

Appointment of Executive Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences and Health

April 2024



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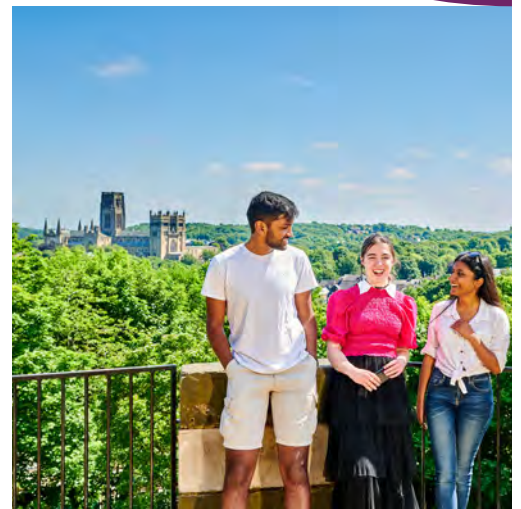
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Message from the Vice-Chancellor

Dear candidate

Thank you for your interest in leading the Faculty of Social Sciences and Health at Durham University.

Durham is one of the most distinctive universities in the world, a globally outstanding centre of teaching and research excellence, a collegiate community of exceptional and committed people, in a unique and historic setting.

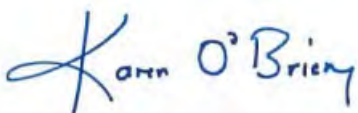
We are proud to be ranked 78th in the QS World University Rankings 2024. As well as producing world-leading and world-changing research across all four of our faculties, our education is challenging, enabling, research-led and transformative. Our wider student experience, delivered through our Colleges and Durham Students' Union, is among the best in the UK. Our staff, students, Colleges, departments, estate and traditions all combine to make this a wonderful place to study, work and live.

We are looking to appoint an inspiring Executive Dean for the Faculty of Social Sciences and Health who not only understands and nurtures our history and what makes us unique, but who can work with the Faculty and wider University community to celebrate our strengths and achievements whilst forging an ambitious path forward.

Under the next Executive Dean's leadership, there are significant ambitions to enhance our educational and interdisciplinary research growth, programme development and to foster partnerships across geographies and sectors.

The Executive Dean will be a member of the University Executive and, as such, will play an important role in the management of the University. They will be a champion and advocate for the positive contribution the Faculty and University make to the City of Durham, the North East of England and the wider world. Equally, they will share our values and have the ability to engender a diverse, inclusive and respectful environment and influence and maintain positive relationships with all of our key stakeholders.

This is an exciting time to join the University and we look forward to discussing the post further with you.



Professor Karen O'Brien Vice-Chancellor and Warden



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Durham University

We are a high-performing Russell Group university and believe that inspiring our staff and students to do outstanding things at Durham enables them to do outstanding things in the world.

We conduct research that empowers, inspires and improves lives across the world. We challenge our students and value a Wider Student Experience that fosters participation and leadership at Durham and beyond. Our global alumni network – showing leadership in all forms of industry and human endeavour around the world – is deeply committed to the University’s advancement.

As we continue to grow, we attract students and staff from a diversity of geographies and backgrounds to our historic part of the world. We contribute to the success of the proud city, county and community that is Durham itself.

Our purpose

We enrich lives and change the world through the advancement of learning. We achieve this by:

- Inspiring and supporting staff and students to create and translate knowledge and enhance understanding, locally and globally.
- Promoting inclusivity, civic responsibility, sustainability, social well-being and prosperity for the benefit of present and future generations.

Our Core Lived Values

Inspiring By stimulating an instinct to challenge, encouraging innovative thinking and taking our responsibilities seriously, we foster a culture that inspires the extraordinary.

Inclusivity - Together we celebrate difference, value one another, and are each responsible for creating an inclusive community that is respectful and fair for all.

Integrity - We are open, honest, ethical, lead and manage by example and follow through on our commitments.

Collaboration - We listen to each other, disagree well, with a commitment to academic freedom, are compassionate, and work as a team to achieve our goals.

Commitment to Excellence - We strive for the highest standards of achievement in everything we do with an enthusiasm to learn, succeed, and flourish.

Citizenship - We develop well-rounded people who make a positive difference to local, national, and international communities and change the world.



Vision and strategic goals

Our University Strategy 2017-2027 ensures that Durham is better defined thematically and geographically and more visible globally, focused on being world-leading in all of our core areas and developing a stronger and sustainable business model. We aim to be an influential voice in national and international affairs and be widely recognised for our ability to combine innovation and leadership with a strong sense of community and heritage.



Our University Strategy Refreshed

Our 2017-2027 Strategy is built on the three pillars of research, education and our wider student experience, but also on our keen sense of community and of inspiring others to achieve their potential.

