

ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL & GOVERNANCE (ESG) IMPACT REPORT

Creating opportunity, transforming futures

CONTENTS

Foreword	3
Introduction	4
Our Approach to ESG	4
2024/2025 highlights	6
Our ESG Strategy	8
Understanding Carbon	9
Our Carbon Reduction Journey	10
Global Goals for People and for Planet	13
United Nations Sustainable Development Goals	13
ESG Highlights 2024/25	14
Environmental	15
Social	20
Governance	30
What's Next?	40





FOREWORD

It is with pride that I present the University of Wolverhampton's Annual Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Impact Report, documenting our ongoing undertakings to sustainability and social responsibility.

As a university deeply committed to positive social impact, we recognise our unique national and international position to influence future generations through education while demonstrating responsible stewardship in our operations. This report reflects how we are translating our ESG Strategy into tangible actions that contribute meaningfully to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs) while aligning with our University Strategy 2035.

Our approach integrates sustainability across curriculum, research, and operations preparing graduates who are both academically accomplished and socially conscious. By embedding ESG principles in everything we do,

we're creating meaningful impact while aligning with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Looking ahead, we remain focused on our journey toward net-zero operations, enhanced community engagement, and inclusive governance. These priorities reflect our vision of a university that excels not only in education and research but also in its contribution to a more sustainable and equitable society.

I thank our students, staff, and partners whose dedication drives this important work forward.

Dr Pete Cross
Chief Operating Officer



INTRODUCTION

The University of Wolverhampton presents this Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Impact Report as a testament to our ongoing journey toward creating a more sustainable and equitable future. This report documents our progress, challenges, and achievements in embedding sustainable practices across all aspects of our institution during the past year.

Through transparent reporting and measurable targets, we hold ourselves accountable to our stakeholders: students, staff, partners, and communities as we work collectively to address global challenges through local action.

Our Approach to ESG

Create Opportunities

We seamlessly integrate ESG principles throughout our curriculum, research initiatives, and operational practices. By embedding sustainability at the core of our institutional identity, we create opportunities for sustainable growth and contribute to the development of prosperous, resilient societies. Our approach ensures that every graduate leaves our university equipped to drive positive change in their chosen fields.

Develop People

We empower our university community: students, staff, and partners with the knowledge, skills, and engagement opportunities needed to thrive in a rapidly changing world. Through dedicated programs, collaborative projects, and experiential learning, we increase awareness of global challenges while providing practical pathways for individual and collective action. This people-centred approach enhances lives today while building capacity for sustainable futures.

Shape the Future

We demonstrate leadership in environmental stewardship by transforming our learning environments, research practices, and campus operations to achieve Net Zero impact. Our pioneering research addresses critical sustainability challenges, while our teaching inspires the next generation of change-makers. Through these combined efforts, we actively increase our contributions to sustainable development locally, nationally, and globally.



UNIVERSITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
BUSINESS
SCHOOL
SCHOOL

2024/2025 HIGHLIGHTS



1st

in the UK for teaching first generation students



55% of research rated as world-leading and internationally excellent



A total of

6,581

kilograms of electronic items were recycled, reducing waste and supporting a circular economy



Over

2,300

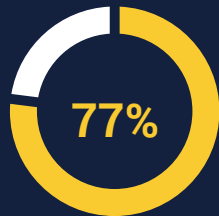
kWh electricity was generated on site from the Combined Heat and Power system (CHP) and rooftop solar photovoltaic installations across the university campuses.



Accredited Real Living Wage (RLW) employer



The University now provides 23 electric vehicle chargers, with bike racks available across all campuses to support sustainable travel



77% of graduates work in the West Midlands region



90% of graduates are in work or study



University accommodations achieved Gold status in the 2024 Investors in Students



Ranked

29th

for student positivity



The University was awarded the Athena Swan Bronze Award, recognising its progress in advancing gender equality



Estates and Facilities installed LED Lighting, improved cooling controls and efficient boilers to reduce energy consumption and carbon emissions.



365

plants planted across our campuses last year an equivalent of one tree for everyday of the year

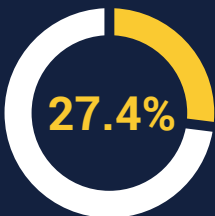


100% of the University's electricity is backed with Renewable Energy Guarantees of Origin (REGOs)



BRITISH DIVERSITY AWARDS

The University's Disabled Staff Network were named Highly Commended in the Outstanding Ability Network of the Year category at the British Diversity Awards 2025



27.4% overall recycling rate achieved by the University, reinforcing its commitment to responsible resource use



The University established a strategic partnership with UNITAR

“AdvanceHE

Member of Advance HE Aurora Leadership Programme, enhancing leadership skills and academic leadership capabilities



The University purchases paper sustainably from the Woodland Trust



The University is working towards signatory status for Concordat for the Environmental Sustainability of Research and Innovation Practice



OUR ESG STRATEGY

The University of Wolverhampton has launched its first **Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Strategy 2035**, creating a structured framework to embed sustainability and accountability across the institution. The new strategy establishes ESG as a cross-cutting priority aligned with the University's long-term strategic goals set in the overarching university **Strategy 2035**, which emphasises a long-term commitment to sustainability, inclusivity, and regional impact.

The ESG Strategy formalises priorities for reducing environmental impacts, enhancing biodiversity, promoting responsible resource use, and ensuring transparent reporting. Alongside environmental actions, it reinforces the importance of social equity, inclusive education, and community engagement, ensuring that sustainability is reflected not only in operations but also in teaching, research, and partnerships.

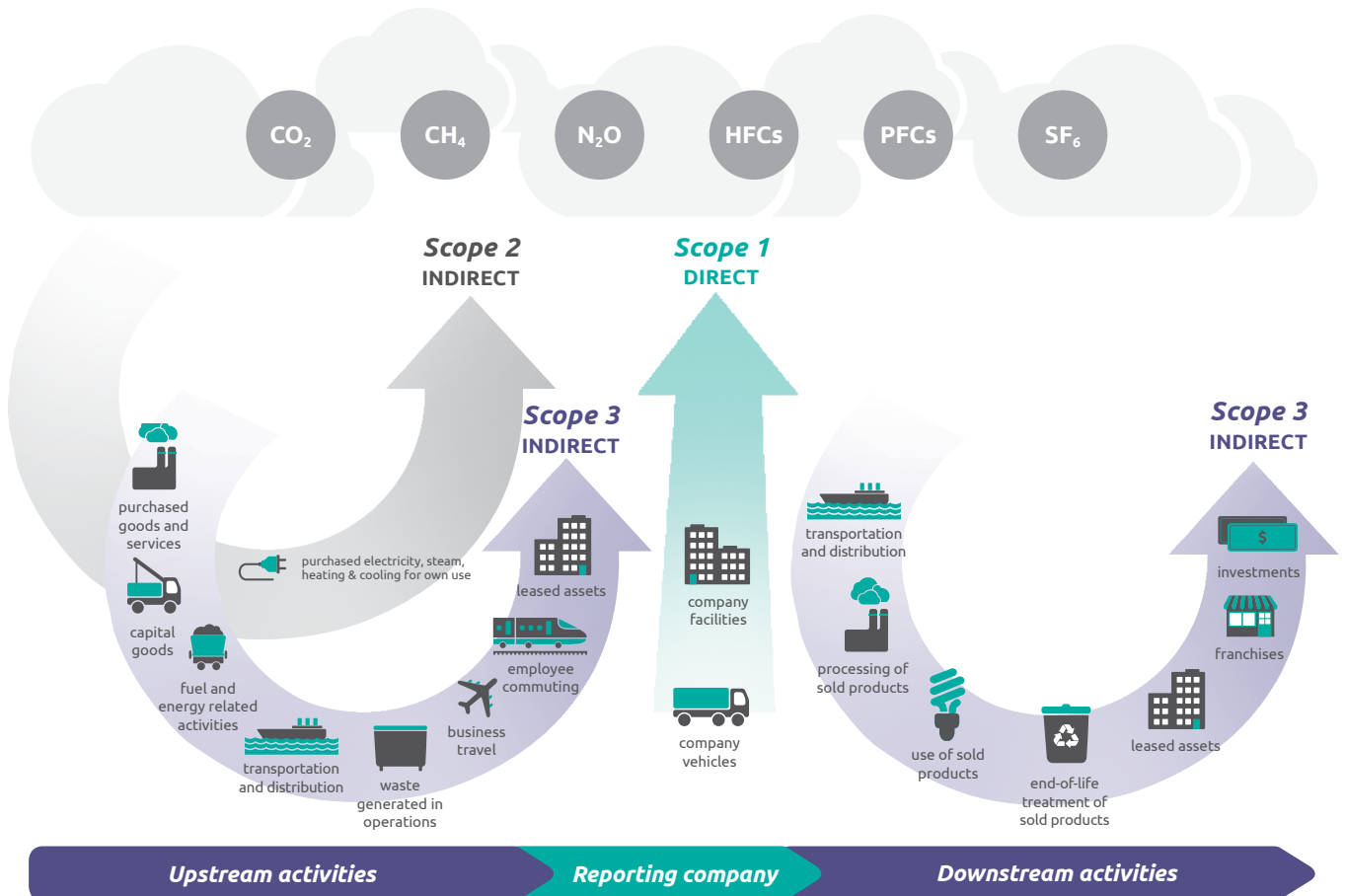
By aligning ESG principles with UoW Strategy 2035, the University places sustainability at the heart of its decision-making and governance processes. The strategy will be delivered in phases, with ongoing monitoring to drive continual improvement. This approach strengthens the University's role in supporting regional development while contributing to broader global sustainability objectives.



Understanding Carbon

Carbon footprint refers to the total amount of greenhouse gas emissions, measured in carbon dioxide equivalents (CO₂e), that are directly and indirectly generated by an individual, organisation, or product. These emissions are typically categorised into three scopes. **Scope 1** includes direct emissions from owned or controlled sources, such as university-owned vehicles or on-site gas boilers. **Scope 2** covers indirect emissions from the generation of purchased electricity, steam, heating, and cooling consumed by the University. **Scope 3** encompasses all other indirect emissions that occur in the value chain, such as business travel, commuting, procurement, waste disposal, and outsourced activities. Measuring these scopes helps identify key emission sources and develop targeted strategies to reduce their environmental impact.

