

# What we achieve together...

Durham University  
Contributing to Economic,  
Cultural, and Social Vibrancy  
in North East England

An independent report has found that Durham University generated **£1.9 billion Gross Value Added (GVA)\*** for the UK and supported 17,320 jobs over a 12-month period (2020/21).





# Durham University

## Contributing to Economic, Cultural, and Social Vibrancy in North East England

### Commissioned by the University and undertaken by BIGGAR Economics, the report found that:

- Durham 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 in 2020/21.**
- For every **£1 the University received in income it generated £4.80 of economic impact** in the UK.
- University employment represents around **five per cent of County Durham's total employment.**
- University **spin-out and start-up businesses also supported over 1,800 jobs in the UK in 2020/21**, of which 500 were in North East England, including 380 in County Durham.

The report also highlighted the **social and cultural benefits** that the University brings including the pivotal role in **supporting Durham's outstanding cultural offering** and their commitment to sharing their resources, skills, and expertise.

### Global expertise – regional benefits:

#### Research in practice:

- Durham University's **expertise in geothermal energy** is being put into practice through working with councils in County Durham, South Tyneside and elsewhere to bring this **low carbon heat** into homes and **improve energy security.**
- The University's involvement in **the evaluation of lateral flow testing at scale** during the Covid-19 pandemic, directly leading to the rollout of Test to Release to Heavy Goods Vehicle drivers, **helping trade to continue and supply chains to recover.**
- Experts from our **Psychology department** have worked with **Durham County Council** to develop a **free, online training tool** to help support **neurodivergent and autistic pupils** in schools.

### Supporting the regional knowledge economy:

- The University **supports innovation and business** development through its **partnership with NETPark** in Sedgefield, County Durham, **the opening of the Orbit University Enterprise Zone** and a range of **Knowledge Transfer Partnerships, spin-out and start-up businesses.**
- Durham University recently signed a **Memorandum of Understanding with Atom bank** which will further develop research and widening participation.

- The University has a long history of working in **partnership with Durham County Council.** One of the most recent joint projects is the **Durham Internships and Collaborative Enterprise (DICE)** project, which supports start-ups, scale-ups and local SMEs through a subsidised internship programme, in turn helping to grow the regional economy and retain and attract talent.

### Sharing our skills and expertise:

- The **University is dedicated to sharing its knowledge and expertise** to inspire others – examples include:
- A commitment to **inspiring and engaging science outreach work** including the annual **Celebrate Science event** and **Schools Science Festival.**
- The extensive **learning and engagement activities across our museums** including **tailored and interactive sessions** for children of all ages.
- Involvement in innovative projects such as **The Big Dig**, delivered in partnership with the Auckland Trust, getting school children involved in archaeological digs in Bishop Auckland.
- The **TechUp programme**, funded by the Institute of Coding, to retrain women for careers in technology.
- Durham University trainee teachers undertake **school placements each year**, whilst staff and students volunteer tens of thousands of hours to local charities and initiatives annually.

### Cultural vibrancy:

- The University is **committed to contributing to the cultural vibrancy of County Durham**, through its involvement in the **World Heritage Site**, including hosting the **World Heritage Site Visitor Centre**, and support for important events and projects such as Lumiere, Durham City Run Festival and Durham Book Festival.
- The University's **museums and attractions** include four collections **designated as nationally significant** by Arts Council England.
- University **public events**, such as lectures, performances and exhibitions, attracted over **372,000 visitors in 2020/21.** **Student theatre** alone hosts over 90 productions a year whilst the University-run **Assembly Rooms Theatre** aims to host theatre with relevance to the community and social change.

For more information, please visit [durham.ac.uk/together](https://durham.ac.uk/together)

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