

Appointment of Chief Development Officer

Candidate Brochure



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Message from the Vice-Chancellor and Warden

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

We are proud to be in top 100 in the QS World University Rankings 2026. As well as producing world-leading and world-changing research across all four of our faculties, our education is challenging, enabling, research-led and transformative.

Our wider student experience, delivered through our Colleges and many student societies, is among the best in the UK. Driven by deeply held values, our staff, students, colleges, departments and estates all combine to make this a wonderful place to study, work and live.

We are seeking a Chief Development Officer to lead Campaign 200, an ambitious effort to raise £200m by our bicentenary in 2032. This enhanced role will focus on securing transformational seven and eight-figure gifts, refining priorities, and expanding philanthropic opportunities worldwide.

The Chief Development Officer will work closely with senior leaders, including myself and the Campaign Board. The role has great strategic significance in advancing Durham's philanthropic potential, strengthening alumni ties, and positioning the University for long-term impact and financial sustainability in the run-up to 2032 and beyond. Substantial progress has been made on our fundraising target. Sustained effort is needed to continue to make advances.

You will play a pivotal role in the design and delivery of a global principal gifts strategy, securing major support from philanthropists, corporations, and trusts, and strengthening alumni engagement. You will also lead the Development & Alumni Relations team, fostering a culture of excellence and collaboration. The ideal candidate will have a proven record of securing major gifts at the highest level, combining strategic vision with operational delivery, and the ability to inspire senior stakeholders and high-performing teams.

This is a career defining opportunity to shape the future of a world-class university and leave a lasting impact.

Our Executive Director, Communications & Relations, Lucian Hudson, and I look forward to discussing the post further with you.



A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Karen O'Brien". The signature is fluid and stylized, with the first name "Karen" written in a cursive script and the last name "O'Brien" in a more formal, slightly blocky script.

Professor Karen O'Brien
Vice-Chancellor and Warden

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Durham University

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

We conduct research that empowers, inspires and improves lives across the world.

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

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

Our purpose

We enrich lives and change the world through the advancement of learning.

We achieve this by:

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



Our Core Lived Values

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

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

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

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

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



Vision and strategic goals

Our University Strategy 2017-2027 ensures that Durham is better defined thematically and geographically and more visible globally, focused on being world-leading in all of our core areas and developing a stronger and sustainable business model.

We aim to be an influential voice in national and international affairs and be widely recognised for our ability to combine innovation and leadership with a strong sense of community and heritage.



Our University Strategy Refreshed

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

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

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

Our refreshed University Strategy is our roadmap up until 2027.

Our core goals remain unchanged, which are to deliver:

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

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

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

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

See our website for our full refreshed Strategy:

[University Strategy Brochure 2023 - Durham University.](#)



University key facts

94th in the QS World University Rankings 2026

Over **330** undergraduate and postgraduate courses

5th in The Complete University Guide 2026

5th in the Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2025

6th in The Guardian University Guide 2025

120 countries represented by staff & student bodies

Around **22,000** students

Over **4,300** staff members

Four Faculties:

- Arts and Humanities
- Business
- Science
- Social Sciences

For more information, please visit our website:

[About Us - Durham University](#)



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County Durham and North East England

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

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

The Durham Dales, incorporating Teesdale, Weardale and the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, are home to breath-taking scenery and fascinating attractions. These include The Bowes Museum, a magnificent French-style chateau housing an impressive collection of European and fine arts; medieval Raby Castle, home to Lord Barnard's family since 1626; High Force – one of England's largest waterfalls; and Durham's Heritage Coast with its beaches, rugged cliffs and imposing headlands, another area of outstanding beauty.

There are also excellent cultural and sporting facilities to enjoy, including the multi-award- winning Kynren – an epic tale of England; the world's most northerly Test Match cricket ground at Emirates Riverside; and Beamish – The Living Museum of the North.

To find out more about the many attractions and benefits of living in the Durham area, please visit:

[Visit County Durham](#)



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The role of Chief Development Officer

The next 200 years of Durham's story start here. Lead the campaign that will write history.

Durham University is seeking an exceptional leader to serve as Chief Development Officer at a defining moment in our history. This pivotal senior leadership role will spearhead our global philanthropic strategy and alumni engagement, driving forward Campaign 200 — our bold ambition to raise £200m by our bicentenary in 2032.

Reporting directly to the Vice-Chancellor for Campaign 200, and to the Executive Director, Communications & External Relations for line management, you will lead significant efforts to increase philanthropic giving from around the world. Building on strong foundations, you will refine priorities, identify new funding opportunities, and cultivate transformational seven to eight-figure gifts that will shape Durham's future for generations. Fully embedded within the Development and Alumni Relations Office (DARO), this role comes at a critical moment in Durham's journey.

In this role, you will:

- Work directly with the Vice-Chancellor to lead a landmark £200m campaign.
- Design and deliver a global principal gifts strategy aligned with Durham's mission and priorities.
- Personally secure seven and eight-figure gifts from principal donors, philanthropists, corporate partners, and trusts worldwide.
- Lead and evolve our alumni engagement strategy, fostering a vibrant, two-way relationship with our global community.
- Partner closely with the Vice-Chancellor, Campaign Board, and senior stakeholders to unlock new philanthropic opportunities.
- Inspire and lead the Development & Alumni Relations team, embedding a culture of collaboration, excellence, and continuous improvement.

We're looking for someone who can:

- Demonstrate a track record of securing principal or major gifts at the highest level.
- Combine strategic vision with operational delivery in complex, global environments.
- Influence with credibility and diplomacy at the most senior levels.
- Inspire and mentor high-performing teams to deliver exceptional results.

This is more than a leadership role — it is a chance to shape the next chapter of one of the world's great universities, leaving a lasting legacy.

This is a permanent and full-time post.

The post is based in Durham, UK, but travel within the UK and overseas will be required.

Some out of hours, evening and weekend work will be required to deliver activities and projects, and to build and maintain networks.



Key responsibilities

The key responsibilities include:

- Designing and delivering a global principal gifts strategy aligned with Durham University's global strategy and priorities, which Advancement supports (DARO, Marketing and Communications).
- Driving a step-change in fundraising by identifying and cultivating new global sources of support – including philanthropists, trusts and foundations and corporate partners.
- Working closely and building successful partnerships with the Vice-Chancellor, Executive Director, Communications & External Relations, and the Campaign Board to engage funders and influencers, and secure transformational gifts.
- Personally lead on securing seven and eight-figure gifts that have strategic impact for the University's future.
- Evolving and enhancing our alumni engagement strategy, crafting clear key messaging and innovative methods of engaging our global alumni and influencers to build a genuine two-way relationship.
- Line management of the Director of Philanthropy and Operations, and the Deputy Director - Advancement Services.
- Leading the DARO team by example, actively contributing to a performance and learning culture that embeds an enabling and supportive leadership and teamwork at every level, supportive and appropriately challenging.
- Serving as a role model, coach and mentor to your team, supporting their career development to realise their full potential.
- Maintaining the highest standards of compliance, governance, transparency and stewardship for all gifts.
- Working collaboratively with Heads of Colleges, Executive Deans, Department Heads, Campaign Board and other key senior stakeholders to identify funding priorities, preferences and opportunities, and develop practical implementation plans.
- Establishing clear performance metrics for the Principal Gifts programme, the Executive Director, Communications & External Relations, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Global), the Vice-Chancellor, and the Campaign Board, ensuring initiatives and successes are measured to develop and embed a programme of continuous improvement.
- Embody and champion the Durham University values of inclusivity, integrity, collaboration, commitment to excellence, and citizenship.

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



Person specification

When you apply it is important that you let us know what skills/experience you have from a similar role and/or what skills/experience you have which would make you right for this role. Further information about the role and responsibilities is at the end of the job description.