Net Zero refers to the balance between the amount of greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere and the amount removed. Achieving net zero means that any emissions produced are fully offset by actions such as carbon capture, reforestation, or renewable energy use, effectively resulting in no net increase in atmospheric greenhouse gases. It is a critical target in the fight against climate change, as it aims to halt global warming and mitigate its most severe impacts on ecosystems, economies, and communities. Building on this concept, many aim to go beyond **Carbon Neutrality** by becoming **Net Positive** where they actively contribute more to environmental and social good than they take, for example, by generating more renewable energy than they use or restoring biodiversity beyond their operational footprint. This shift from reducing harm to creating positive impact signals a growing commitment to regenerative sustainability.





Our Carbon Reduction Journey

The University of Wolverhampton has demonstrated consistent progress in reducing our carbon footprint since 2008. Through strategic building improvements, energy demand reduction initiatives, and benefits from the UK’s increasingly decarbonised national electricity grid, we have achieved significant results.

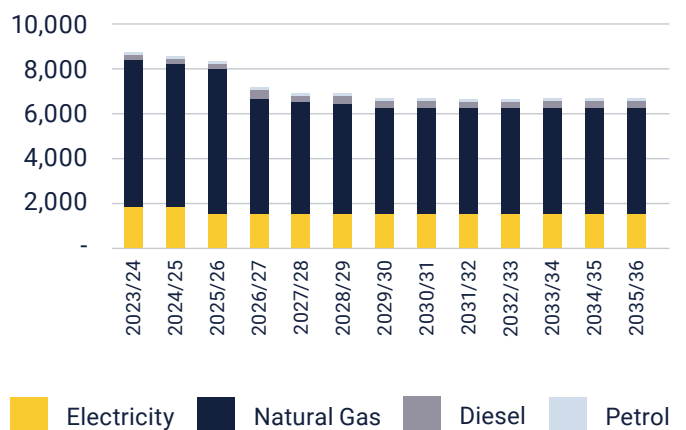
Starting from our 2007/08 baseline of 16,746 tonnes of CO₂e (Scope 1 and 2 emissions), our latest assessment for 2023-24 shows emissions of 8,512 tonnes representing an impressive 49% reduction over this period.

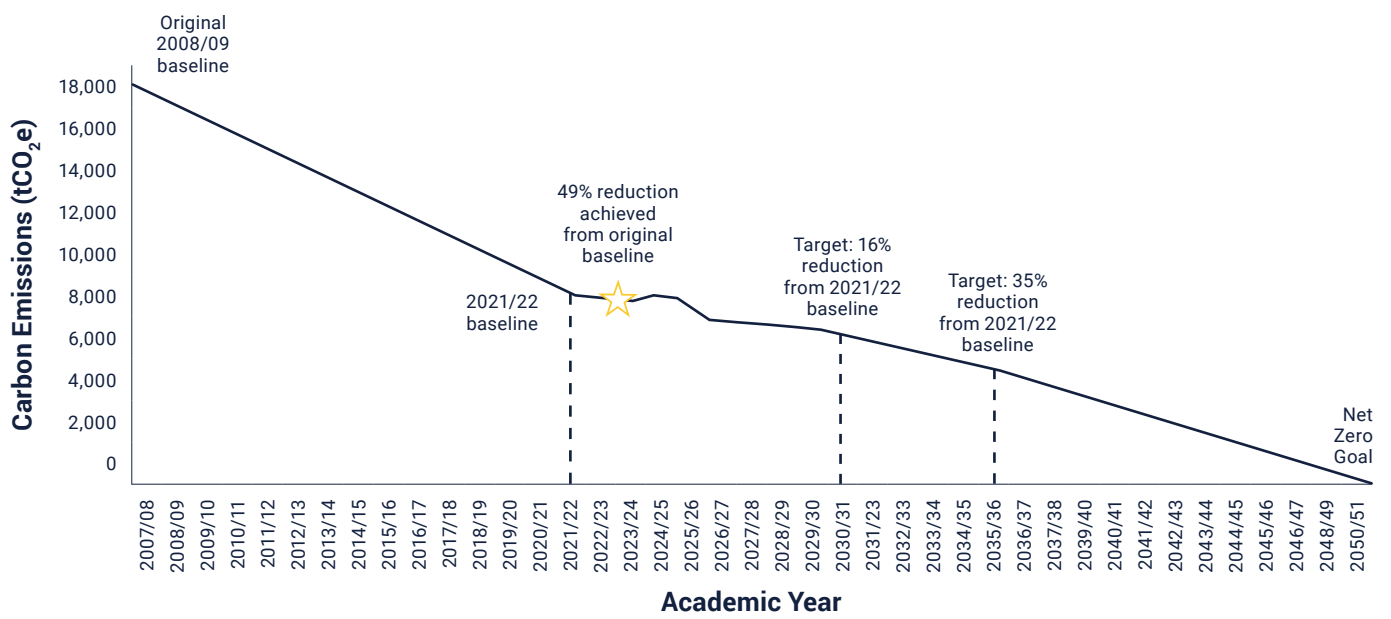
Looking forward, we have established ambitious but achievable targets aligned with our Strategy 2035 Key Performance Indicators:

- ◆ Achieve net zero Scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions by 2050
- ◆ Reduce emissions by at least 16% by 2030 (from 2021/22 baseline)
- ◆ Reduce emissions by at least 35% by 2035 (from 2021/22 baseline)

While our primary focus has been on direct emissions, we recognise the importance of addressing our wider environmental footprint. We are currently expanding our emissions inventory accounting to comprehensively measure all Scope 3 indirect emissions throughout our value chain both upstream and downstream. In parallel, we have already identified and begun implementing key interventions to reduce these indirect emissions while our measurement framework matures.

Emissions for Scope 1 & 2 per Energy Type (tCO₂e)









Global Goals for People and for Planet

The **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** are a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. Adopted by all UN Member States in 2015, the 17 Goals form the core of the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**, a 15-year plan to address global challenges including poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace, and justice.

Higher Education institutions hold a unique position to accelerate progress through their influence on knowledge creation, skills development, policy engagement, societal leadership, and global footprint.

The **University of Wolverhampton** contributes to the SDGs through its teaching, research, operations, and partnerships, embedding sustainability, inclusion, and ethical practice into its activities. From advancing health research and environmental innovation to fostering social justice, responsible governance, and global collaboration, the University's work spans multiple goals and addresses both local and global priorities.

This report highlights how education, applied research, and community engagement within the University connect directly to the SDGs. It showcases tangible contributions, recognises areas for growth, and underscores the University's role in preparing graduates and generating knowledge that supports a sustainable, equitable, and resilient future for all.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



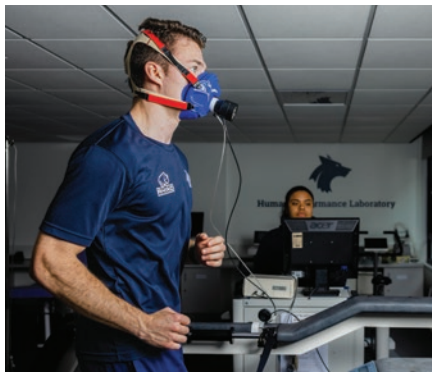
ESG HIGHLIGHTS 2024/25





Sustainable Campus Development

The University of Wolverhampton has reaffirmed its commitment to sustainability through the development of a new campus building designed with environmental responsibility and community values at its core. Recently named in honour of the **Chancellor's wife Lady Aruna Swraj Paul**, the building symbolises the University's dedication to inclusive growth and stakeholder recognition. Beyond its commemorative value, the facility showcases sustainable architecture that meets high environmental standards for modern higher education buildings. Features include energy-efficient systems, low-carbon utilities, and environmentally conscious construction materials. The design also prioritises accessibility and low-impact operations, ensuring the building serves diverse community needs while minimising its ecological footprint. This development reflects the University's ongoing mission to integrate sustainability into all aspects of institutional planning from infrastructure and teaching to research and community outreach. As part of a broader strategy, it supports the University's role in shaping a greener, more inclusive future for students, staff, and the wider region.



Innovation in Sustainable Sports Practices

The University of Wolverhampton has launched a groundbreaking partnership to modernise football training methods through cutting-edge technology and applied research. Developed in collaboration **Wolverhampton Wanderers Football Club** and **Rezzil** as digital partners, the initiative introduces data-driven approaches to performance analysis, aiming to reduce dependence on traditional, resource-heavy practices. By leveraging wearable tech, motion tracking, and digital platforms, teams can limit unnecessary travel and minimise use of physical infrastructure promoting a more environmentally conscious training model.

While the primary focus is enhancing athletic performance and coaching effectiveness, the project stands out for embedding sustainability into sports innovation. It showcases how digital transformation can help reduce the carbon footprint associated with competitive sports, aligning athletic development with broader environmental goals. This forward-thinking model represents a step toward more responsible sports education and research, reinforcing the University's role as a leader in sustainable practice across all disciplines including sport, health, and technology.



Advancing Wildlife Conservation and Biodiversity

The University of Wolverhampton's **Animal Behaviour and Wildlife Conservation programme** reflects a deep commitment to preserving biodiversity and promoting ecological sustainability. Housed within the Research Institute in Healthcare Science, the programme blends academic expertise with practical, field-based research to equip students with the tools needed to address pressing conservation issues across both local and global contexts.

Students explore key topics such as species behaviour, habitat management, and human-wildlife interaction, helping to build a new generation of conservationists capable of making meaningful impact. The programme fosters critical thinking and ethical responsibility, preparing graduates for careers in conservation, research, policy, and environmental advocacy.

Beyond classroom learning, the programme promotes community engagement and collaborative conservation initiatives, encouraging partnerships with wildlife organisations and local stakeholders. This forward-looking approach not only advances scientific understanding but also inspires ecological stewardship and sustainable interaction with the natural world.





Clothes Swap Campaign

As part of our 2024/25 academic year sustainability and cost-of-living objectives, our Sabbatical Officers delivered a Clothes Swap Campaign across both campuses.

- ◆ City Campus took place on 6th December 2024
- ◆ Walsall Campus took place on 25th March 2025

The initiative invited students to donate their pre-loved clothing and, in return, choose up to three items for free, even if they had nothing to swap. This approach ensured that the event was inclusive and accessible, particularly for those facing financial pressures.

While participation numbers were modest, the impact was significant. Each student who took part directly benefited by gaining access to clothing at no cost, while also contributing to a more sustainable approach to fashion. For some, it meant easing financial worries. For others, it was a chance to make more conscious choices and refresh their wardrobe without creating waste.

Reducing Waste: Extending the life of clothing that might otherwise have been discarded.

Supporting Students: Offering free clothing to help ease financial pressures.

Building Community: Creating a welcoming space for students to share, connect, and promote sustainable living.

One student reflected on the difference it made:

“As a single parent, juggling university and family means money can often be tight. Having access to both adult and children’s clothes at the swap was really helpful and made a big difference for me.”

Our Students’ Union President also shared their perspective:

“It was inspiring to see how something as simple as a clothes swap could have such a meaningful impact. Not only did we help reduce waste, but we also supported students who really valued having access to free clothing at a time when money is tight. It showed how small, practical initiatives can create both environmental and social benefits for our community.”

This campaign demonstrated that even small-scale initiatives can have a big impact. It showed how sustainability and student support can go hand in hand, providing both practical help and a positive message about the power of community-driven action.



Innovative Materials for Climate-Resilient Cities

Researchers at the University of Wolverhampton have developed a novel reflective, porous paving material designed to address the urban heat island effect, a condition where urban areas experience higher temperatures than surrounding rural regions. This innovative paving incorporates a high-albedo surface coating that reflects a significant portion of solar radiation, which helps reduce surface and ambient air temperatures.

The material’s porous structure enhances stormwater infiltration, helping to reduce runoff and ease the load on urban drainage systems during heavy rainfall. This feature supports urban flood mitigation and promotes sustainable water management.

This project is a collaboration primarily between the University’s School of Architecture and Built Environment and the Materials Engineering team. It has undergone laboratory and field tests to optimise its durability, thermal performance, and permeability.

The research aims to provide scalable, environmentally friendly infrastructure solutions for urban environments. When integrated into city infrastructure such as walkways, plazas, and parking lots, this material offers a practical approach to improving urban climate resilience.

This initiative aligns with the University’s broader commitment to sustainable development and innovative research that supports climate adaptation.





Driving Smart Transformation in the UK Infrastructure Sector

Prof. Subashini Suresh and **Prof. Panos Georgakis** at the University of Wolverhampton are helping pave the way for smarter, more sustainable infrastructure through a detailed study of Industry 4.0 implementation strategies. Their research, presented at the 2024 **British Academy of Management Conference**, explores how maturity models can be used to assess and guide digital transformation across the UK infrastructure sector. While technologies such as BIM, drones, GIS, and 3D modelling are in moderate use, the study reveals a clear gap in the adoption of advanced solutions like Artificial Intelligence. Using qualitative interviews and systematic literature reviews, the research highlights the uneven progression of digital maturity across organisations and recommends tailored plans to elevate innovation levels. This work contributes critical insights into improving efficiency, environmental performance, and long-term competitiveness by helping organisations understand their current standing and the necessary steps for improvement. It underlines the University's role in driving sustainable, tech-enabled development across key industries.



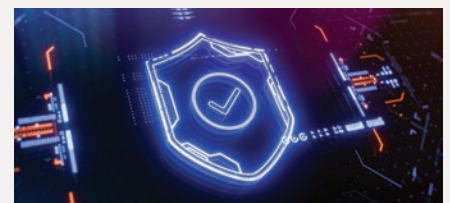
Driving Sustainable Change in Global Energy Systems

Prof. Subashini Suresh and **Prof. Suresh Renukappa** at the University of Wolverhampton have made a notable contribution to global sustainability by examining the transformation of the oil and gas sector in the United Arab Emirates. This study investigates how a traditionally carbon-intensive industry can evolve toward more sustainable, low-carbon energy systems. Key strategies include adopting renewable energy technologies, improving operational efficiency, and integrating policies aligned with international environmental goals. The research highlights challenges and opportunities within the energy transition, emphasising the importance of innovation and collaboration between stakeholders. By addressing sector-specific barriers and promoting sustainable practices, the study supports the global shift towards cleaner energy and reduced greenhouse gas emissions. This work underscores the University's commitment to advancing sustainable development on a global scale, demonstrating how applied research can influence policy and industry change in critical energy sectors.



Student Innovation Drives Smart Energy Future at University of Wolverhampton

In June 2025, MSc AI student **Olawumi Loye** collaborated with the University of Wolverhampton's **Sustainability team** and **Prof. Zeeshan Pervez** to develop an innovative live energy consumption dashboard. This cutting-edge tool visualises both real-time and historical energy usage across campus buildings, helping to identify peak demand periods and areas for efficiency improvements. Powered by AI-driven forecasting, the dashboard enhances transparency and supports the University's ambitious decarbonisation goals through its upcoming Living Lab initiative. By integrating advanced technology with sustainability strategies, the project showcases the university's commitment to combining academic expertise with practical environmental solutions. This student-led innovation not only advances operational sustainability but also fosters a culture of collaboration and forward-thinking in energy management, highlighting the important role of student contributions in driving the University's green agenda.





WatStech Ltd: Long-Term Environmental Innovation

WatStech Ltd based at the University of Wolverhampton Science Park, is celebrating 20 years of advancing water technology innovation. Originally established as a University research group, then a spin-out company, the company has been privately owned by the founder for the majority of its trading life and has grown into a specialist provider of sustainable water treatment solutions, collaborating with leading utilities including Severn Trent, Thames Water, and West Country Water.

Its work has contributed to national initiatives under the Strategic Resource Options (SROs) programme, focused on optimising treatment processes to secure water supplies for the future. These projects address critical challenges such as climate change, population growth, and increasing demand on natural resources, ensuring that water systems remain resilient and efficient. The Science Park has played an important role in supporting WatStech's progress, offering access to facilities that have helped the company to translate research into practical, scalable applications with measurable environmental benefits.

WatStech demonstrates how long-term partnerships, university-led research, and applied science can combine to create solutions with significant impact on sustainability, resource management, and national environmental resilience.

Innovation Ecosystem Strengthened at UoW Science Park

The University of Wolverhampton Science Park (UoWSP) is home to over 100 businesses in scientific, technological, knowledge-based, and creative sectors, including environmental management, software development, digital media, water technology, and engineering design. Established in 1995 as a joint venture between the University and Wolverhampton City Council, the Park has grown in four development phases to provide more than 12,000 m² of laboratories, workshops, offices, and incubator units.

Sustainability has been embedded throughout this growth. Photovoltaic (PV) arrays were installed in 2013 and 2017, with further investment under consideration. Energy-saving measures such as LED lighting with motion sensors are standard in new buildings; the first building, opened in 1995, has already been retrofitted, and a rolling policy ensures LED installation during refurbishments. Heating systems have also been upgraded, with inefficient 24- and 29-year-old gas boilers replaced by modern condensing models, significantly improving efficiency and reducing carbon emissions.

Facilities include a Technology Centre with a 200-seat auditorium and conference spaces, a Creative Industries Centre hosting the SPARK Business Incubation Centre, and the Science Centre with purpose built Cat 1 and 2 laboratories. By combining sustainable infrastructure with enterprise support and academic expertise, the Park underpins regional growth, skills development, and environmentally responsible innovation.





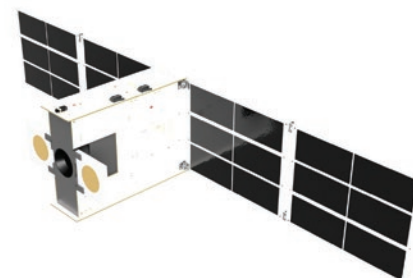
University of Wolverhampton's Green Loops Project Among UK's Top Ten AI Breakthroughs

The University of Wolverhampton has received national recognition for its innovative **Green Loops project**, an AI-powered recycling breakthrough developed by **Dr. Kiran Gulia** in partnership with **iBiotech Ltd** and **Dr. Brian Johnston**. Highlighted by the **Department of Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT)** and the **Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (DESNZ)** as one of the UK's top ten AI innovations, Green Loops focuses on transforming electronic waste and end-of-life photovoltaic panels into valuable materials for solar cells and lithium-ion battery anodes. This cutting-edge approach not only reduces emissions but also advances resource independence, supporting a circular economy. The project won a **£160,000** Manchester Prize to help scale its technology and is currently progressing within the University's Green Innovation Corridor. Commercial deployment is anticipated by 2028, showcasing the University's leadership in sustainable technology and AI-driven environmental solutions.



University of Wolverhampton Drives Sustainable Innovation at City Event

In February 2025, the University of Wolverhampton partnered with **the City of Wolverhampton Council** to deliver **"It Starts in Wolverhampton: Innovating for Sustainable Growth"** at Molineux Stadium. The event welcomed over 200 delegates including industry leaders, academics, and policymakers spotlight the city's growing role in green technology, sustainable infrastructure, and additive manufacturing. A highlight of the event was **Olivia Simpson**, University of Wolverhampton alumna and **Chief Operating Officer** at **FlexSea**, who shared insights on bio-based packaging innovation. Alongside senior figures from EOS UK, Jaguar Land Rover's i54 cluster, and University leaders, speakers highlighted Wolverhampton's rise as a national centre for clean tech. The event also promoted the University's Green Innovation Corridor an initiative supporting net-zero development, sustainable regeneration, and inclusive economic growth. Through strategic partnerships and alumni impact, the University continues to drive research-led innovation and reinforces its commitment to climate action and regional transformation.



Wolverhampton Researchers Launch Satellite-Powered Water Sustainability Project

In May 2025, the University of Wolverhampton secured **£1.3 million** in funding from **Ofwat's** Water Breakthrough Challenge to launch **Space Eye** a pioneering satellite-based solution to address water leakage across the UK. Spearheaded by **Professor Mohammad Patwary** and **Dr. Rahul Mourya** at the University's **Digital Innovation and Solution Centre (DISC)**, the project will deploy six Low Earth Orbit micro-satellites using the Quub platform. By integrating AI with high-frequency satellite imaging (captured every six hours), **Space Eye** enables rapid, cost-effective leak detection up to ten times cheaper and faster than traditional methods. With an estimated 19% of UK water supply lost annually, this technology offers a scalable path to reducing environmental damage, enhancing utility efficiency, and strengthening infrastructure resilience. The initiative highlights the University's commitment to digital innovation, environmental stewardship, and sustainable infrastructure management in the face of climate and resource pressures.