Since the launch of the strategy there has been significant change in the external environment and reaching the midway point in 2023 provided an opportunity to review our progress, celebrate our achievements and refresh our priorities. Three key business imperatives prompted the review of our Strategy:

- A critical and continued need to ensure long-term financial sustainability following national and global changes outside our control: Brexit, Covid-19 and the war in Ukraine, the inflationary erosion of the value of the static home undergraduate fee and commodity price inflation.
- The further development and embedding of a culture of equity and inclusion across all our activities, from student access to degrees, staff employment and working practices, to engagement with the economy and people of our region. Our inclusive culture of shared responsibility, fairness and trust will inform decisions that also ensure our financial sustainability.
- The need to maintain and enhance our reputation for global excellence in education and research.

Our refreshed University Strategy is our roadmap up until 2027.

Our core goals remain unchanged, which are to deliver:

- World-leading and world-changing research and engagement across all core academic departments and institutes
- Education that is challenging, enabling, research-led and transformative.
- A transformative wider student experience delivering long-lasting benefits for graduates and society

Our Finance Strategy is critical to the success of our refreshed Strategy. We will organise our finances to enable the realisation of our strategic goals on a financially sustainable basis.

Strategies have been developed for new priority areas, which are: Equality, Diversity and Inclusion; Sustainability; and Civic and Regional Partnership.

We have also strengthened our original focus on the key areas of: Research performance, including income and impact; Business engagement; Widening access; Skills for a changing world; Student wellbeing; Digital; and Donor, alumni and supporter development.

See here for our full refreshed Strategy: [PDFs and Documents - Durham University](#)

Key Numbers

78th
in the QS World University
Rankings 2024

22
Athena Swan awards

90%
of graduates find work or
further study within six months
of graduating

8th
in The Complete University
Guide 2024

6th
in The Times and Sunday Times
Good University Guide 2023

6th
in The Guardian University
Guide 2023

Over
22,000
students

Over
185,000
alumni

Over
£450m
income

£85m
in research awards 2022-23

33%
non-UK students

4,300
staff members

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County Durham and North East England

Durham sits in one of the most beautiful parts of the UK.

Located just a three-hour train journey north of London, and an hour and a half south of Edinburgh, and well served by the nearby Newcastle International Airport, County Durham is rich in history and natural beauty.

North East England's landmarks span millennia, from historical Roman and Norman World Heritage Sites such as Hadrian's Wall and Durham Cathedral and Castle to award-winning contemporary icons such as Antony Gormley's Angel of the North. There are 15 National Nature Reserves in the region and over 250 Sites of Special Scientific Interest. There are more castles of distinction open to the public than in any other English region and numerous splendid country houses and gardens.

The Durham Dales, incorporating Teesdale, Weardale and the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, are home to breath-taking scenery and fascinating attractions. These include The Bowes Museum, a magnificent French-style chateau housing an impressive collection of European and fine arts; medieval Raby Castle, home to Lord Barnard's family since 1626; High Force - one of England's largest waterfalls; and Durham's Heritage Coast with its beaches, rugged cliffs and imposing headlands, another area of outstanding beauty. There are also excellent cultural and sporting facilities to enjoy, including the multi-award-winning Kynren - an epic tale of England; the world's most northerly Test Match cricket ground at Emirates Riverside; and Beamish - The Living Museum of the North.

Please visit www.visitcountydurham.org to find out more about the many attractions and benefits of living in the Durham area.





Faculty of Social Sciences and Health

The Faculty of Social Sciences and Health comprises a diverse community of over 350 academic and research staff, and approximately 3300 postgraduate and 4700 undergraduate students.

We are engaged in pioneering research and innovative learning and our students enjoy an unparalleled learning experience. Our graduates are some of the most sought after by employers.

We are based across the Departments of Archaeology; Anthropology; Education; Geography; Government and International Affairs; Law; Sociology; and Sport and Exercise Sciences.

Our Departments are highly rated in National League tables and are all positioned in the top 10 of the Complete University Guide (2024).

Our research

The Faculty of Social Sciences and Health is a leading centre for world-class research in the social sciences and we are regularly ranked within the world's top 50 for its quality and significance.

The Faculty Vision is to promulgate its ambition to engender 'Fairer Futures'. The Faculty and its constituent Departments achieve this through critical analysis and engagement with our social and physical world and by enabling our staff and students to develop the skills to achieve this.

To stand 'For Fairer Futures' requires us to draw on the deep past (unlocking the secrets of glaciers, archaeological treasures and ways of living) and to explore the complexity of contemporary society and relationships (revealing abuses and conflicts, legal and governance frameworks and interactions of environment and health) to be leaders in shaping all our futures for fairer access to education, health, heritage and a sustainable planet.

