

Appointment of Director of Estates Operations and Capital Projects

Candidate Brochure



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Message from the Director of Estates and Facilities

Durham University is one of the world's most distinctive institutions—renowned for its global excellence in teaching and research, its collegiate community, and its unique historic setting.

Our refreshed University Strategy (2017–2027) outlines ambitious goals to enhance research, education, and the wider student experience. Achieving these goals requires a world-class estate, and we have invested significantly in new academic, residential, and student facilities, as well as in the renewal of our existing infrastructure.

The Estates and Accommodation Enabling Strategy supports this vision by aiming to:

- Deliver infrastructure aligned with strategic growth in student and staff numbers.
- Provide high-quality, purpose-built accommodation for 40–45% of students.
- Create outstanding academic environments through new and refurbished buildings.
- Enhance research capabilities with cutting-edge facilities and equipment.
- Ensure the estate meets high standards of safety, inclusivity, and sustainability.
- Support evolving working patterns and optimise space utilisation.

We are seeking an exceptional Director of Estates Operations and Capital Projects to lead this transformation. This senior leadership role is pivotal in shaping the future of our estate, overseeing a diverse portfolio of 344 buildings (including over 70 listed properties) spanning approximately 390,000m²—from modern teaching spaces to Durham Castle.

The successful candidate will be the University's professional lead for estates operations and capital projects, responsible for strategic initiatives such as the Capital Development Plan, Strategic Asset Management Plan, Premises Assurance, and the Digital Campus. They will drive operational excellence, lead change, and ensure our estate supports the University's strategic aims and delivers an outstanding experience for students, staff, and visitors.

Leading a team of around 130 staff and managing a revenue budget of approximately £18 million and a capital budget of £20–50 million annually, the Director will work collaboratively across the University and with external partners to deliver high-impact outcomes.

This is an exciting time to join Durham University, and I look forward to discussing this opportunity with you.

Ian Rooney
Director of Estates and Facilities



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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](#)



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 Director of Estates Operations and Capital Projects and typical role requirements

The Director of Estates Operations and Capital Projects is a senior leadership and management role within the Estates and Facilities directorate, having responsibility for driving improvements in the performance of the University's diverse and unique estate portfolio of 344 buildings and circa 390,000m². Our portfolio contains over 70 listed building with building types from modern teaching and learning facilities through to Durham Castle. The candidate will need to be able to form good working relationships with key strategic partners such as Durham County Council, University Faculties

You will provide effective leadership, direction and management of the Estates Operations and Projects and Infrastructure teams of circa 130 staff including property assets and space management, building and engineering maintenance, maintenance services and capital projects team and is accountable for an annual revenue budget of £18m and a capital budget between £20-50m per annum.

You will be the University's professional lead in all matters relating to estates operations and capital projects and will play a lead role in ensuring that the existing and future University estate is managed effectively to support the university's strategic aims and ensuring students, staff and visitors of the University enjoy an excellence experience.

You will be a strategic thinker, with the capability to deliver operational outcomes. Political astuteness, excellent communication skills, commercial acumen and digital estate experience and foresight will be pre-requisites for this role.

You will play a lead role on several strategic developments including the Capital Development Plan, Strategic Asset Management Plan, Premises Assurance and Digital Campus. The role will be responsible for leading and managing change in the E&F operations and capital operating model.

You will work collaboratively with teams across the Estate and Facilities portfolio, members of the wider University leadership and management team and with external partners.

The Estates and Facilities Directorate provides essential services to Durham University and is responsible for managing, maintaining and developing the infrastructure and building fabric of the various campuses.