Sustainable Modernisation of Learning Spaces

The University of Wolverhampton has invested **£1.6 million** in the modernisation of its library services, reinforcing its commitment to sustainable development in education. The redevelopment includes energy-efficient infrastructure upgrades, enhanced digital access, and modernised facilities designed to improve environmental performance while enriching the student experience. By prioritising sustainability in its learning spaces, the University is reducing its carbon footprint and ensuring that students and staff benefit from comfortable, accessible, and digitally connected environments. This investment reflects a broader strategy to align campus facilities with long-term environmental goals and emerging digital learning needs. The modernised libraries also support inclusive education by improving access to resources and technology across disciplines. As higher education institutions increasingly take responsibility for their role in climate action, this initiative demonstrates Wolverhampton's leadership in integrating environmental, social, and educational priorities into its infrastructure planning.



Championing Social Mobility Through Inclusive Education

The University of Wolverhampton has been ranked the **third best university in England for social mobility** recognition that highlights its sustained commitment to widening access to higher education and improving life outcomes for students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Through targeted outreach, financial support, flexible learning pathways, and strong employability initiatives, the University continues to remove barriers and empower individuals to achieve personal and professional success. This achievement reflects a broader institutional mission to drive equality, social inclusion, and community uplift across the West Midlands and beyond. By actively supporting first-generation university students and under-represented groups, Wolverhampton plays a pivotal role in tackling entrenched inequalities and promoting long-term economic and social resilience. The ranking reinforces the University's position as a national leader in inclusive education, delivering meaningful impact through policy, practice, and partnership. It also exemplifies the power of education as a tool for transformation and upward mobility.



Empowering Communities Through Adult Numeracy

The University of Wolverhampton has secured **£2 million** in funding to enhance **adult numeracy** skills across the region, addressing key barriers to education and employment. This initiative is designed to empower individuals particularly those from under-represented or disadvantaged backgrounds by improving essential numeracy competencies that support everyday life, career progression, and financial independence. By delivering targeted training programmes in partnership with local authorities and community groups, the University is making a tangible contribution to social mobility and economic resilience. This work also aligns with broader efforts to reduce inequalities in access to education and employment opportunities. The initiative exemplifies the University of Wolverhampton's commitment to inclusive, lifelong learning and demonstrates how universities can lead regional development through accessible, skills-based education. By fostering numeracy confidence in adults of all ages, the programme not only enhances individual outcomes but also strengthens community wellbeing and workforce readiness across the West Midlands.





Promoting Inclusive Education Through Creative Engagement

In January 2025, the University of Wolverhampton hosted a dedicated **creative workshop for deaf school students**, reinforcing its commitment to inclusive education. Designed to empower young people with hearing impairments, the workshop provided a supportive space for participants to express themselves through art, storytelling, and interactive activities. The initiative not only encouraged creative self-expression but also promoted greater understanding of accessibility needs within learning environments. By collaborating with specialist educators and focusing on student voice, the University showcased how inclusive outreach can break down educational barriers and foster equity from an early age. This event aligns with the University's broader mission to support under-represented groups and ensure that all learners - regardless of ability - can access enriching educational experiences. It also highlights the role of higher education institutions in driving inclusive practices beyond campus, strengthening community ties and raising aspirations for young people with additional needs.



Next-Gen Wound Care: Student Develops Biodegradable Hydrogel Dressing

Khabat Jamel, a Master's student at the University of Wolverhampton, has developed a pioneering biodegradable hydrogel wound dressing that blends sustainability with medical innovation. Under the supervision of **Dr. Abhishek Gupta**, Senior Lecturer in the School of Pharmacy, the research combines thyme and ginger extracts with green-synthesised silver nanoparticles, creating a powerful, eco-friendly solution to combat chronic wound infections.

The dressing, built on bacterial cellulose hydrogels, boasts broad-spectrum antimicrobial activity and transparency for easy wound monitoring ideal for patients with diabetes or pressure ulcers. With antibiotic resistance on the rise, the project offers a timely and sustainable alternative to conventional treatments.

Dr. Gupta, an expert in advanced wound dressings, recently won **second place** at the **Santander X UK Awards 2024** and will compete in the **Global Finals**. This innovation reflects the University's leadership in healthcare and sustainability through student-led, research-driven breakthroughs.



Fostering Cultural Exchange and Community Engagement Through Sport

The University of Wolverhampton hosted the official draw for the **2025 Kabaddi World Cup** at its Springfield Campus, in partnership with **World Kabaddi** and **England Kabaddi**. The event welcomed delegates from **16 nations**, along with athletes, officials, and community leaders, reflecting the University's commitment to cultural exchange and international collaboration. Vice-Chancellor Professor Ebrahim Adia emphasised the importance of sport in promoting diversity, inclusion, and global awareness.

As part of its expanding international sports engagement, the University also announced a formal partnership with **the Nepal Super League**. This collaboration includes joint initiatives such as coaching development, student mobility programmes, and academic research focused on sport and community development.

These activities align with the University's broader mission to advance social inclusion and international cooperation through sport. By supporting global tournaments and building cross-border partnerships, the University continues to strengthen its role as a hub for cultural diplomacy and community engagement.





Advancing Women’s Sport and Student Opportunities Through Strategic Partnership

In January 2025, the University of Wolverhampton formalised a three-year partnership with the **Birmingham Panthers**, a franchise in the **Netball Super League**, designating the University’s Walsall Campus as the team’s **official training base**. The agreement provides the Panthers with access to the University’s high-performance facilities, court space, and performance support services throughout the season. In return, students will benefit from placements in strength and conditioning, sports therapy, and performance analysis, enhancing their professional experience in an elite sporting environment.

James Dale, Head of the School of Sport at the University, emphasised the partnership’s benefits for student skill development and academic engagement in professional sport. Jo Trip, Head Coach of Birmingham Panthers, highlighted how the collaboration empowers the next generation of women athletes and sport science professionals.

This partnership underscores the University’s commitment to promoting gender equity in sport, professional development, and stronger ties between academia and elite-level athletics.



Enhancing Quality of Life Through Parkinson’s Support Initiative

The University of Wolverhampton launched the **“Finding Your Feet with Parkinson’s”** programme, developed in partnership with **Parkinson’s UK** and the **British Judo Association**. Funded by a **Parkinson’s UK Physical Activity Grant**, the six-week, free course begins on 26 February, running weekly at the British Judo Association’s Dojo on the Walsall Campus. Designed to build confidence in movement and reduce fear of falling, the initiative uses judo-based physical activity to support people living with Parkinson’s.

Led by **Tina Smith**, Senior Lecturer in Sports Biomechanics at the University, and supported by Parkinson’s UK’s Midlands regional lead and the British Judo Association, the course emphasises the benefits of physical activity for physical and emotional well-being. The programme exemplifies the University’s commitment to health, inclusivity, and community impact, integrating research, practical application, and partnerships to enhance the lives of individuals with Parkinson’s.



Empowering Students as Mental Health and Well-being Advocates

In early 2025, the University of Wolverhampton, in partnership with **Wolverhampton City Council**, expanded its **Student Wellbeing Champion programme**, empowering over 60 university students to support health and wellbeing across campus and the community. These student ambassadors deliver public health campaigns such as **Orange Wolverhampton** and the **Better Health: Rewards programme**, and gain hands-on experience promoting mental resilience, self-care, and social inclusion. As volunteers, they also receive university certification, enhancing their employability and professional development.

Professor **Farzad Amirabdollahian**, Associate Dean and Head of the School of Public Health Studies, emphasised the importance of this collaboration in leveraging academic expertise to tackle local health issues and foster community wellbeing. Councillor Jasbir Jaspal added that the programme plays a vital role in developing the next generation of skilled Public Health professionals. This initiative exemplifies how joint university-community efforts can deliver meaningful impact, combining education, health promotion, and inclusive engagement to strengthen regional wellness and social cohesion.





Advancing Medical Understanding of Metabolic Health Disorders

In April 2025, researchers from the University of Wolverhampton contributed to a peer-reviewed systematic review and meta-analysis published in *Frontiers in Endocrinology*, examining the role of circulating angiopoietin-like protein 8 (ANGPTL8) in individuals with metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease. Drawing on data from seven studies involving 895 participants, the analysis found significantly elevated ANGPTL8 levels among affected individuals, indicating its potential value as a diagnostic biomarker.

This research supports global efforts to improve early detection and prevention of chronic metabolic conditions, which are rising in prevalence worldwide. By focusing on low-cost, non-invasive diagnostics, the study also helps to advance equitable healthcare solutions and reduce disparities in access to early intervention.

Through rigorous data analysis and international collaboration, the University is playing a key role in shaping research that informs future clinical practices, strengthens healthcare innovation, and contributes to improving long-term health outcomes for diverse populations.



Promoting Inclusive Sport Through Adaptive Training Research

A peer-reviewed article published in the *Strength & Conditioning Journal* (August 2025) reviews the specific needs and performance characteristics of judo athletes with visual impairments and offers evidence-based recommendations for training and assessment. Conducted by researchers from international institutions including the University of Wolverhampton the study underscores the importance of customised training strategies and environmental adaptations to support these athletes effectively. It examines performance aspects such as time-motion analysis, match-related demands, and movement patterns to inform more equitable and effective coaching methods. The review proposes standardised physical assessments and skill evaluation protocols to optimise training techniques. Additionally, it advocates for collaborative research initiatives focused on integrating multisensory stimuli (e.g., tactile or auditory cues) to further enhance athletic development. By addressing the unique challenges faced by visually impaired judokas, this work contributes to the advancement of inclusive sports science and supports performance equity in adaptive athletic environments.



Informing Early Interventions to Prevent Trauma and Violence

A systematic review published in *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse* features the work of University of Wolverhampton researchers **Sophie Badger** and **Isha Chopra**, alongside Dean Wilkinson from Edge Hill University. The study examines the effectiveness of early years interventions in reducing trauma and violence among children aged 3–8.

Highlighting violence in early childhood as a pressing public health concern, the team analysed 766 studies from the United Kingdom and United States, narrowing to 13 that met strict quality standards.

The review found that targeted early interventions can build prosocial behaviours, emotional resilience, and academic success, while lowering the likelihood of future violence and justice-related outcomes. Programs using Social Emotional Learning approaches and trauma-informed educator training were shown to strengthen safe, supportive learning environments.