As well as the innovative research undertaken within each of our Departments, the Faculty promotes interdisciplinary approaches to research through research centres and institutes, including the:

- Wolfson Research Institute for Health and Wellbeing
- Behaviour, Ecology and Evolution Research Centre (BEER)
- Centre for Criminal Law and Criminal Justice (CCLCJ)
- Durham University Evidence Centre for Education (DECE)
- Centre for Social Justice and Community Action (CSJCA)



International reach

The Faculty of Social Sciences and Health maintains positive and sustained engagement with international partners, particularly around work with social justice in society and the United Nations Sustainability Goals. We lead the University in some key areas of international research and global engagement, with particular impact in engagement with the Global South and with specific expertise in the areas of Risk, Security, Health, Education and CPD and training in NGOs.

Our Departments have funded research projects on every continent and countries from Canada to India, to China and Sri Lanka, to name but a few. In the Faculty's international work there is a strong emphasis on ethical internationalisation, internationalisation for a socially just society, and decolonisation of the curriculum and research.

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Executive Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences and Health

Role Description

The Executive Dean is the key academic leader, policy formulator, opinion-shaper and ambassador for the Faculty of Social Sciences and Health, one of the University's four Faculties.

With responsibility for the strategic development and financial performance of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Health, the Executive Dean will work with the senior team within the Faculty to deliver exceptional performance in education and research, student engagement and outcomes, and to further improve the international profile and success of the Faculty.

The Executive Dean reports to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost, Professor Mike Shipman, and will chair the Faculty's Board. As a member of the University's Senior Leadership Team (the University Executive Committee (UEC), chaired by the Vice-Chancellor and Warden, Professor Karen O'Brien), the Executive Dean will have collective responsibility and accountability for the strategic direction and leadership of the University.

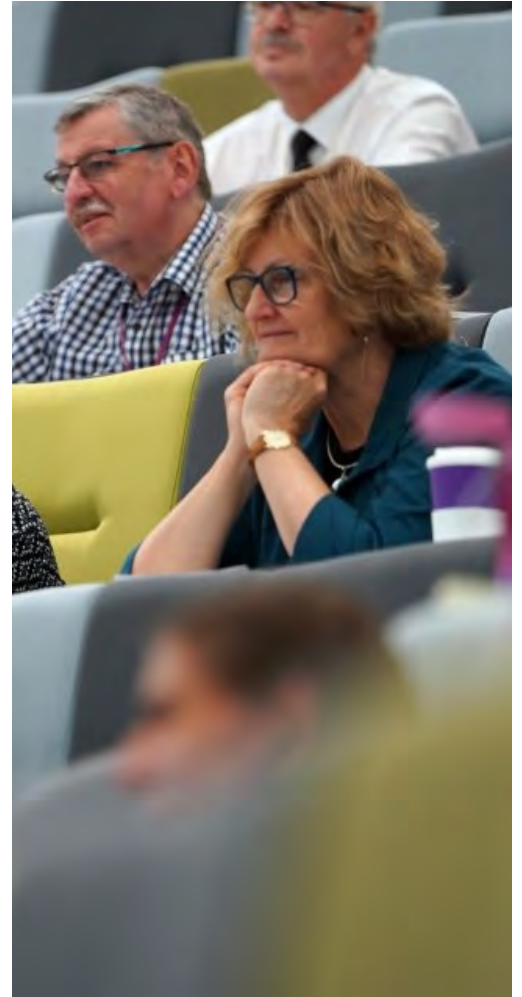
Working closely with the Provost, Pro-Vice-Chancellors of Research and Education, corresponding Executive Deans and the other members of UEC, the Executive Dean is expected to contribute to the leadership of the wider University and play an extensive ambassadorial role both for the Faculty, its constituent units, and the University as a whole.



Responsibilities

The incoming Executive Dean will work with senior colleagues, including in UEC, to:

- Ensure a culture of excellence and lead, support and enhance the research and teaching performance of the Faculty.
- Propose and manage changes to the Faculty's academic portfolio and the development of new interdisciplinary programmes to enhance the Faculty's profile and student attraction strategy.
- Manage changes to the Faculty's organisational and management structure to achieve maximum effectiveness.
- Further strengthen the international standing of the Faculty in the international marketplace, including effective partnerships with international peer institutions.
- Further strengthen the profile of the Faculty locally, domestically and globally.
- Act as an ambassador for the Faculty, including by means of alumni events, fundraising and general profile raising.
- Engage and create external partnerships with third party organisations such as funders, businesses and alumni, to foster opportunities for the Faculty and our students.
- Be responsible for developing and agreeing a budget for the Faculty as part of the planning and resources allocation process and then managing within it.
- Ensure that the Faculty meets targets agreed as part of the planning and resources allocation process including student recruitment and retention.
- Support and advance the University's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion objectives, as well as the University's values and Respect Agenda.
- Support recruitment of outstanding new members of academic and professional staff.
- Ensure a high-quality student experience for students in the Faculty.
- Lead the Faculty Executive Team.
- Encourage creativity and agility, and enable effective delivery across a range of activities in the Faculty.
- Adapt priorities and plans in response to changing domestic and international circumstances, requirements and events.
- Manage organisational change.
- Effectively advance the wider strategic aims of Durham University.



