



Durham University Economic Contribution

An independent report has looked at the economic contribution and impact of Durham University, analysing a 12-month period in 2020-21.

The report, undertaken by BiGGAR Economics, found that Durham University generated **£1.9 billion Gross Value Added (GVA)*** for the UK and supported **17,320 jobs** over the year.

What we achieve together...

Other highlights from the report include:

- For every **£1** the University received in income, it generated **£4.80** of economic impact in the UK.
- The University generated **£668 million GVA** and supported **10,790 jobs** in the North East of England, of which **£489 million GVA** and **8,170 jobs** were in County Durham.
- Our role in **Knowledge Transfer Partnerships**, where academic expertise can be shared with industrial partners, has generated an estimated **£4 million GVA** and **80 jobs** across the UK in the past 10 years.
- In 2020/21 Durham University had **22 active spin-out businesses**, collectively employing more than **500 people** across the UK, and **38 active graduate start-up businesses**, employing 26 people.
- In total, Durham University spin-out and start-up businesses generated **£54m GVA** and supported **1,810 jobs** across the UK in 2020/21.



economic





Durham University

Economic Contribution

Our role in the Region

NETPark and Orbit

- The University played a **key role in the founding of the NETPark science park** in Sedgefield, County Durham. It is part of a strategic partnership within the site, as well as it being home to the University's **Centre for Advanced Instrumentation**.
- **£2.3million of funding from Research England and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)** enabled the opening of **Orbit**, the **University Enterprise Zone** on the NETPark site in June 2021.
- **Orbit** provides **collaborative working space** for businesses academics, students and partners at NETPark, providing office accommodation and a host of **innovation assets**. Members include Northern Space and Security, Magnitude Biosciences and Intelligent Gels.

Growing the regional knowledge economy

- Durham University is part of the **Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP)** programme which recruits graduates to work on joint industry / academic projects, to help overcome challenges and contribute to greater business productivity.
- Durham University has completed **28 KTPs** over the past ten years. It is estimated this has supported **£0.8 million GVA** and **20 jobs in County Durham**, and **£3 million GVA** and **60 jobs in the North East**.
- Durham University has Memorandums of Understanding with a range of partners including **Atom bank** and **Durham County Council** forging strong partnership working.
- The **TechUp programme** based at Durham University, funded by the Institute of Coding, is retraining women into technology careers.

Spin-Outs and Start-Ups

- In 2020/21 Durham University had **22 active spin-out and start-up businesses**.
- In collaboration with **Durham County Council**, we're **delivering Durham Internships and Collaborative Enterprise (DICE)**, a programme of enhanced enterprise education, tailored incubation services and internship opportunities in local small and medium-sized enterprises to Durham University students. DICE is supported with Durham University, European Regional Development Fund and Durham County Council contributions.

Northern Accelerator

- Led by Durham University, the **Northern Accelerator** is an innovative collaboration with Newcastle, Northumbria, Sunderland, Teesside and York universities. Funded by Research England's Connecting Capability Fund and the European Regional Development Fund, it focuses on **transforming the commercialisation of research** in the North East, addressing regional imbalances and **strengthening the region's knowledge economy**.

Employment and employees

- Durham University is one of the largest employers in County Durham and the North East, with **4,155 FTE employees in 2020/21**.
- **Benefits from staff spending are spread across County Durham**, with around 34% of staff living in Durham City and a further 29% living elsewhere in the County.
- Durham University plays an important part in the **World Heritage Site**, including hosting the **Visitor Centre**. Its **museums and cultural attractions** support regional tourism, whilst public events such as lectures, exhibitions and performances, **attracted over 372,000 visitors in 2020/21**.
- In 2020/21 Durham University staff and students **volunteered for over 40,000 hours**, supporting more than **200 local charities** and initiatives.

Students and graduates

- The **Intensive Industrial Innovation Programme (IIIP)** is a Durham University-led collaboration with Newcastle, Northumbria and Teesside universities to **support stipendiary costs of PhD students** enabling them to embed in regional SMEs for three years. The programme is **currently supporting circa 76 businesses** with research and development. It is part-funded by ERDF. See case studies from the programme here.
- The **Durham Venture School** offers **funding support to up to 30 graduates** (retained in the local area or attracted back) to work together to provide solutions to significant problems, which will **form the basis for high potential start-ups to be launched in the region**.
- Durham University graduates are more likely to have high skilled jobs with **86% of graduates entering the labour market going into high skilled jobs** (11% more than average across the UK, whilst **35% of Durham graduates were earning more than £30,000** compared to 23% of all graduates across England).
- Durham University students who graduated in 2020/21 are expected to **contribute £375 million to the Exchequer** in taxes across their lifetime.

For more information, please visit durham.ac.uk/together

**Gross Added Value (GVA) measures the monetary contribution that an organisation adds to the economy through its operations.*