work and study here and this demonstrates the Impact that we are having.

Our Impact Objectives reflect the embedded nature of Impact across the University of Wolverhampton, covering the breadth of its provision and innovation, and anchoring Impact at the centre of our work.

Impact is also at the heart of our Place, as we strive to make that Impact the best we can through our research, our students and our presence.

Throughout our Impact journey, our core mission and values are strongly anchored in the Strategic Plan, our Key Performance Indicators and our objectives for the future.



For further details on our projects, impact activities and processes, please contact the Impact Team at: Impact@wlv.ac.uk



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