Job roles cannot be exhaustive, and the post-holder may be required by the Provost or Vice-Chancellor to undertake other duties which are broadly in line with the above key responsibilities.



Person specification

Durham University is seeking to appoint an exceptional individual and inspirational leader who is committed to high performance, to provide academic leadership, advocacy for, and management of the Faculty of Social Science and Health.

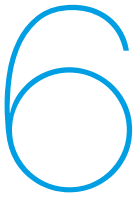
With proven leadership and management experience, the Executive Dean will be able to inspire and engage those around them and build relationships with stakeholders across the University as well as externally, with networks and peer organisations across the globe.

A strategic thinker with an excellent reputation in research and education, the Executive Dean will possess the vision and capability to enhance the Faculty's performance, and be someone who can challenge convention, push boundaries, and work innovatively to enhance the international reputation of the Faculty.

It is anticipated that the candidate's discipline and expertise will align to the Faculty.

Specific experience and achievements should include:

- Significant, successful experience of academic and administrative leadership and management at a senior level.
- Strong intellectual and academic profile with a track record of grant capture and experience of large research consortia.
- Proven record of delivering complex change projects (including capital projects) effectively.
- Experience of engagement in, and the ability to promote and progress, innovative online learning.
- Excellent interpersonal and persuasive skills, with political acumen.
- High level analytical skills and the ability to think broadly and strategically.
- Sound judgement and practical problem-solving skills.
- An assured and confident communicator and ambassador.
- Effective team player with the ability to develop trust and respect.
- Excellent leader of people with the ability to motivate and achieve results through others
- The ability and willingness to maintain focus, take decisions, and deliver.
- Energy, social competence, flexibility and high levels of personal motivation and resilience.
- Diplomacy and tact.
- A commitment to the University's values, aims and objectives and an enthusiasm for all that Durham University is seeking to achieve, notably with regards to equality, diversity, inclusion and respect.



Our Commitment to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

We are proud to be a welcoming and inclusive environment which attracts staff and students from all over the world and from a diverse range of backgrounds, and continually strive to create a culture in which everyone in our community feels supported and valued and is able to achieve their full potential.

At work, we strongly believe that people are happier, enjoy their work more, and perform better in a place where everyone respects and understands the value of different people working together; everyone is treated fairly; and negative behaviours and attitudes are unacceptable and people feel supported to challenge these.

In recent years, Durham has embarked on a step change in our approach to EDI, over-hauling a wide range of our processes – from student admissions to staff recruitment, from pay and reward to progression and promotion – whilst also working hard across all that we do to improve behaviours so as to enhance the lived-experience of all of our staff and students.

We want our workforce to reflect the diversity of our staff and students from the regional, national and international communities that we serve.



Equality Objectives

Our equality objectives are designed to strengthen existing initiatives and align with actions planned to tackle inequalities and build diversity and inclusion across the university. Their purpose is to challenge the organisation to perform better on equality issues in key areas and improve the experience of people from underrepresented groups. Priorities reflect the needs of staff and students and support the strategic plans of the University. They are based on robust evidence and rendered measurable over time to mitigate risk, map changes and support action. Our objectives are to:

- Address gender inequality: To tackle discipline-specific gender imbalances in student and staff groups through recruitment and retention while supporting the career progression of female academic and professional staff. This includes reducing the gender pay gap and ensuring better representation in key areas of governance.
- Attract and retain a diverse community of staff and students: To improve the participation and attainment rates of students from disadvantaged groups, specifically those from Lower Participation Neighbourhoods, and underrepresented groups, specifically UK BAME students; to make a significant and consistent improvement in the recruitment, support, and progression of BAME academic and professional staff through targeted response to identified barriers; and to ensure the support and inclusion of disabled staff and students.
- Embed a culture of respect and inclusivity: To ensure a learning, teaching, and research environment which is accessible, inclusive, and respectful where all staff and students have the support and opportunities to be the best that they can be.

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Research, Education and Student Experience

Excellence in Research

The goal of the University's Research and Engagement Strategy is to create and sustain world-leading and world-changing research and engagement across all our academic units.

The large majority of our academic staff are on research and teaching contracts with the expectation that they produce internationally leading research in their field. Developing the impact of research to benefit people, the economy and the environment – regionally, nationally and globally – is encouraged and rewarded through our promotions process.