Typical role requirements

Service delivery

- Uphold the stated values of Durham University.
- Ensure compliance with statutory obligations.
- Provide professional and strategic leadership for significant areas of the organisation with accountability for the development of business plans and outputs.
- Have a substantial impact on functional direction, strategy and objectives.
- Lead strategic planning and influence the development of functional goals.
- Lead, direct and manage the interrelationship of a team of managers and/or highly qualified professionals across a major area of activity of strategic importance to the University.
- Lead reviews and feasibility studies for the change of existing and the development of new functional areas of activity.
- Review and address performance and make a significant impact upon longer-term direction, strategy and objectives, advising the university executive where appropriate.
- Initiate and lead, through appropriate consultation and negotiations, organisational changes to tackle major new issues and situations.
- Develop functional workforce plans and identify talent priorities to ensure the recruitment and retention of highly competent and professional staff.
- Lead internal and external business meetings, working groups and committees at functional or strategic service level to influence governance, organisational policy and standards for the service.
- Accountable for significant budget responsibility across a large area of operation.
- Influence and shape the available resources as appropriate to meet the current and future needs of the University.
- Deputise for more senior manager, where required

Typical role requirements continued

Analysis and reporting

- Identify ways of improving efficiency and effectiveness and promote improvements in value for money.
- Monitor performance within area of responsibility and drive through improvements linked to industry best practice.
- Review performance over time in the area of responsibility and identify areas of improvement.
- Provide details on the overall status of the Estates Operations and capital programme, to highlight any risk or benefits analysis, and report on any major deviations from agreed plans.
- Provide management reports to the Director of Estates and Facilities, and other senior colleagues.

Planning and organising

- Develop and lead the implementation of strategies and plans for the area of responsibility, which support and take forward the University strategy.
- Lead the development and delivery of functional/divisional strategy and policy.
- With the support of external suppliers, create option appraisals and feasibility analysis of schemes of work, through collaboration with stakeholders.
- Lead on, and deliver, major projects and initiatives which have significant resources and strategic impact.
- Produce forward plans over a significant timescale (typically one to three years), including establishing functional or service priorities.
- Contribute to the University's risk management, business continuity, and health and safety procedures.

Finance/resource management

- Undertake the forecasting and ensure financial plans are developed and that services operate effectively within budget for the area of responsibility.
- Review, assess and consider all resource efficiency opportunities across the Estates Operations and Projects and Infrastructure teams, recommending and/or implementing changes, as appropriate.
- Contribute to the production of accurate and meaningful management information, to inform strategic decision-making.

Customer service and liaison

- Liaise and work with senior colleagues from all areas of the University, with committees and external bodies, providing high level advice.
- Chair, manage and attend various committees and meetings, as required.
- Represent the University externally in sector groups and committees through consultation and negotiation where required.
- Negotiate with internal and external colleagues, gaining support and buy in for initiatives from key stakeholders.
- Develop working relationships with professional colleagues including but not limited to those in Finance, Legal, IT and Procurement.
- Contribute to the University's Masterplan Strategy underpinning the wider-University Strategy.

People management

- Lead and manage senior staff in a major functional area or service grouping, developing them and raising their performance through mentoring and coaching.
- Motivate, assess and reward senior employees as required under University policy.
- Provide a leading role, delivering through the delegation and management of others, both within and, where appropriate, outside of own direct line management areas, to ensure the sustainable delivery of Estates Operations and the capital programme.
- Be accountable for all teams within the remit of the role, developing and implementing strategies, plans and policies.
- Ensure staffing levels are maintained to provide effective, efficient and economic services.

Continual improvement

- Lead continual review of functional quality and of external benchmarks to promote the best possible service.
- Develop, implement, monitor and/or review appropriate key performance indicators and service level agreements for the team, including financial efficiencies, operational effectiveness and customer satisfaction.

Communication

- Undertake day to day interaction with people of any level, including internal and external stakeholders, representing the interests of the function/University.
- Any other reasonable duties.

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. Please refer to the further information about the role and typical role requirements above.