The findings emphasise the role of inclusive, preventative education strategies in fostering healthier communities and long-term societal wellbeing, particularly for children in vulnerable circumstances.





Innovative Scent Enrichment Research Supports Primate Welfare and Conservation Goals

Emily Jayne Elwell, from the School of Life Sciences at the University of Wolverhampton, has completed doctoral research exploring how biologically-relevant scent enrichment can improve the welfare of captive lemurs and support conservation breeding.

Lemurs rely heavily on olfactory communication, yet differences between zoo and wild environments can affect wellbeing and breeding success. Elwell analysed scent-marking behaviours and odour profiles of crowned and red-ruffed lemurs, identifying 12 volatile compounds potentially linked to breeding cues. These compounds were used to develop a novel scent enrichment, tested with ruffed lemurs at **Twycross Zoo, Dudley Zoo & Castle, and Shaldon Wildlife Trust**.

The enrichment increased active behaviours and stimulated sexual behaviours in most males, although stress indicators also rose. While testosterone levels were unaffected, the study demonstrates the potential of tailored scent enrichment to enhance welfare and breeding outcomes. This approach could inform future efforts to safeguard endangered species through targeted, evidence-based management in conservation settings.



Advancing Healthcare Innovation through Student Research

Future healthcare professionals from the University of Wolverhampton participated in an interprofessional education event held at City Campus, focusing on cutting-edge chemical wound care techniques. Students from Pharmacy (MPharm), Biomedical Sciences, Podiatry, and Applied Microbiology & Biotechnology disciplines collaborated under the guidance of **Dr Abhishek Gupta** (Principal Lecturer, School of Pharmacy and Life Sciences), with facilitation by FSE senior colleagues including **Professor Iza Radecka** and **Dr Ahlam Ali**.

Industry insights were provided by specialists from **DEBx Medical**, drawing expertise from both **the UK** and **the Netherlands**. The interactive session featured live demonstrations, scientific briefings on chemical wound debridement, clinical case studies, and an engaging Q&A segment.

Student feedback highlighted the value of interdisciplinary collaboration and practical learning. Attendees praised the relevance of new technologies in wound treatment, noting that the session bridged classroom theory and real-world application enhancing preparation for future roles in healthcare.



Elevate - Empowering Women Entrepreneurs in Post-Earthquake Türkiye

The University of Wolverhampton is leading the **ELEVATE Project** funded by the **British Council International Collaboration Grants** to help women entrepreneurs in Hatay recover from the devastating February 2023 earthquakes in **Türkiye**. The disaster destroyed over 48,000 businesses, with 88% of women-led enterprises in affected areas reporting disruption and half unable to resume operations.

Principal Investigator **Professor Roya Rahimi** and a team from the University's **Centre for International Development and Training** are working with **Cappadocia University** and partners in Türkiye and the UK to build digital capacity for women-led micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises.

Using Open Innovation and Design principles, the project identifies gaps, develops tailored digital solutions, and delivers training to strengthen marketing, management, and resilience. The initiative will also establish a Community of Practice initially in Hatay, later expanding to Kahramanmaraş and Gaziantep fostering peer support and sustainable growth.

ELEVATE aims to empower women entrepreneurs to rebuild their livelihoods and contribute to an inclusive, resilient regional economy.





Celebrating Global Impact and Leadership of University Alumni

University of Wolverhampton alumna and honorary graduate **Fatou Baldeh MBE** (BSc Psychology and Health Studies) has been named among **TIME magazine's 100 Most Influential People of 2025**. This recognition celebrates her tireless global advocacy against female genital mutilation (FGM), particularly in her native country of Gambia, where her efforts have challenged entrenched practices and strengthened legal protections.

Highlighting her influence, Fatou told *TIME*: "It was a victory for Gambia, but also the world at large, It's been a difficult year but more conversations around the issue" have since emerged. **David Wedge, Head of Alumni Relations**, praised her as "a change-maker" whose leadership inspires the university community.

This accolade follows her earlier recognition as one of *TIME Magazine's Women of the Year*, reinforcing her role in promoting social justice, equality, and impactful progress.



-  3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
-  4 QUALITY EDUCATION
-  5 GENDER EQUALITY
-  10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES
-  16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS





Fostering Inclusion and Well-being through Inter-University Sports

On 16 April 2025, the University of Wolverhampton hosted a spirited **Varsity Sports Festival** rematch in collaboration with **University College Birmingham** and **Birmingham Newman University** at Walsall Campus. Student participation surged by 29% compared to the previous year, highlighting a growing commitment to community engagement and healthy lifestyles.

Participants took part in mixed volleyball, men’s basketball, and two exciting new activities (pickleball and cheerleading) fostering teamwork, inclusivity, and well-being through diverse physical opportunities. **Natalie Gould, Sport Performance and Development Manager**, emphasised that this year’s event was student-led, supported by 31 placement students across the three institutions. She described an “electric” atmosphere and a strong sense of belonging among staff and students.



University Hosts “Death Matters” Symposium, Cultivating a Compassionate Community

On 11 April 2025, the University of Wolverhampton hosted the **“Death Matters”** symposium, bringing together professionals and academics to enhance grief and death literacy for both the university and the wider community.

Speakers included John Adams from the **National Association of Funeral Directors** (and Advisor to **Child Bereavement UK**); Professor Karina Croucher and Emmelia Booth-Boniface from **the University of Bradford’s** Archaeology department; and Carol Wilson of **Kaleidoscope**, who shared her experiences delivering bereavement support.

Participants heard from a frontline panel including nursing, palliative care, policing, and paramedic professionals who offered poignant insights into experiences of death, dying, and grief. The event also featured creative workshops designed to help attendees process loss and develop practical strategies to support grief literacy in their personal and professional lives.

Lecturer in Adult Nursing **Louise Pimm** emphasised the importance of openness around end-of-life preferences, noting that avoiding such discussions “robs people of time and of choices when they are at their most vulnerable”. Senior Lecturer in Sociology and Social Policy **Jane Booth** reflected that the symposium marked a meaningful step toward building a more compassionate campus culture.



Empowering Women Entrepreneurs through Policy Advocacy

University alumna **Teresa Boughey** who earned a Master’s in Human Resource Management is a co-author of the new parliamentary report **“Strategies for Scaling Up,”** unveiled at Westminster. The report outlines practical strategies to support sustainable growth in female-led businesses across the UK. Teresa, **Founder and CEO of Jungle HR**, also serves as a Board Advisor, Non-Executive Director, **UK Ambassador** for UN Women, and chairs the **“Success Through Sustainability”** ESG workstream for the Women and Enterprise All-Party Parliamentary Group.

Resulting from collaboration between **APPG** members and university partners, the report offers actionable recommendations for government, industry, and investors to bolster female entrepreneurship. The launch attracted Members of Parliament, business owners, investors, and industry leaders, with Leigh Ingham MP (Staffordshire), Co-Chair of the APPG, commending its ambition.

Teresa remarked that achieving sustainable progress requires collective responsibility from entrepreneurs to investors and that “investors must look beyond financial returns and consider wider impact.” Her contribution underscores her commitment to inclusive, sustainable business leadership.





University of Wolverhampton Honoured for Advancing Disability Inclusion

In March 2025, the University of Wolverhampton's **Staff Disability Network**, together with its **Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Team**, received a **Highly Commended** accolade in the **Outstanding Ability Network** category at the **British Diversity Awards 2025**. This made the University the only higher education institution to receive formal recognition in the category.

At the awards ceremony hosted at the JW Marriott Grosvenor House, **Dr Melanie Best, Co-chair of the Disabled Staff Network**, expressed that the honour felt both "encouraging" and "humbling". She emphasised the importance of ongoing efforts to "question, challenge and disrupt" existing norms while also marking moments of celebration to recharge commitment to inclusive practice.

Rachel Adams, Chief People Officer, extended thanks to the DSN and EDI teams, highlighting contributions from **Melanie, Sukhvinder Singh, Megan Lawton, Julian Gwinnett, David Matheson**, and others whose dedication made this recognition possible.

The accolade reflects the University's proactive approach to improving the lived experience of disabled staff, reinforcing its role as a leader in inclusive workplace culture.



University Named New CASES Outreach Hub to Broaden Access to Sport and Exercise Science

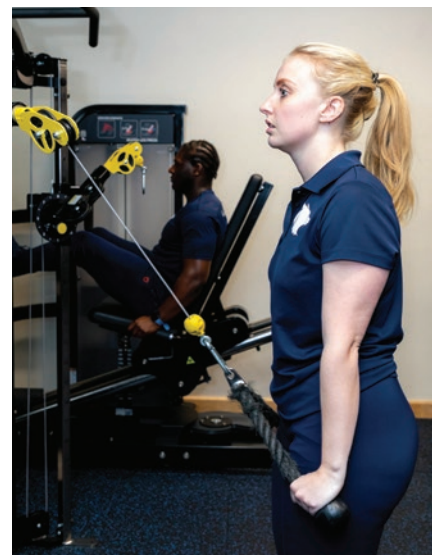
In July 2025, the University of Wolverhampton was designated as one of the new **Outreach Hubs for the Chartered Association of Sport and Exercise Sciences (CASES)**, joining a network of **35 UK Outreach Hubs** across the UK collectively engaging over 10 schools and colleges.

This designation positions the university at the forefront of a national effort to inspire and engage 14–19-year-old students, educators, and communities in the dynamic fields of sport and exercise science.

Aligned with the University's **2035 Strategy**, this role supports meaningful partnerships, widened access to education, and impactful regional and national outreach. As an Outreach Hub, the University will lead workshops, school visits, public talks, webinars, and coordinate a national poster competition where students showcase their creativity some winning entries may even be visited by elite athletes.

Dr. Ross Cloak, Associate Professor of Sport and Exercise Science, commented, "This opportunity allows us to inspire the next generation of scientists and educators by bringing our research and expertise directly into schools and communities".

With 35 such hubs now active across the UK, the University joins a powerful network dedicated to promoting scientific literacy and equitable access to higher education in sport and exercise science.





Wolverhampton Student Secures Regional Title in Women in Property Midlands Awards

The University of Wolverhampton is celebrating **Samantha Elliott**, a BSc Architecture student, who has been named a **regional winner** at the **Women in Property Midlands Student Awards 2025**. Judges praised her for being “very professional, engaging and thoughtful,” and commended her “breadth of knowledge and inspiring perspective at such a young age”.