Nineteen Durham University subjects are ranked in the World Top 100, with twelve in the World Top 50, according to the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2024 and we are consistently ranked as a top 10 university in national league tables.

Ninety per cent of Durham's research is also classed as world-leading or internationally excellent by the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2021, with six Durham subjects in the UK top ten for the overall quality of their research including Geography (1st), Archaeology (2nd), Education (2nd), Classics and Ancient History (4th), Theology and Religion (8th) and Sport and Exercise Sciences (10th).

Our ten Research Institutes bring together staff to work collaboratively, across departments and with external partners, to develop new ways of thinking that contribute positively to societal challenges, such as preparing for natural hazards, developing cleaner energy, enhancing physical and mental well-being, and using artificial intelligence to interpret large datasets. Two Institutes based in Physics provide a national centre for research in Particle Physics Phenomenology (the IPPP) and a globally leading centre for Computational Cosmology (ICC).

We are proud of our research activities that contribute to delivering the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As examples, our researchers are studying the impact of climate change on animals and plants to help society manage ecosystems, the treatment of neglected tropical diseases through development of new drugs, and the eradication of unacceptable forms of labour through protection of workers' rights.



Examples of Our Research

Pioneering research in infant sleep safety

Our Anthropologists have revolutionised research into infant sleep safety and helped reduce rates of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS).

The evidence-based advice they have provided to health professionals and parents has made a global impact, including in the official infant sleep safety guidance in the UK. Their research has substantially influenced the policy around co-sleeping national guidelines on infant sleep safety by demonstrating the close link to bed-sharing and breastfeeding.

Organisations in the UK and beyond, including Unicef, Public Health England, NHS Trusts, Lullaby Trust, La Leche League, the UK's Department of Health, National Childbirth Trust, NHS Choices, Scottish Maternal and Child Health Division, National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) and the Twins and Multiple Births Association, among others, have benefited from our experts' research.

Investigating the fate of the world's biggest ice sheet

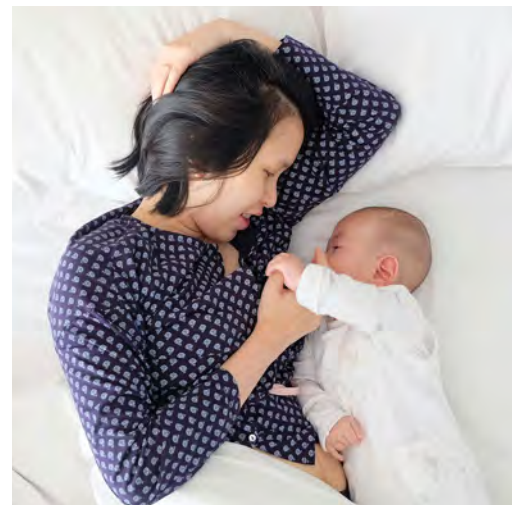
A study led by our Geography department has shown that the worst effects of global warming on the East Antarctic Ice Sheet (EAIS) could be avoided.

That depends upon temperatures not rising by more than 2°C above pre-industrial levels – the upper limit set by world leaders in 2015 under the Paris Agreement on climate change.

Staying below this limit would see the EAIS – which holds the vast majority of Earth's glacier ice – contribute less than half a metre to sea level rise by the year 2500.

But continued warming beyond the 2°C limit could potentially see the EAIS contribute up to five metres to sea-level rise in just a few centuries.

More information can be found at: <https://www.durham.ac.uk/research/current/research-news/fate-of-the-worlds-biggest-ice-sheet-is-in-our-hands/>



