

## **The University of Birmingham**

We are recognised as one of the world's leading universities for the quality of our teaching and research. As a member of the Russell Group of Universities, an emphasis upon research in all schools is paramount, and our standards of research and teaching are consistently high.

At Birmingham, we have strengths across the board. With one of the widest research and teaching portfolios in the UK, our approach to dynamic interdisciplinary study gives you real freedom of choice.

## **Research Excellence**

In the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise, 89.9% of the University of Birmingham's research activity was noted for having international impact. The Research Fortnight's University Power Ranking\*, based on quality and quantity of research activity, puts the University of Birmingham as the West Midlands' top university and 12th in the UK, leading the way across a broad range of disciplines.

Our core subject areas are:

Arts, languages, literature and history  
Business  
Education  
Engineering  
Law  
Medicine, dentistry and health sciences  
Science  
Social sciences, government and politics

As a leading UK institution, the University of Birmingham has a number of global partnerships with educational institutions and organisations. We are a member of Universitas21, an international network of 21 leading research-intensive institutions in 13 countries. The network facilitates student mobility, collaborates on research and encourages entrepreneurial activities.

## **Current areas of research**

At Birmingham we have a tradition of innovation. Our groundbreaking research has made an impact on the world for over 100 years. We continue to break new ground and this research has true benefits locally, nationally, and internationally. From world-class cancer research to pioneering the development of new fuels, our academic expertise continues to address the key challenges facing the modern-day world:

### **Healthy aging**

Research at Birmingham tackles health and ageing in a number of ways. Birmingham has major groups working on research into the ageing process, including the ageing immune system, stem cells, and inflammatory diseases like rheumatoid arthritis as well as being a major centre for cancer research and cognitive neuroscience.

### **Sustainable transport**

Today the University of Birmingham is at the forefront of clean energy development and particularly a sustainable and green transport system. Ultimately we want to develop a new generation of cleaner conventional fuel.

The University has a keen interest in developing both a new generation of cleaner conventional fuels but also the technology required to create a hydrogen

infrastructure. Birmingham has major research groups working on generating cleaner fossil fuels, nuclear engineering, as well as new fuel sources like hydrogen.

### **Tackling Cancer**

Birmingham is an internationally renowned centre for translational cancer research and cancer education.

Our work encompasses many aspects of cancer biology from basic laboratory science through to clinical trials on thousands of patients. Close links with the NHS means that laboratory discoveries can be seamlessly translated into new treatments for patients.

Birmingham's Cancer Research UK Clinical Trials Unit (CRCTU) is the largest cancer trials unit in the UK. It is responsible for design, implementation and analysis of trials in most types of cancer and covers everything from the first test of new therapies, to large studies comparing the potential of recently established drugs.

### **Preventing and resolving Conflict**

Our outstanding research in global conflict and policy covers a huge range of topics from the challenges of state-building in Africa to the politics of post Soviet Russia.

In recent years, our academics' research activities have focused on several key areas. From active assistance and advice in the reconstruction of post-conflict environments, to understanding the process of decentralisation of states, each research area has had real life impact in advising how political aid should be applied, how institutional reforms should be enacted and how services should be provided.

### **Environmental Pollutants**

Birmingham addresses a range of research issues requiring the application of chemical and physical principles to the study of environmental processes. Ultimately, such processes are relevant to environmental change and human health. Our main research areas are pollution, climate and atmosphere and environmental nanoscience.

Our researchers are investigating the effects of man-made pollutants and manufacturing processes on the environment and eco-system and, ultimately, look to provide alternative solutions to our contemporary demand.

This important research identifies the risks of new, threatening pollutants to the environment and we aim to provide innovative solutions to tackling these issues.

### **The Shakespeare Institute**

The Shakespeare Institute is an internationally renowned research institution established in 1951 to push the boundaries of knowledge about Shakespeare Studies and Renaissance Drama. The Shakespeare Institute offers a wide range of innovative postgraduate degrees, including opportunities for postgraduate research.

The Institute is part of the University of Birmingham, yet is based in Stratford-upon-Avon within walking distance of Shakespeare's birthplace, school and grave, and the theatres of the Royal Shakespeare Company.

### **The University of Birmingham and the city**

Birmingham is an excellent centre for your University education. Based in the centre of the UK, Birmingham has its own international airport and a thriving multicultural community. The University itself is a campus based, with all the facilities that you

need, including its own train station, making it simple to explore further a-field. The city of Birmingham is only 3km from the University itself, which holds a huge array of options for exploring and socialising outside of study time.

Further information regarding opportunities for study at the University of Birmingham can be found at [www.birmingham.ac.uk](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk)