Candidate Information Pack

Appointment of:

**NUAcT Fellows: Biotechnology for the Built Environment**

*Developing a new generation of creativity, excellence and diversity*
Welcome Letter

Thank you for your interest in the position of NUAcT Fellow: Biotechnology in the Built Environment. This opportunity is one of our targeted NUAcT Fellowship positions - you will work within the framework of the Hub for Biotechnology in the Built Environment but you will also become part of a wider cohort of around 100 NUAcT Fellows who will be working in different disciplines across the University.

We are looking for people who have a strong track record for their career stage, who are ambitious and creative in their thinking, and who bring a broad range of interests and skills that complement our current research portfolio. Our aim with NUAcT is to develop a cohort of researchers who will be encouraged to work across boundaries, who will be outward facing and who will motivate and inspire. I believe that NUAcT provides a sector leading opportunity for you to develop your career, and become a world-class academic.

As a NUAcT Fellow you will experience the full richness of academic life at a leading Russell Group university. We believe that the major challenges of the future will only be answered by teams that are diverse in career stage, career pathway, disciplinary background, experience and personal characteristics and that Newcastle University is ideally placed to build such teams. You will become part of our thriving interdisciplinary community of researchers, and be supported through bespoke mentorship, training and development programmes. We are investing £30m over the next five years to build and support our NUAcT Fellows, and we will provide the resources to ensure that all fellows have the freedom and opportunity to excel and succeed.

I believe that NUAcT will be play a vital role in keeping Newcastle University at the forefront of research and innovation in the UK and globally – I very much look forward to hearing from you.

Professor Brian R Walker
Pro Vice Chancellor for Research Strategy & Resources
## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Hub for Biotechnology for the Built Environment</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newcastle University – a Brief Introduction</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The NUAcT Fellowship Scheme</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Post of NUAcT Fellow: Biotechnology for the Built Environment</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Person Specification</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How to Apply</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee Benefits</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fostering Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newcastle University – Further Information</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Hub for Biotechnology in the Built Environment (HBBE)

The Hub for Biotechnology in the Built Environment is an exciting new collaboration between Newcastle University and Northumbria University and will involve the recruitment of 35 new staff to form an interdisciplinary team of Architectural Designers, Bio Scientists and Engineers, and development of new facilities including two new Bio Design Labs and a unique Experimental ‘Living’ House which we call ‘The Ome’. The Hub includes 14 industrial partners including IBM, P&G, RIBA and Arup

Our vision is to develop biotechnologies to create a new generation of Living Buildings which are responsive to their natural environment; grown using living engineered materials to reduce inefficient industrial construction processes; metabolise their own waste, reducing pollution, generate energy and high-value products; and modulate their microbiome to benefit human health and wellbeing.

We are launching a global search for candidates for a range of positions across the Hub who are academically excellent, creative, with a pioneering and collaborative spirit. We are looking for people who will not only help us build the Hub but establish a new field of research.

Find out more at www.bbe.ac.uk
Newcastle University

Newcastle University is a thriving international community of 6,000 staff and 28,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students from over 140 different countries. Ranked in the top 150 of world universities, we aspire to be a people-focussed university that harnesses academic excellence and creativity to provide benefits to individuals, to organisations and to society as a whole.

There are a number of characteristics that have defined us over the years and which will continue to be prominent features of our Vision. These include our clear focus on education and research that is of direct relevance to our city and region, a culture of openness and transparency and longstanding commitments to equality, diversity and inclusivity and academic freedom. Our international research is facilitated by having physical bases in four locations (Newcastle, London, Singapore and Malaysia).

The 2014 Research Excellence Framework (REF) placed Newcastle University 16th in the UK for Research Power and the vast majority of our research was assessed to be world-leading or internationally excellent. In June 2017 we were awarded Gold status in the TEF (Teaching Excellence Framework) and in 2018 we were ranked 9th in the Times Higher Education Ranking of Teaching in Europe, a ringing endorsement of our long tradition of excellence in teaching.

The University’s main campus is located in the centre of Newcastle upon Tyne, the cosmopolitan capital of the North East of England. Newcastle is a modern, compact and culturally vibrant city, which enjoys a worldwide reputation for the quality of its cultural and social life. Recent research named Newcastle the best city in the UK to bring up a family because of its outstanding schools, high number of green spaces, low crime rates and affordable house prices. Newcastle also boasts fantastic shopping, restaurants, museums, galleries and cinemas as well as easy access to some of the most beautiful countryside in the UK, including the Northumberland coast and Hadrian’s Wall world heritage site.
NUAcT Fellowship Scheme

The NUAcT Fellowship scheme provides opportunities for talented post-doctoral researchers to undertake a five-year fixed-term fellowship, with the expectation of an open-ended faculty appointment to follow. We are looking to appoint 100 fellows over the next five years.

Successful candidates will have a strong track record for their career stage, be excellent collaborators and have the potential and vision to develop into independent researchers who can become internationally recognised in their field. Each fellow will be well supported and resourced, to help them develop their research and careers. It is expected that Fellows will establish a distinctive profile in their discipline within five years, leading to an ongoing academic career at Newcastle University.

Once appointed, Fellows be allocated a line manager and will be supported to develop their bespoke research proposal and personal development plan. Fellows will also be allocated a mentor who is external to their line management who will support them with different aspects of their career. Fellows will have opportunities to work with colleagues in different disciplines across the University and beyond and will become part of a University-wide network of talented early career researchers.

Our NUAcT Fellows will be role models for EDI (Equality, Diversity & Inclusion), helping us to make Newcastle University a dynamic, modern and inclusive place to work. EDI is one of the University’s core values. We are committed to academic excellence, equality of opportunity to succeed, valuing individual differences and the benefit this brings to the pursuit of academic excellence. We will continue to develop a fully inclusive University community which recruits and retains staff and students from all sectors of society, ensuring that they can be developed within a positive and supportive culture and encouraged to flourish and reach their potential.

The Offer

A competitive start-up package will be offered:

- Five years' salary
- Initial fixed term appointment with expected progression to an open-ended faculty contract subject to formal review after 3-4 years
- Start-up costs and ongoing research expenses (up to £50k, subject to research programme needs)
- Funding for a PhD student associated with the Fellow’s project
- Dedicated mentors with world class expertise and significant research management experience
- The opportunity to join and participate in our world-class research centres
- Extensive training opportunities including a bespoke personal development plan
- Peer support from a cross disciplinary cohort of talented early career researchers
- Support for mobility to work with external partners, including outside the UK and academia
- Additional provision for career breaks and those returning from extended career breaks, full flexibility to incorporate job share and less-than-full-time working and funds to allow reasonable adjustments for disabilities or other requirements
The Post of

NUAcT Fellow: Biotechnology in the Built Environment

We will appoint two Fellows with a background relevant to Biotechnology in the Built Environment aligned to the £8M Research England funded collaboration between Newcastle and Northumbria University – the Hub for Biotechnology in the Built Environment (HBBE).

This includes areas which align with the Hub’s themes:

- **Microbial Environments**: Understanding and modifying the microbiome of indoor environments through air flow and the design of materials and surfaces and human interactions with them.
- **Living Construction**: The use of engineered living materials to create new building materials and building processes.
- **Building Metabolisms**: Developing building systems which metabolise waste or capture energy using cell based processes to generate power and make useful products.

Your background could be in any relevant discipline, however, we especially encourage applications from:

- Engineers with experience in electrical engineering, biology, biophysics or computing with research interests in bio-sensors and/or bio-digital interfaces.
- Microbiologists with expertise in the analysis of the microbiome of indoor and urban spaces and the relationships between human activity and the microbiome.

It should be noted that there are additional HBBE Research Fellowships available in other priority areas at Northumbria University in a wide range of biological fields. Visit [www.bbe.ac.uk](http://www.bbe.ac.uk) for more information.

You will join a school within the University that is best aligned with your disciplinary background, however, you will be located with members of the HBBE for the duration of your fellowship to maximise the opportunities for multidisciplinary collaboration within this £8M programme.

**Main Duties and Responsibilities**

- To plan and carry out independent, original research relevant to the HBBE leading to high quality outputs, impact and successful applications for research funding,
- To help develop the HBBE facilities including developing new research projects for the experimental house,
- To initiate and participate in interdisciplinary collaborations, both within and beyond the Hub, that enable cutting-edge research,
- To provide guidance, where necessary, to other staff and students, including supervision of PhD students and some supervision of undergraduate and taught postgraduate research project students
- To develop teaching skills: whilst the focus of this position is on planning and carrying out independent research, an aptitude and enthusiasm for teaching will be welcome and is encouraged. Teaching responsibilities will be minimal in the first three years and a Personal Development Plan will determine the most appropriate teaching contribution for each Fellow.
- To contribute to a positive working environment, and the University’s equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) agenda. You will be expected to be a role model in supporting the University’s principles on fairness and inclusion.
Progression
Progression to an open-ended contract will be subject to review. Objectives to meet at the review will be agreed with each individual, but will be in line with the following criteria:

- Progress towards academic independence, for example:
  - high quality publications or other substantive outputs appropriate to your fields of research and the aims of the HBBE
  - the ability to secure external funding
- Contribution to the academic mission of the University and the alignment with HBBE core themes, for example:
  - fostering external collaborations with research partners or public engagement
  - contributing to major international scientific (or equivalent) meetings
- Trajectory of the acquisition of skills as a member of the relevant Faculty and of the HBBE, for example:
  - teaching and scholarship activities
  - contributing to the running of key services
  - organisation of events or strategic impact activities of the HBBE

Person Specification

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Qualifications</th>
<th>Essential / Desirable</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1</strong> Excellent undergraduate degree and PhD (or equivalent) in a relevant subject.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Knowledge, Skills and Experience</strong></td>
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<td><strong>2</strong> A vision and a clear plan for developing an independent research programme aligned with the aims of the HBBE.</td>
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<td><strong>3</strong> Potential to attract external research funding.</td>
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<td><strong>4</strong> In-depth subject knowledge in your chosen area of research and demonstrated achievement of well-developed technical and methodological skills relevant to your chosen area of research.</td>
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<td><strong>5</strong> Successful track record in designing and delivering research projects – either as part of large and/or complex projects or as an individual researcher.</td>
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<td>Good communication skills and the ability to describe complex concepts to non-experts and across different disciplines.</td>
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<td><strong>6</strong> Excellent publication record commensurate with career stage.</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>7</strong> Experience of involvement in large, complex and/or multi-disciplinary research projects, and of working with different researchers, research groups and/or other partners.</td>
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<td><strong>8</strong> High quality teaching experience.</td>
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Experience of developing research activity and impact beyond academia. | D
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Knowledge of and/or experience of promoting Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI). | D
Play and/or have played a leadership role in mentoring junior colleagues or co-ordinating the work of other staff. | D

Attributes and Behaviours

Willingness to carry out a supervisory role, such as the day to day supervision of undergraduate and Masters student projects. | E
Good team working ability, in particular an ability to work productively with people across many different disciplines and within diverse teams. | E
Willingness to contribute to the development of the University’s Equality, Diversity and Inclusion principles and activities. | E
Engagement with the institution that goes beyond individual research activities. | E
Motivation to contribute to and benefit from the NUAcT cohort activities | E

How to Apply

Newcastle University now invites applications for the position of NUAcT Fellow. Applications should consist of the following documents:

1. **Cover letter (one page maximum)** outlining your motivation to apply and how you will drive forward research at Newcastle. Your letter must clearly state which academic unit(s) you would see as your host – please see the table ‘Newcastle University Schools and Institutes’ on the following page. Please also include details of any career break(s) and periods of part-time work, e.g. parental or long-term sick leave. We encourage applications from researchers who have taken career breaks and wish to ensure that any such breaks are taking into account when considering your track-record.

2. **Full CV including publications**

3. **A summary cover sheet no longer than one side of A4 in length including:**
   - 300 word summary of research proposal
   - CV highlights
   - Statement of fit with the Hub for Biotechnology for the Built Environment
   - Please include details of any career break(s) and periods of part-time work, (e.g. parental or long-term sick leave, but you do not have to disclose the reason).
   
   Applicants disclosing such information may use a second side of A4 for this purpose.
Please note that if a high number of applications are received then all applications will be assessed in a preliminary longlisting stage based on the summary cover sheet only.

4. **Full research proposal (three pages maximum), to include:**
   - Detail of programme of research to be undertaken during the Fellowship
   - Potential benefits to the Hub for Biotechnology for the Built Environment
   - Approach to engagement with external partners and impact generation
   - Deployment of associated PhD studentship
   - Funding applications to be targeted during the Fellowship and fit with funder priorities (please detail your eligibility for relevant Fellowships and anticipated timing of applications)

5. **A statement (circa 250 words) outlining how you will contribute positively to our workplace culture in particular how you will help us advance our work on equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI).** NUAcT Fellows will be instrumental members of our academic community and will help shape not only our environment but also our workplace culture. We are looking for candidates who have a genuine interest and commitment to becoming strong role models for EDI and who can be proactive in helping us to increase and support under-represented groups at all levels within the University.

You will also be asked to provide the details of two referees within the application form.

**Appointment Timetable**

Closing Date: 31st January 2020

To apply for this position please visit the [Newcastle University Careers page](https://www.ncl.ac.uk/careers/)

For more information on the HBBE visit: [www.hbbe.ac.uk](http://www.hbbe.ac.uk)