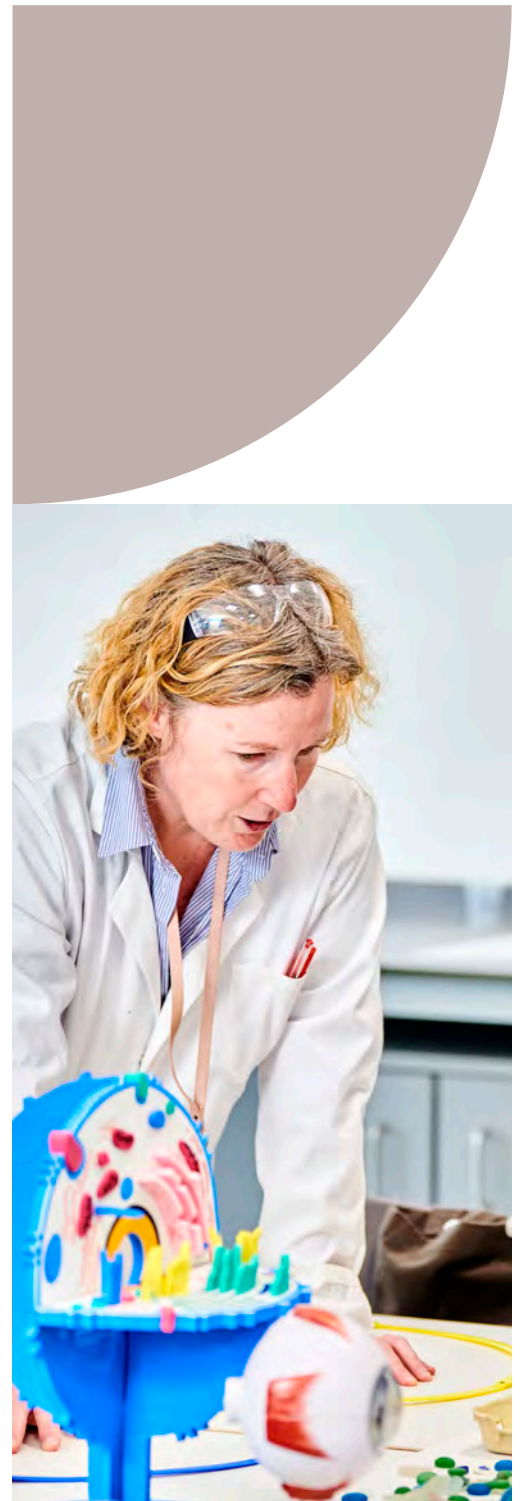
Discover more about our global research here: [Durham University Global Research Brochure 2024 by Durham University - Issuu](#)

Excellence in Education

We believe in education that is student-centred, challenges boundaries, is research-led and transformative, and takes advantage of the latest digital technologies. We welcome students from all backgrounds and offer a broad range of courses in the UK.

Through our courses, we explore the big questions at the heart of the discipline and keep students up to date with the latest developments. We continue to innovate within existing programmes and develop new and different options.

We hold a TEF Gold Award, a UK assessment of teaching quality, with reviewers commenting on our consistently outstanding teaching, learning and outcomes for our students. Our students and teachers benefit from state-of-the-art facilities such as our Teaching and Learning Centre (opened in 2019), which boasts a wide range of learning environments and technologies including an education laboratory where we develop new teaching and training methods.



Wider Student Experience

The Wider Student Experience at Durham is as important as the Academic Experience, both of these forming overlapping components of an overarching Integrated Student Experience. We have invested in our Wider Student Experience, an environment of enriching extra-curricular activities and high-quality student support. We aim to develop in our graduates four high-level outcomes of broader intellectual perspectives, enhanced personal effectiveness, enhanced wellbeing, and a sense of belonging and responsibility.

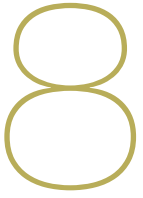
Our student support is provided by dedicated specialist teams across Counselling, Disability Support, Student Wellbeing and Community Engagement, and Student Conduct, alongside high-quality first-line support in Colleges and Departments. We are proud of our high retention rates, which are one of the best in the UK. Our student enrichment takes place across seven domains: Intellectual Enquiry; Active Citizenship; Wider Community Engagement; Sport and Wellbeing; Arts and Culture; Enterprise and Employment; and Building Communities. Overall, 85% of our students are involved in sport, music, theatre, volunteering or student enterprise.

We've been named Sports University of the Year in The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2023 and have the country's largest sport participation programme. Durham houses over 30 unique theatre companies producing an average of 100 shows every year. We have over 80 student-led music societies, from auditioned to non-auditioned, classical to jazz, opera to barbershop, orchestral to a cappella, there's a group for everyone. Last year more than 2,500 students volunteered within the community, supporting over 500 initiatives, across the themes of culture, education, sport and wellbeing, environment and social action.

We also offer the Durham Inspired Award personal enrichment programme, providing students with opportunities to develop their broader skills; gain recognition for their contribution to student and community life through sport, the arts or volunteering; and understand better their strengths and responsibilities as global citizens.

More information can be found here:
<https://www.durham.ac.uk/colleges-and-student-experience/team-durham/news/sports-university-of-the-year-2023/>





Our Colleges

Durham has 17 unique Colleges.

No two Colleges are alike, with each celebrating the distinct achievements, strengths, values and architectural setting of its own community.

Student initiative and leadership within College communities is perhaps the greatest asset possessed by Durham's Wider Student Experience, with hundreds of College-based student societies providing thousands of opportunities for participation and positions of responsibility. Crucial to this success is the way in which Colleges combine students from all parts of the University in a shared living environment, and enable the transmission of positive values through vibrant and proud institutional cultures.

Student leaders in the Colleges are guided and mentored by College staff, led by their Principals, who are typically senior academics. College staff strive to ensure that their communities' cultures and values are positive and inclusive, as well as providing first-line student support, driving alumni engagement, and overseeing enrichment activity.