Essential criteria:

1. Excellent oral and written communication, public speaking and presentation skills and the ability to develop effective working relationships, both internally and externally.
2. Strong interpersonal skills including motivational, negotiating, influencing and networking nationally and internationally.
3. Significant fundraising experience, including leading major philanthropic campaigns, and working closely with senior colleagues to secure seven and eight figure gifts from a variety of donors including alumni and supporters, philanthropists, trusts, charities and companies.
4. Experience of global philanthropy and the cultural nuances that shape giving.
5. Highly self-motivated and results oriented with an ability to work proactively and efficiently in a fast-changing environment, sometimes under pressure and managing conflicting priorities.
6. Extensive experience of operating at the highest levels of an organisation as a strategic expert for a sustained period of time building successful partnerships with senior leaders.
7. Awareness and understanding of the activities, objectives and strategic direction of the University, both current and future.
8. Well-developed knowledge of systems/services for own area and across functions and how they relate to the University Strategy.
9. Breadth of vision gained from extensive experience in the fundraising and alumni engagement field.
10. Develop and lead the implementation of strategies and end-to-end plans for philanthropy, alumni, development and engagement.
11. Ability to anticipate change due to changes in the economic, social and governmental and/or technological environment.
12. Experience of developing innovative solutions and practical implementations for strategic change.
13. Extensive knowledge and experience of ensuring compliance with regulatory and organisational policy and guidelines.
14. Experience of managing and controlling substantial budget/resources/funding and an understanding of financial management procedures.
15. Well-developed understanding of regulations and procedures and the implications of non-compliance on other staff.
16. Demonstrate a strong track-record of working effectively with, and providing specialist advice to, senior leadership and colleagues across the institution ensuring they are informed and engaged, at both strategic and operational levels.
17. Experience of being able to network effectively and develop strong and productive working relationships, to influence perceptions of the University.
18. Significant leadership experience, including demonstrable experience of supporting and growing team development and increasing performance in a way which inspires and motivates staff at all levels across a large team.
19. Undertake continuous review of departmental quality and of external benchmarks to promote and deliver the best possible service.
20. Educated to degree level (or equivalent experience).
21. Continuing professional development required to maintain professional recognition.
22. Excellent digital competence with experience in using core digital tools including internet, email, digital communication tools, Microsoft 365 applications, digital booking system, project planning, financial systems, recruitment tools, auditing tools, eLearning authoring tools.



Our commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion



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

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

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

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

Equality objectives

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

Our objectives are to:

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

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The Development and Alumni Relations Office

Durham University proudly boasts one of the most committed, dynamic and vibrant global alumni communities of any UK academic institution.

This role has great strategic significance in advancing Durham's philanthropic potential, strengthening alumni ties, and positioning the University for long-term impact and financial sustainability in the run-up to 2032 and beyond. Substantial progress has been made on our fundraising target, but sustained effort is needed to continue to make advances.

Since our foundation, philanthropy has been central to Durham University's advancement. As we look towards the future, we are committed to creating a lifelong culture of partnership and giving within our global community of alumni and supporters. This community includes individuals, charitable trusts and foundations, and corporate partners.

Our collective efforts within philanthropy help us to strengthen our strategic goals and attract exceptional students, whilst driving research that addresses some of the world's most pressing challenges. Together, we aim to maximise the impact of philanthropic investment and realise the bold ambitions of the University.

The Development and Alumni Relations Office (DARO) is part of Advancement, along with Marketing and Communications. DARO leads the University's philanthropic and alumni engagement strategy across an international community of over 230,000 alumni and supporters.

The team play a pivotal role in contributing to the enhancement of Durham University's reputation as globally outstanding, inclusive, and forward-looking. Our vision and mindset is an integrated, strategic and proactive professional service, supporting Durham University by building global and connected communities of brand ambassadors and advocates. Internally, we create and lead strategic networks and partnerships to tackle complex priorities.

Joining our team means becoming part of a passionate, purpose-driven community that believes in the power of education, connection, and collective ambition. If you are inspired by meaningful work and global collaboration, Durham offers an environment where you can grow, contribute, and make a difference.