Open to second-year students from built environment disciplines, the awards recognise personal skills, professional potential, and industry insight not just academic performance and are judged by a panel of industry professionals.

Samantha was selected alongside finalists from the University of Warwick and Birmingham City University, and she will now represent the Midlands at the national, with the overall winner to be announced during the “Best of the Best” dinner at Claridge’s.

Samantha’s achievement reflects the University’s role in nurturing female talent in traditionally male-dominated fields, promoting diversity and confidence among women in property and construction disciplines.



University Hosts Sixth Annual Inclusivity Conference on Authentic Allyship

On 12 June 2025, the University of Wolverhampton held its sixth Annual Inclusivity Conference, themed “**Authentic Allyship**”, in a **hybrid** format connecting in-person attendees at City Campus with online participants.

The event explored intersectional approaches to fostering truly inclusive environments, prompting attendees to move beyond performative gestures toward active and informed allyship.

Speakers included **Pliny Soccoormanee, Executive Officer** of the Peter Tatchell Foundation and University of Wolverhampton alumna, whose advocacy for LGBT+ rights and refugee support is widely recognised; and **Abi Daré**, a University of Wolverhampton School of Law alumna and **New York Times bestselling author** whose recently won the inaugural **Climate Fiction Prize** for her novel *And So I Roar*, her exceptional work sparks global conversations on education, empowerment, and resilience.

The conference also showcased outstanding examples of inclusive practice by University staff and students. This initiative reinforces institutional commitment to empathy, representation, and collective growth.



Everyday is Earth Day!

As part of this year’s Earth Day celebrations at the University, students and staff engaged in a variety of interactive and educational activities across our campuses. One of the highlights was the game *How Bad are Bananas*, which offered a fun and eye-opening way to learn about the carbon footprint of everyday items. Planting sessions were also held to support biodiversity and wellbeing, with new greenery adding to the vibrancy of our outdoor spaces helped along by a welcome spell of sunshine.

This year, the University’s maintenance team contributed to campus biodiversity by constructing and installing six bird boxes and six bat boxes, creating new habitats to encourage local wildlife. These efforts build on last year’s initiatives, with saplings and fruit trees planted at Walsall Campus in 2023 now thriving.

A special thank you goes out to everyone who participated and contributed to making the day a success.







University of Wolverhampton Signs Pioneering UNITAR Collaboration to Advance Sustainability

On 15 January 2025, the University of Wolverhampton welcomed **Nikhil Seth, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Executive Director of UNITAR**, alongside senior officials, to formalise a landmark agreement with the **United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)** establishing a joint sustainability research and knowledge exchange centre.

As the **first UNITAR-affiliated Prosperity Alliance in the UK**, this initiative will serve as a platform for interdisciplinary collaboration, equipping professionals, governments, researchers, and businesses with research-backed sustainability solutions and direct access to international decision-making networks.

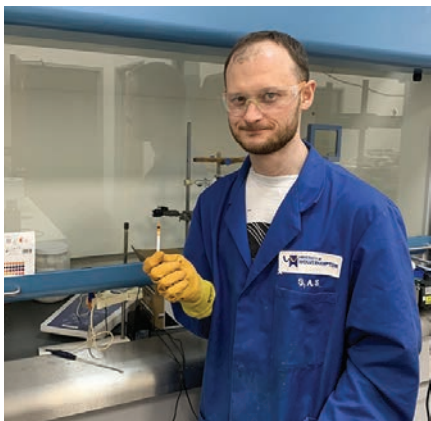


The university will further develop joint degree programmes, immersive training, and flagship conferences to foster innovation and inclusive growth.

The agreement aligns firmly with the **University's 2035 Vision**. **Professor Prashant Pillai, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Knowledge Exchange)**, highlighted its potential to “transform lives and deliver a more inclusive, productive and sustainable society,” while **Associate Dean Professor Maharaj Vijay Reddy** emphasised its global recognition and impact.

Professor Prashant Pillai, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Knowledge Exchange) said:

“We’re delighted to sign this agreement with UNITAR, which is very much in line with the 2035 vision of the University. The University of Wolverhampton and UNITAR share common goals and objectives with regards to enhancing global education and research collaboration to transform lives and deliver a more inclusive, productive and sustainable society.”



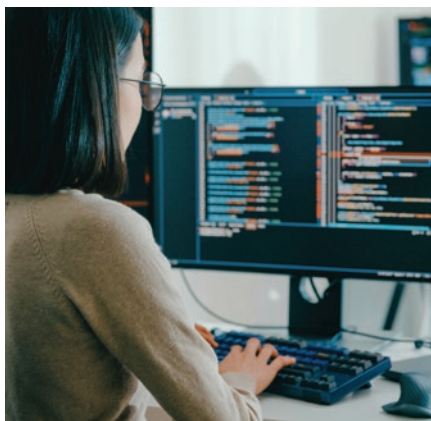
University of Wolverhampton Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) Programme Earns 'Outstanding' Recognition

In December 2024, a joint **Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP)** between the University of Wolverhampton and West Midlands based company **Johnson Test Papers Limited** (now Johnson Analytica Ltd) was awarded the highest “**outstanding**” grade by the KTP Grading Panel. Funded by **UK Research and Innovation** through **Innovate UK**, the two-year programme successfully achieved its core objective and facilitated the application of academic expertise to real-world industry challenges, leading to significant advancements in product development and operational efficiency.

This marked the company’s **third successful KTP** with the University. The project’s innovative outcomes facilitated substantial business transformation.

Emma Pearson, Knowledge Transfer Manager at the University, noted that the “outstanding” rating reflects the programme’s not only meeting but exceeding its objectives and demonstrating robust collaboration and real-world impact.

This recognition underscores the University’s commitment to fostering innovation and enhancing business competitiveness through collaborative research and development to drive economic growth and technological progress.



University Hosts Data Science & AI Networking Event to Strengthen Career Pathways

The University of Wolverhampton hosted a successful networking event on December 10, 2024, partnering with **SAS Talent Connection** to host a data science and AI networking event at Springfield Campus, bringing together over 100 students and recent graduates from relevant courses.

The event featured industry experts providing students with insights into career pathways and opportunities in these dynamic fields. Participants showcased their data science and AI projects developed using SAS Viya and received detailed feedback from industry experts, including representatives from **Nationwide**.

The event featured panel discussions that allowed students to ask open questions about industry experiences, progression opportunities, and workplace expectations, complemented by one-to-one interactions with professionals.

Dr Liam Naughton, Associate Professor in Mathematics, welcomed the collaboration, emphasising the value of connecting students with employers. **Anne Okwuzi**, a University **graduate** and SAS intern, helped bring the initiative to the University and noted the importance of applying academic skills to real-world data challenges.

This initiative underscores the University’s commitment to building professional readiness through partnerships and experiential learning.



Strengthening Educational and Community Ties Through Football Partnership

In February 2025, the University of Wolverhampton renewed its partnership with **Wolverhampton Wanderers Football Club**, extending a long-standing collaboration that connects education, sport, and community development. The two-year agreement provides students with professional placements in key areas such as coaching, sports science, journalism, and media, offering real-world experience that enhances employability and industry readiness. The University also remains the training kit sponsor for **Wolves Women**, supporting visibility and investment in women’s sport. This partnership reflects the institution’s commitment to inclusive education, community engagement, and gender equality in athletics. Hundreds of students have benefited from the collaboration, including **alumnus Nathan Male**, now **Football Development Officer** at Wolves. By aligning academic opportunities with elite sport, the University fosters practical learning, social inclusion, and regional impact key pillars of its Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) strategy. The partnership exemplifies how higher education can actively contribute to community cohesion and long-term social value.





University of Wolverhampton Extends Longstanding Partnership with West Bromwich Albion

In February 2025, the University of Wolverhampton renewed its role as the **Preferred Higher Education Partner** with **West Bromwich Albion Football Club** a partnership originally launched in 2013.

This collaboration continues to enrich student learning through practical experiences such as work placements, shadowing sessions, and Q&A interactions across a wide range of departments including photography, marketing, sport, and hospitality.

A notable success includes seven university **alumni** now employed within the club’s Academy; among them is **Kieran Squire** (BA Hons Physical Education), now **Under-9s Lead Coach**, who credits hands-on opportunities at the University for equipping him for this role.

Former footballer and **current Lecturer in Football Coaching and Performance Kerys Harrop** emphasised the partnership’s value, noting it offers “fantastic” professional pathways for students benefiting from real-world exposure and coaching experience.

This ongoing synergy exemplifies the University’s commitment to combining educational endeavour with industry engagement in sports education, fostering employability and regional development.



University of Wolverhampton Launches WLV Business Link to Drive Regional Innovation

In September 2024, the University of Wolverhampton’s **Research and Enterprise Directorate (RED)** officially launched **WLV Business Link**, a dedicated business support network based at the University **Science Park**. The initiative had more than 150 attendees at its inaugural event.

Aimed at fostering entrepreneurship, innovation, and economic growth, WLV Business Link enables organisations to connect and share knowledge, gain access to academic expertise, and explore the University’s facilities and support services.

The network supports businesses with expert advice, workforce development through apprenticeships and CPD, and SPARK Business Incubation Centre at facilities like the Science Park and e-Innovation Centre.

Director of Research and Enterprise Ceri Jones stated the University seeks to act as a regional innovation hub, in line with its **Strategy 2035** ambitions and strong performance in the Knowledge Exchange Framework.

This initiative promotes inclusive economic development and strengthens the University’s role as a catalyst for regional collaboration, aligning with the University’s commitment to local growth and regeneration, as highlighted in the latest Knowledge Exchange Framework (KEF4) assessment, where it scored highly for working with business and the public and third sectors.



Enhancing Forensic Training through Strategic Collaboration

West Midlands Police launched a new partnership with **the University of Wolverhampton** to deliver advanced continuous professional development to **Forensic Scene Investigators (FSIs)**. The month-long Level One Volume Crime course combines theory with hands-on practice in the University’s crime scene simulation house, Locard House.

Participants engage in real-world tasks from fingerprint and footprint recovery to blood spatter analysis and DNA swabbing while applying approved techniques and the latest scientific advancements. Training is conducted in dynamic mock environments, including staged burglaries, aggravated burglaries, and cannabis grow-ops, to reflect regional crime trends.