Our Colleges also support research activities through the provision of accommodation for visiting fellows and by welcoming both them and Durham's own academic staff into their Senior Common Rooms.





Alumni Relations and Philanthropy

Durham University is proud to have one of the most committed and vibrant global alumni communities of any UK institution.

Over 185,000 alumni reside in over 190 countries around the world, with major alumni cohorts and chapters currently across the UK, Europe, Asia-Pacific, and North America. Many are leaders in their industries, from sports and creative arts, through global markets and politics, to academia, healthcare, military service and civic leadership.

We have over 3,000 alumni engaged in some level of volunteering and/or support for the University around the world. This includes supporting our international student recruitment, providing internship and careers opportunities, and mentoring current students via Departments and Colleges.

Durham Inspired: Supporting the Next Generation of Leadership and Inspiration

Philanthropy has, since our foundation, been central to Durham University's advancement.

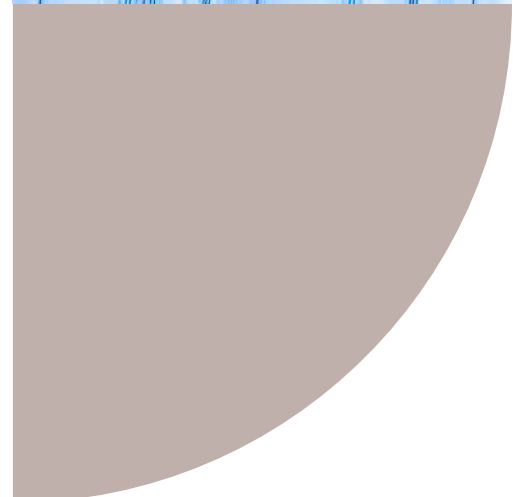
At this key moment in the University's history, we are committed to creating a lifelong culture of partnership and giving within our global community of alumni and supporters; one which can maximise the impact of our strategic investments and support our ambitions.

Our generous community of donors - which includes individuals, charitable trusts and foundations, and corporate partners - enables us to attract exceptional staff and students and produce world-changing academic research.

Since 2017, we have been in the initial phase of an exciting and transformational campaign, Durham Inspired, which aims to ensure that Durham University is at the forefront of learning, research, and leadership for the generations to come.

Since then, we have raised more than £65m of philanthropic funding in support of projects across the University. During this time, we have seen the largest gift in Durham University's history and the most significant gift from outside the UK. Gifts have made an impact on talented students from a range of backgrounds, research with global reach, and Durham's outstanding buildings and facilities.

Most importantly, through philanthropy, we are able to change lives and provide opportunities. As we move into the second, more public phase of the campaign, we will build on our successful volunteering programmes, encouraging involvement from alumni and friends on levels - both financial and non-financial.



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The Economic and Environmental Impact of the University

We take our duties as a centre of learning, neighbour and employer seriously, embracing all of our different communities and celebrating the differences that make us stronger together.

We are a significant and growing driver of economic growth for County Durham, the North East and the UK. A 2022 report found that in 2020/21 we generated £1.9 billion Gross Value Added (GVA) for the UK and supported over 17,000 jobs, 11,000 of these in the North East of England. For every £1 that we received in funding, we generated £4.80. Our Memorandum of Understanding with Durham County Council embodies a set of principles to work together to raise the regional, national, and international profile of County Durham. In line with County Durham's Economic Inclusive Strategy, we are creating innovation plans that will help the county accelerate towards an inclusive, green and sustainable future.

We are working to make Durham one of the most environmentally sustainable universities in the UK. Alongside major investments in our built environment and our teaching and research activities, we have introduced strong environmental policies and procedures, and are working to reduce our carbon emissions and promote increased awareness of environmental issues.

We have a dedicated Energy and Sustainability Team, which promotes our environmental policies, plans and procedures, and, working with staff and students across the University, coordinates environmental activities. Our newly formed Centre for Sustainable Development Law and Policy's mission is to support the achievement of sustainable development in all its dimensions: environmental, economic and social. The Sustainable Development Goals serve as cross-cutting themes in research projects, policy work and collaborative initiatives, encompassing education and training, gender, health and wellbeing.

We have strengthened our Energy and Sustainability Team so that we can achieve more in this area, and we are working with friends, neighbours and partners to improve the environment we share across our campus and City.

In the QS World University Rankings 2024, we were placed joint 30th for Sustainability. This evaluates the social and environmental impact of universities as centres of education and research and is taken from the analysis of the QS Sustainability Rankings.



We're proud to say that we are committed and continuously working towards a sustainable future for all and have been recognised in various sustainability league tables.