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Research, education and student experience

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

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

Twenty-one Durham University subjects are ranked in the World Top 100, with eight in the World Top 50, according to the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2025 and we are consistently ranked as a top 10 university in national league tables.

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

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

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

See our website to discover how our research is changing lives around the world.

[Research Impact - Durham University](#)



Examples of Research



Pioneering research in infant sleep safety

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

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

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

Investigating the fate of the world's biggest ice sheet

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

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

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

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

More information on our research can be found at: [Explore our global research - Durham University](#)

Excellence in education

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

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

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

Wider Student Experience

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

Our student support is provided by dedicated specialist teams across Counselling, Disability Support, Student Wellbeing and Community Engagement, and Student Conduct, alongside high-quality first-line support in Colleges and Departments. We are proud of our high retention rates, which are one of the best in the UK. Our student enrichment takes place across seven domains:

- Intellectual Enquiry
- Active Citizenship
- Wider Community Engagement
- Sport and Wellbeing
- Arts and Culture
- Enterprise and Employment
- Building Communities

Overall, 85% of our students are involved in sport, music, theatre, volunteering or student enterprise.

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

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

More information can be found here: [Wider student experience.](#)



8 Our Colleges

Durham has 17 unique Colleges.

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

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

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

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

More information can be found at: [**Our Colleges - Durham University**](#)



The economic and environmental impact of the University

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

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

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

We have a dedicated Energy and Sustainability Team, which promotes our environmental policies, plans and procedures, and, working with staff and students across the University, coordinates environmental activities.

Our newly formed Centre for Sustainable Development Law and Policy's mission is to support the achievement of sustainable development in all its dimensions: environmental, economic and social. The Sustainable Development Goals serve as cross-cutting themes in research projects, policy work and collaborative initiatives, encompassing education and training, gender, health and wellbeing.

We have strengthened our Energy and Sustainability Team so that we can achieve more in this area, and we are working with friends, neighbours and partners to improve the environment we share across our campus and City. In the QS World University Rankings 2025, we were placed 22nd for Sustainability. This evaluates the social and environmental impact of universities as centres of education and research and is taken from the analysis of the QS Sustainability Rankings.



Engaging our communities

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

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

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

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

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



Collaborative Partnerships – Global Durham

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

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

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

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

We have presence in Beijing, Shanghai, Delhi, Kuala Lumpur, Washington DC and Texas.



How to apply

We prefer to receive applications online. We will update you about your application at various points throughout the selection process, via automated emails from our e-recruitment system. Please check your spam/junk folder periodically to make sure you have not missed any of our updates.

What you need to submit

- A CV: and
- A supporting statement which outlines how you meet all of the essential criteria within the Person Specification.

Please note that in submitting your application Durham University will be processing your data. We would ask you to consider the relevant [University Privacy Statement Privacy Notices](#) - Durham University which provides information on the collation, storing and use of data.

Rewards and Benefits

Discover more about our total rewards and benefits package on our website:

[Rewards and Benefits - Durham University.](#)

Durham University is committed to equality diversity, inclusion and values

We welcome and encourage applications from members of groups who are under-represented in our work force including people with disabilities, women and black, Asian and minority ethnic communities. If you have taken time out of your career, and you feel it relevant, let us know about it in your application. If you are a candidate with a disability, we are committed to ensuring fair treatment throughout the recruitment process. We will make adjustments to support the interview process wherever it is reasonable to do so and, where successful, reasonable adjustments will be made to support people within their role.



Contact information for technical difficulties when submitting your application

If you encounter technical difficulties when using the online application form, you may contact us on:

Email: e.recruitment@durham.ac.uk

Telephone: 0191 334 6801 from the UK, or +44 191 334 6801 from outside the UK. This number operates during the hours of 09.00 and 17.00 Monday to Friday, UK time.

We will normally respond within one working day (Monday to Friday, excluding UK public holidays).

durham.ac.uk

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