Essential criteria

Qualifications/experience

1. Excellent oral and written communication 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. 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.
4. Educated to minimum of degree level in a relevant discipline (or substantial, equivalent experience) and professional membership of an industry recognised body (e.g., RICS, CIOB, IWFM)
5. Professional practitioner with specialist knowledge in estates operations and capital project management and expertise used to influence events and activities within the organisation.
6. Continuing professional development required to maintain professional recognition.
7. Extensive experience of operating at a strategic/expert level for a sustained period.
8. Awareness and understanding of the activities, objectives and strategic direction of the university, both current and future.
9. Well-developed knowledge of systems/services for own area and across functions and how they relate to the University Strategy.
10. Breadth of vision gained from extensive experience in field of expertise.
11. Ability to contribute to planning at operational and strategic levels.
12. Ability to anticipate change due to changes in the economic, social and governmental and/or technological environment.
13. Experience of developing innovative solutions and practical implementations for strategic change.
14. Extensive knowledge and experience of ensuring compliance with regulatory and organisational policy and guidelines.
15. Experience of managing and controlling substantial budget/resources/funding and an understanding of financial management procedures.
16. Well-developed understanding of regulations and procedures and the implications of non-compliance on other staff.
17. Experience of being able to network effectively and develop strong and productive working relationships, to influence perceptions of the University.
18. Demonstrable ability to provide specialist advice and influence others at operational and strategic levels.
19. Track record of cross-functional management and development experience.

This post is Grade 10, Senior Management Band 2.

This post is permanent and full time (nominal 35 hours per week). We operate hybrid working (minimum of three days per week onsite, subject to business demands).

There may be a requirement to work evenings and weekends, as business demands. There may be a requirement for the post-holder to participate in local on-call arrangements, as relevant to this role. In addition, there may be a requirement for the post-holder to participate in the University Silver (Tactical) on-call rota arrangements for major incidents.



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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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.](#)



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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**](#).



Development and Alumni Relations

Durham University is proud to have one of the most committed and vibrant global alumni communities of any UK institution.

Over 200,000 alumni reside in over 190 countries around the world, with major alumni cohorts and chapters currently across the UK, Europe, Asia-Pacific, and North America. Many are leaders in their industries, from sports and creative arts, through global markets and politics, to academia, healthcare, military service and civic leadership.

We have a significant number of alumni engaged in of volunteering and/or support for the University around the world. This includes supporting our international student recruitment, providing internship and careers opportunities, and mentoring current students via Departments and Colleges.

Durham 200

Philanthropy has, since our foundation, been central to Durham University's advancement.

As we approach our bicentenary in 2032, we are committed to creating a lifelong culture of partnership and giving within our global community of alumni and supporters; one which can maximise the impact of our strategic investments and support our ambitions.

Our generous community of donors – which includes individuals, charitable trusts and foundations, and corporate partners – enables us to attract exceptional staff and students and produce world-changing academic research.

Since 2023, we have been in the initial phase of an exciting and transformational campaign, with the working title Durham 200, which aims to ensure that Durham University is at the forefront of learning, research, and leadership for the generations to come. Supported by an exceptionally engaged Campaign Board, we have already raised more than £18m in philanthropic funding, supporting projects across the University. Gifts have made an impact on offering an outstanding academic opportunity to talented students from a range of backgrounds, furthering our globally impactful research, and enhancing the student experience.



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

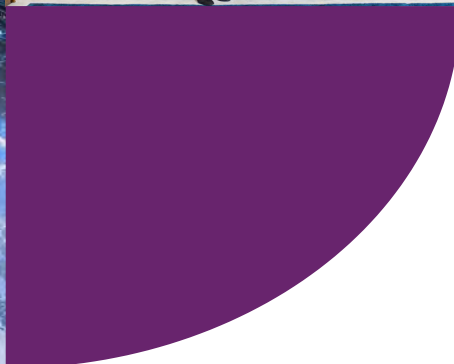
International partnerships are a core part of our vibrant research and learning communities. They help us make a difference and ensure our research makes changes to the way we live, solve complex industry challenges, and help our graduates begin and progress their careers.

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 or covering letter which outlines how you meet all of the 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 Details

For an informal chat about the role or any further information please contact Ian Rooney, Director of Estates and Facilities, ian.rooney@durham.ac.uk

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)

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