Louise Chapman, Forensics Investigation Manager at West Midlands Police, described the collaboration as blending academic rigour with operational experience to ensure FSIs are well-prepared to deliver justice effectively. The University’s **Senior Lecturer in Forensic Science, Becky Flanagan**, highlighted its value in upskilling both new and serving practitioners through applied science.

The initiative, capped at ten participants per course for quality instruction, fosters professional confidence and capability supporting reliable outcomes in the Criminal Justice System.





Promoting Research Excellence Aligned with Sustainable Development Goals

The University of Wolverhampton contributed to the **Proceedings of the 31st International Conference on Program Comprehension (ICPC) 2023**, co-located with the **45th International Conference on Software Engineering (ICSE)**, presenting research advancing the field of software engineering education and practice. The work appears in the Formal Science and Engineering (FSE) 2023 Proceedings, published by the **IEEE Computer Society**.

The research reflects the University's commitment to innovation in computing, exploring ways to improve software comprehension an essential factor in enhancing code quality, reducing maintenance costs, and ensuring sustainable software lifecycles. Through empirical analysis and methodological advances, the study contributes to industry-relevant knowledge and supports workforce capability in the technology sector.

By engaging in globally recognised conferences, University researchers strengthen international collaboration, address complex digital challenges, and advance responsible technological development which is key to supporting long-term social, environmental, and economic resilience in the rapidly evolving software industry.



Examining Ethical Practices in the Nigerian Banking Sector

A new study co-authored by **Kareem Folohunso Sani** of the University of Wolverhampton examines the prevalence and consequences of corporate egoism in the South-Western Nigerian **banking sector**. Published in *the Journal of Business Research* on 8 January 2025, the research applies ethical egoism and ethical impact theory to analyse how banks' performance targets influence professional conduct and employee wellbeing.

Drawing on interviews with 47 current and former bankers, the study finds that loan and deposit targets are frequently set at levels described as unrealistic, prioritising organisational gain over employee welfare. The pressure to meet these targets has, in some cases, driven engagement in unethical practices such as bribery. Participants also reported negative impacts on work-life balance, health, and overall wellbeing.

The findings offer evidence-based insights relevant to responsible business practice, ethical governance, and sustainable employment standards, particularly in the global South; where banking sector performance metrics can carry significant social implications.



UN Leader Awarded Honorary Professorship, Extending University's Global Impact

On 30 July 2025, **Nikhil Seth, former Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)**, was honoured with an **Honorary Professorship for Sustainable Development** from the University of Wolverhampton. He is internationally recognised for shaping influential UN frameworks such as the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Millennium Development Goals**, driving sustainable progress in vulnerable communities worldwide.

Reflecting on his journey from a student and economics lecturer at Delhi University to his long-standing UN service Nikhil emphasised the enduring mission of sustainable development: fostering a global framework of human rights, economic dignity, environmental balance, and peace. He expressed that this honorary appointment comes with a responsibility to share insights from his diplomatic career and to engage with the University's researchers, students, and changemakers.

By recognising figures like Nikhil Seth, the University reinforces its commitment to embedding global citizenship, equitable development, and environmental stewardship within its academic community.





Wolverhampton Lecturer Leads Landmark Lancet Study on Maternal Health

In July 2025, **Dr Md Asiful Islam, Lecturer in Biomedical Science** at the University of Wolverhampton, was named **first author** on a landmark study published in *The Lancet* the world's leading medical journal (Impact Factor: 88.5).

The study, titled **"Causes of and Risk Factors for Postpartum Haemorrhage: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis,"** synthesised data from **327 studies** encompassing more than **847 million women**.

Conducted in partnership with the **World Health Organisation (WHO)** and the **University of Birmingham**, and backed by the **Gates Foundation**, the research identifies **uterine atony** as the leading cause of postpartum haemorrhage accounting for over **70% of cases**. Other significant risk factors include anaemia, previous PPH, caesarean birth, female genital mutilation, sepsis, lack of antenatal care, multiple pregnancy, and placenta praevia.

Dr Islam noted the study provides a vital evidence base to help healthcare systems better identify and support high-risk women, particularly in **low-resource settings**.

This achievement spotlights the University's contribution to maternal health equity and underscores its role in generating globally impactful, data-driven solutions to enhance women's wellbeing.



University Launches CYBRAI to Boost Cyber Resilience and AI Innovation

In May 2025, the University of Wolverhampton launched the Centre for **Cyber Resilience and Artificial Intelligence (CYBRAI)**, a strategic research hub hosted at the University Science Park designed to strengthen regional and national digital security and innovation capacity.

CYBRAI brings together academia, industry, and government to develop collaborative research, practical cybersecurity solutions, and responsible AI applications. The aim is to equip organisations with tools and expertise needed to navigate an increasingly complex digital landscape and harness AI to enhance productivity and resilience.

The initiative responds to national cyber challenges: the Cyber Security Breaches Survey 2025 revealed that **43%** of businesses and **30%** of charities experienced cyber incidents in the past year, while a January 2025 National Audit Office report exposed critical gaps in government IT.

Professor Prashant Pillai, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Knowledge Exchange), described CYBRAI as a vital centre of excellence in research, innovation, and skills development with both regional relevance and global reach.



University Champions Investor-Ready Innovation through DigiSpinWM Pilot

The University of Wolverhampton, in partnership with **Coventry University** and **Birmingham City University** under the **West Midlands Combined Universities** umbrella, has marked a significant milestone in the six-month **DigiSpinWM** pilot programme funded by **Research England**. Designed to fast-track research from labs into the market, the initiative has assessed over 40 digital and advanced manufacturing technologies, providing tailored support for spin-out readiness including intellectual property development and business planning.

As a result, **11 promising innovations** are now investor-ready, showcased at a regional event where participants presented their ventures to investors and innovation leaders.

Alongside nurturing individual projects, the programme has developed a shared technology transfer framework among the three universities, establishing a scalable blueprint for collaboration in research commercialisation.

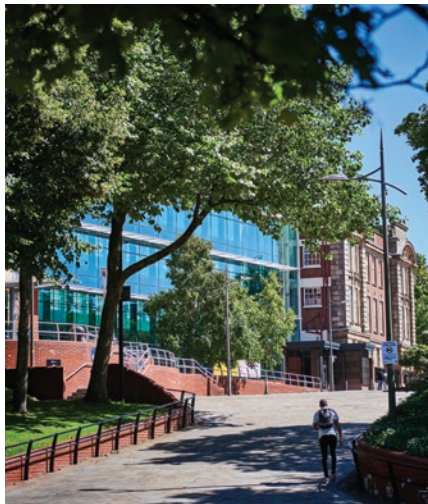
DigiSpinWM exemplifies effective regional partnership, accelerating innovation pipelines, boosting economic resilience, and reinforcing the University's role in translating academic excellence into societal and commercial impact.





Equity, Diversity & Inclusion in Apprenticeships Conference (“Part of the Pack”)

In May 2025, the University of Wolverhampton hosted the flagship apprenticeship conference “**Part of the Pack**” at its National Brownfield Institute. Featuring thought leaders, industry representatives, and internal EDI advocates, the event examined the critical importance of equity, diversity, and inclusion within apprenticeships. Against a backdrop of polarised national debate, the conference emphasised the University’s unwavering commitment to inclusion as a strategic priority, backed by research demonstrating how diverse teams enhance innovation, talent retention, and decision-making quality. Despite a national 2022/23 apprenticeship starter rate of just 13.2% from global majority backgrounds, the University has raised its representation from 17% to **21%** in three years though it acknowledges this still falls short of Wolverhampton’s demographic profile. With participation from influential speakers such as **Scarlett Allen Horton, Nate Watson, and Dr Melanie Best, Co-chair of the Disabled Staff Network**, and interactive sessions like the “Speak Easy” workshop, the event positioned inclusion as both an ethical imperative and a business necessity.



University of Wolverhampton Wins Vickie Vowels University of the Year Award

The University of Wolverhampton has received a **prestigious University of the Year sector award** recognising the institution with the greatest overall impact on its stakeholders over the past year. The accolade honours universities demonstrating leadership in **innovation, engagement, and transformation** within higher education.

The University was recognised for its **strategic adoption of Tribal solutions** across multiple departments, enhancing both student and staff experiences while maintaining a strong focus on **operational excellence and community engagement**. A key factor in securing the award was the successful migration to the **Tribal Cloud**, improving system performance, scalability, security, and long-term sustainability.

This transformation was driven by close collaboration between the University’s **Registry and Digital Services** teams, whose expertise ensured a smooth transition with minimal disruption. The award underscores the University’s commitment to leveraging technology for agility, efficiency, and improved stakeholder experiences, while supporting a resilient and future-ready digital infrastructure.



UoW Science Park Honoured as UKSPA’s Most Innovative Company 2024

The University of Wolverhampton Science Park tenant, Wow! Stuff was awarded the title “**Most Innovative Company 2024**” by the United Kingdom Science Park Association (UKSPA) at their 40th Anniversary Gala Awards. This accolade recognises the company’s cutting-edge contributions to innovation aided by the Science Park’s contribution to advancing science, technology, and knowledge-based enterprises.

The award is a proxy for the Science Park’s success in combining infrastructure, business incubation, and enterprise support to foster high-impact ventures. It underscores its role as a hub for creative, environmental, digital, and engineering firms, enabling companies to scale, collaborate with academic research, and access professional services and modern facilities.

This national recognition complements Science Park’s recent sustainability-oriented enhancements—such as energy efficiency upgrades, sustainable building practices, and environmental management infrastructure—that contribute both to regional economic growth and environmental responsibility. It also signals strong external validation of the Park’s model for fostering start-ups, spin-outs, and sustainable innovation.





HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

University Earns Prestigious HR Excellence in Research Accreditation

In May 2025, the University of Wolverhampton was awarded the **HR Excellence in Research (HREiR) Award by the European Commission** an esteemed recognition managed in the UK by **Vitae** which affirms the institution's long-term dedication to researcher career development and a positive research culture.

The University's submission, completed in March 2025, included a detailed gap analysis, action plan, and summary report, all openly accessible via its research development webpage. The resulting three-year action plan focuses on three key areas being: **Environment & Culture; Employment; Professional & Career Development** with ongoing progress integrated into the University's wider Research and Knowledge Exchange strategy.