In 2023, we were named as one of the world's top 100 universities for our contribution to several of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The QS World Universities Rankings 2024, assessing 2,963 universities, saw notable successes in the new indicators of Sustainability and International Research Network. Our top performance was in the new Sustainability category, ranked joint 30th in the world, which evaluates universities' social and environmental impact as centres of education and research.

We ranked 19th in the QS World University Rankings for Sustainability 2024, which comprised of three categories - Environmental Impact, Social Impact and Governance. The performance in each combined to create the overall score.

The Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2023 placed us joint 77th in the world and in the top 50 contributors in four SDGs: No Poverty, Sustainable Cities and Communities; Responsible Consumption and Production; Life on Land. We ranked 64th globally under the UN SDG 17: Partnership for the Goals - a fantastic recognition of how we work with partners locally and globally to achieve more together. The research, outreach and educational activities set out in our Biodiversity Strategy were appraised through our high scores for SDG 15: Life on Land (15th globally), particularly our popular visitor attractions and the ongoing events in our Botanic Garden that continue to welcome visitors and school groups. We also flourished on SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities (34th globally), through continuously improving the local environment, both for the people who live and work in the University and for the wider community.

We're ranked in the top 40 in the People and Planet Green League Rankings 2022/23, where we scored 100% for Policy and Strategy, and Environmental Auditing & Management Systems. We also scored highly on Sustainable Food (90%), Education for Sustainable Development (85%) and Staff and Student engagement (80%).



Joint
30th
in Sustainability (QS World
Universities rankings 2024)

15th
for Sustainability (QS World
University Rankings 2024: Europe)

19th
in the QS World University Rankings
for Sustainability 2024

Top 40
in the People and Planet Green
League Rankings 2022/23

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Engaging Our Communities

Durham University is rooted in its local communities and we are proud of the positive economic, social and cultural contribution that we make to Durham City, County Durham and North East England.

We believe that Durham University has something to offer all of our community, whether it's access for local and regional students to a world-class University on their doorstep, use of our excellent sports and cultural facilities and outreach programmes, or our extensive student and staff volunteering programme benefiting a wide range of local causes and organisations.

We present a wide variety of lectures, concerts and performances for the public and are a major partner in city events, including the Lumiere light festival, the Durham Book Festival, the Summer in the City arts festival and Durham City Run Festival.

We manage, with Durham Cathedral, the UNESCO World Heritage Site covering the area surrounding the Cathedral and the Castle (one of our student Colleges). Our other attractions include the Palace Green Library, the Museum of Archaeology, the Botanic Garden and the Oriental Museum.

We are committed to fostering a positive environment for all who live, work and study in Durham and we value and engage in open dialogue with partners, residents and others on how best to achieve this, together. We have established a Community Engagement Task Force to enable the University and partners to work together more effectively and contribute to local and regional service partnerships including the Durham City Safety Group, Durham Business Improvement District, Durham Area Action Partnership and the North East Local Enterprise Partnership.



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Collaborative Partnerships – Global Durham

We value international collaboration as central to enhancing global knowledge and developing global citizenship. Our staff and students come from over 130 countries, creating an outward-looking, globally-minded and inclusive scholarly community.

International partnerships are a core part of our vibrant research and learning communities. They help us make a difference and ensure our research makes changes to the way we live, solve complex industry challenges, and help our graduates begin and progress their careers.

As well as strategic partnerships with global companies such as IBM and Procter and Gamble, we also work closely with those based in the North East of England, including Durham County Council, Northumbrian Water, Stanley Black & Decker, and Atom Bank.

Guided by our Global Strategy, we are working to increase engagement with high-quality international peers, increase the proportion of high-quality international students studying at Durham and expand our study abroad and exchange offer.

We have established strategic partnerships with peer institutions across the globe. These include the Palace Museum in Beijing and the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Uppsala and Tubingen universities in Europe and Dartmouth College in the USA. We continue to develop our offer for our global alumni network, so that they see Durham as a source of continuing professional development and opportunities throughout their career and beyond.

We have established office bases in London, Delhi, Beijing and Shanghai and are planning to establish further offices in New York, Hong Kong and Brussels.



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How to Apply

Durham University has engaged the services of Dixon Walter to provide executive search and advisory services.

Should you wish to have an informal discussion about this role then please contact Emma Wilkins on emma@dixonwalter.co.uk

Applications should be sent to Emma by the closing date of 5pm on Monday, 20 May. Your application should include on separate documents:

- a letter of application setting out your interest in the role and details of how you match the requirements in the Person Specification
- a comprehensive curriculum vitae
- details of three referees and your notice period (referees will not be contacted without your permission)
- a completed Personal Details Form (available from the website below) . Sensitive information collected will not be used as part of the selection process and will be treated as strictly confidential

Further details are available at:

<https://www.dixonwalter.co.uk/opportunities/durham-exec-dean-social-science/>