Led by **Professor Laura Caulfield, Founding Chair for Institute of Community Research** and supported by a cross-institutional project team, the process involved evidence-based evaluation and inclusive consultation with early-career researchers and HR staff. **Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Prashant Pillai** noted that achieving HREiR is an important milestone aligned with the University's **Strategy 2035** goals to cultivate high-performing research talent, strengthen collaborations, and maximise the transformational impact of research.

This recognition strengthens confidence in the University's commitment to building a resilient, inclusive, and high-performing research community which is integral to sustaining impactful innovation and societal benefit by embedding research excellence and staff development into its strategic framework.



Founding member of UK Science Park Association (UKSPA) Sustainability Special Interest Group (SIG)

In 2025 UKSPA announced the intent to create a Sustainability Special Interest Group. The University of Wolverhampton Science Park was a founding member of this SIG, whose main purpose was to:

1. To share learning and spread best practice amongst Members
2. To identify areas where UKSPA can play a larger role in national policy and support UKSPA in doing so, as appropriate.
3. To identify areas where the collective strength of the UKSPA membership could help accelerate a sustainable transition.
4. To propose strategic partnerships or collaborations with other groups nationally and internationally that would support UKSPA Members in their sustainability transition.

Dr. Komali Yenneti, Head of Partnerships (Academic Quality) and a distinguished Lecturer in Urban Planning and Sustainable Built Environment at the University of Wolverhampton, stands at the forefront of advancing the **UN Sustainable Development Goals** through her exceptional scholarship. Her pioneering interdisciplinary research brilliantly illuminates critical issues in energy justice, low-carbon transitions, and urban climate resilience, with particular insight into addressing complex inequalities in the Global South. Internationally recognised with the prestigious **Green Talents Award and International Geographical Union's Early Career Research Award**, Dr. Yenneti demonstrates remarkable leadership as the **founding Chair of the IGU Young and Early-Career Geographers Commission**, where she has orchestrated impactful global collaborations promoting inclusive and sustainable urban development. Her influential teaching, groundbreaking publications, and extensive international engagement have positioned her as a transformative voice in shaping equitable climate and energy policies worldwide.



University launches CGS Cluster to Advance Governance and Sustainability Research

The **Corporate Governance and Sustainability (CGS) Research Cluster**, led by **Dr Sean Starr and Dr Roya Rahimi**. This multidisciplinary hub focuses on enhancing understanding and practice of responsible governance and sustainability across diverse organisational contexts.

CGS serves as a dynamic platform for collaboration among researchers, students, and industry practitioners, aiming to translate academic inquiry into real-world impact. Its vision emphasises leadership development and pioneering scholarship to address societal and environmental challenges.

Key research themes include corporate governance (board diversity, ethics, leadership behaviours), sustainability (CSR, environmental reporting, green economies), and leadership development aligned with United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

The cluster seeks to foster collaborative research, secure external funding, support professional development, engage stakeholders, and enhance societal impact, particularly in resource-constrained economies. This initiative underscores the University's commitment to embedding ethical governance and sustainability into management research and practice.



ACADEMICS IN THE SPOTLIGHT



◆
Professor Roya Rahimi

Professor Roya Rahimi exemplifies academic excellence at the University of Wolverhampton through her distinguished contributions to the **UN Sustainable Development Goals**. As the visionary founder of the **Marketing Research Hub**, she has pioneered groundbreaking research in AI applications for tourism, service quality enhancement, and customer engagement strategies. Her exceptional work with **Elevate**, the Management Research Centre's initiative empowering female entrepreneurs highlights her commitment to community resilience and practical impact. In recognition of her global influence, she was recently named among the **top 0.5% of scholars worldwide by academic citations**, reinforcing her position as a thought leader bridging research and real-world transformation. Professor Rahimi's remarkable ability to connect scholarly research with practical industry applications creates transformative sustainable impact, embodying the university's mission of positive social change.



◆
Professor Maharaj Vijay Reddy

Professor Maharaj Vijay Reddy, Associate Dean (Research and Knowledge Exchange) at the University of Wolverhampton, is a leading figure in advancing the UN Sustainable Development Goals through his work focuses on sustainable tourism, climate action, and post-conflict recovery, contributing to global efforts for social and environmental impact.

With projects funded by UNESCO, the British Council, and the British Academy. Notably, he spearheaded a British Council UKIERI project developing a tourism-based socio-economic revival plan for Kashmir, promoting resilience and local development. In 2024, he played a pivotal role in establishing the UK's first Prosperity Alliance with UNITAR, fostering international collaboration for sustainability. Through his research, knowledge exchange, and leadership, Professor Reddy continues to strengthen the University of Wolverhampton's commitment to impactful, sustainable practices, demonstrating the institution's influence on global policy and development priorities.



◆
Dr. Hamid Pouran

Dr. Hamid Pouran is a Senior Lecturer in Environmental Technology at the University of Wolverhampton and the founder of its MSc Sustainability and Climate Change Program. A Chartered Scientist, Chartered Environmentalist, and Senior Member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), he chairs the IEEE UK & Ireland Climate Change and Environmental Technology Special Interest Group and serves on the IEEE European Public Policy Committee (EPPC) Energy Working Group. He is also a member of the Royal Society of Chemistry.

Dr. Pouran's expertise encompasses climate change, policy impact, and renewable energy sustainability. He has provided high-level scientific consultation to government leaders in Central Asia and the Middle East and fosters international collaborations. As the leader of the Sustainability Research Labs at the National Brownfield Institute, he drives innovative research. His work as a subject matter expert and scientific consultant for the BBC World TV documentary Dust Storms broadcast on BBC World, BBC Four, and Deutsche Welle examined climate change impacts and was praised by BBC Four viewers as a top new program. Dr. Pouran's contributions have been highlighted by prestigious platforms, including Chatham House and Foreign Policy. He was a prominent speaker at COP29 in Azerbaijan.



◆ Professor Suresh Renukappa

Professor Suresh Renukappa is an award-winning strategic thought leader in the area of sustainable smart innovation. His research focuses on generating sustainable value by addressing major societal, economic, and environmental challenges. He has successfully led 54 research projects and authored over 300 refereed publications, including journal articles, book chapters, books, and conference proceedings, along with 24 policy briefs. He has supervised 25 PhD researchers and contributed to REF 2014 and 2021 in the area of sustainability. He also serves on the editorial boards of three international sustainability-related journals. His work spans multiple sectors globally and has influenced policy, including contributions to the UK Treasury, the Public Accounts Committee, and national security and climate adaptation inquiries. He was recently named among the **top 0.5% of scholars worldwide by academic citations**, he is also closely working with the United Nations to accelerate the future of AI and sustainability leadership.



◆ Professor Subashini Suresh

Professor Subashini Suresh is a world-leading researcher in knowledge management, with a strong focus on advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Her work explores how effective knowledge creation and organisational learning can drive sustainable practices across both public and private sectors. She has led interdisciplinary projects aligned with key SDG targets, particularly in sustainable cities and industry innovation, delivering impactful solutions through research, cross-sector collaboration, and policy engagement. Her work has been cited in the UK Parliament's House of Commons Committee of Public Accounts report titled "Resilience to Flooding" (Seventh Report, Session 2023–24, HC 71, published 17 January 2024) and Use of Artificial Intelligence in Government (Eighteenth Report of Session 2024–25, HC 356, Published on Wednesday 26 March 2025).



WHAT'S NEXT?





Protecting our planet for future generations

Walsall Campus Decarbonisation Project

The Walsall Campus, home to our specialised facilities for sport, teaching, and healthcare courses, is undergoing a comprehensive decarbonisation transformation with support from the **Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS)** with a total investment of **£11 million**.

By 2026, we will implement a multi-phased approach including an innovative **air to water source cascade heat pump system** to replace existing gas-fired equipment, complimented by **photovoltaic (PV) panels** to generate maximum capacity of renewable electricity available on-site, enhanced building insulation to improve thermal efficiency, and advanced **ventilation controls** for optimised energy management. This integrated project will reduce our carbon emissions by **1,000 tonnes of CO₂e** annually while demonstrating our practical commitment to sustainable campus operations; furthermore,



the Decarbonisation project will act as a **“Living Lab”** enabling valuable learning opportunities for our students and researchers by offering real- life research opportunities in environmental management and green technologies.



Dr. Pete Cross, Chief Operating Officer at the University of Wolverhampton, said:

“At the University of Wolverhampton, we are thrilled to be making great progress towards our sustainability goals and reducing our carbon footprint. This is one of many great initiatives the university is committed to including the Green Innovation Corridor and a partnership with UNITAR to provide student education backed by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.”



The Green Innovation Corridor (GIC)

The Green Innovation Corridor (GIC) is a transformative partnership between the University of Wolverhampton and the City of Wolverhampton Council, aiming to establish a world-leading cluster in green technologies.

Spanning from the University’s **Springfield Campus** through **the Science Park** to the I54 Business Park, the GIC focuses on sustainable construction, advanced manufacturing, and green energy solutions. With over **£27 million** in secured funding, including £20 million from the Government’s Levelling Up Fund and £7 million from the **West Midlands Investment Zone**, the initiative is set to deliver more than **20,000 m²** of new **R&D, laboratory, and commercial space**, creating approximately **1,200 jobs**. By fostering innovation, supporting start-ups, and enhancing skills development, the GIC’s environmentally conscious development contributes significantly to enhancing the socioeconomic landscape nationally.



University Integrates ESG Principles into New Curriculum Framework

The University of Wolverhampton’s Sustainability Team has worked in collaboration with academic colleagues across the institution to embed **Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) considerations** into the new **Curriculum Framework**, a key component of the University’s **Strategy 2035**.

The updated framework is designed to ensure all future course design reflects inclusive, forward-thinking, and sustainability-aligned principles that prepare students for professional and societal challenges. The embedding of ESG principles will be phased in across **all University courses**, with new programmes aligned to the framework introduced from **September 2026**.

Development of the framework involved significant **student participation** through workshops, focus groups, and design activities, ensuring it reflects the needs and aspirations of the student body. Creative contributions included a visual infographic by **Hannah Jones, BA (Hons) Graphic Design student**, from the School of Creative Industries.



Pro Vice-Chancellor, Professor Gill Knight noted that the extensive consultation process has produced a curriculum structure that is both academically rigorous and socially responsive, supporting high-quality,

relevant, and accessible learning for all. This initiative strengthens the University’s commitment to embedding ESG, equity, and future-ready learning into its academic offerings.



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