Newcastle University Schools and Institutes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences</th>
<th>Faculty of Medical Sciences</th>
<th>Faculty of Science, Agriculture and Engineering</th>
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<tr>
<td>School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape <a href="https://www.ncl.ac.uk/apl/">https://www.ncl.ac.uk/apl/</a></td>
<td>Biosciences Institute <a href="https://www.ncl.ac.uk/medical-sciences/research/institutes/biosciences/">https://www.ncl.ac.uk/medical-sciences/research/institutes/biosciences/</a></td>
<td>School of Computing <a href="https://www.ncl.ac.uk/computing/">https://www.ncl.ac.uk/computing/</a></td>
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<td>School of Arts and Cultures <a href="https://www.ncl.ac.uk/sacs/">https://www.ncl.ac.uk/sacs/</a></td>
<td>Translational &amp; Clinical Research Institute <a href="https://www.ncl.ac.uk/medical-sciences/research/institutes/translational/">https://www.ncl.ac.uk/medical-sciences/research/institutes/translational/</a></td>
<td>School of Engineering <a href="https://www.ncl.ac.uk/engineering">https://www.ncl.ac.uk/engineering</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Newcastle University Business School <a href="https://www.ncl.ac.uk/business-school/">https://www.ncl.ac.uk/business-school/</a></td>
<td>Population Health Sciences Institute <a href="https://www.ncl.ac.uk/medical-sciences/research/institutes/health-sciences/">https://www.ncl.ac.uk/medical-sciences/research/institutes/health-sciences/</a></td>
<td>School of Mathematics, Statistics and Physics <a href="https://www.ncl.ac.uk/physics">https://www.ncl.ac.uk/physics</a></td>
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<td>Combined Honours Centre <a href="https://www.ncl.ac.uk/combined/">https://www.ncl.ac.uk/combined/</a></td>
<td>School of Biomedical Sciences <a href="https://www.ncl.ac.uk/biomed/">https://www.ncl.ac.uk/biomed/</a></td>
<td>School of Natural and Environmental Sciences <a href="https://www.ncl.ac.uk/nes">https://www.ncl.ac.uk/nes</a></td>
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| School of Education, Communication and Language Sciences  
| https://www.ncl.ac.uk/ecls/ | School of Dental Sciences  
| https://www.ncl.ac.uk/dental/  |
| School of English Literature, Language and Linguistics  
| https://www.ncl.ac.uk/elll/ | School of Medical Education  
| https://www.ncl.ac.uk/sme/  |
| School of Geography, Politics and Sociology  
| https://www.ncl.ac.uk/gps/ | School of Pharmacy  
| https://www.ncl.ac.uk/pharmacy/  |
| School of History, Classics and Archaeology  
| https://www.ncl.ac.uk/hca/ | School of Psychology  
| https://www.ncl.ac.uk/psychology/  |
| Newcastle University Law School  
| https://www.ncl.ac.uk/nuls |  |
| School of Modern Languages  
| https://www.ncl.ac.uk/sml/  |  |
Employee Benefits

The University is committed to providing a great range of benefits and discounts for our staff and includes:

- Excellent defined benefit pension schemes (e.g. USS, NHS)
- Excellent salary sacrifice schemes for cycle to work scheme and pensions
- Generous annual leave of up to six weeks per year in addition to a Christmas closure period. You also have the opportunity to purchase a further two weeks additional leave per year
- Family friendly leave policies, a career break scheme
- NCL Rewards which offers nearly 6,000 discounts at national retailers, holiday providers, cinemas, leisure attractions and much more
- Webstore – offering discounts on local sports tickets, theatre shows and other attractions
- Discounted regional travel scheme including bus, metro and rail
- On-site Sports Centre and Library
- More detailed information at www.ncl.ac.uk/hr/

Fostering Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

We value individual differences and the diversity that this brings. We want to ensure that no-one is at a disadvantage because of who they are. Through dedicated activity we aim to create a supportive and inclusive culture for everyone to reach their full potential. The fostering and promotion of good relations and understanding among staff and students, irrespective of identity or background, is expected of everyone who works or studies at the University. By fully embracing equality, diversity and inclusion and embedding these principles in all that we do, the University is better able to support all our staff and students, and address new and evolving challenges.

The University holds a Silver Athena SWAN award recognising our achievements in promoting gender equality and the career progression of women. We are also members of the Stonewall Global Diversity Champion programme, the Business Disability Forum, and the Race Equality Charter. Our NUAcT Fellows will be welcome to engage with the events and activities of our many staff networks within the University including: NU Women, the Parents Network, Rainbow@NCL (our LGBT+ Network), the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) network and the Disability Interest Group (DIG).

For more information about EDI at Newcastle, and our current priorities and projects, see: https://www.ncl.ac.uk/who-we-are/equality/
Newcastle University – Further Information

Ranked in the top 150 of world universities, we aspire to be a people-focussed university that harnesses academic excellence and creativity to provide benefits to individuals, to organisations and to society as a whole. As a member of the Russell Group of research-intensive universities in the UK, we have a world-class reputation for research in ageing and health, cities, culture and creative arts, data, and energy.

The University traces its origins to 1834 and the need to address the economic, health and social demands of an industrial city. We are located in, and have contributed to, a region with a tradition of invention and innovation spanning more than 200 years, from the opening of the first permanent public railway line in 1825, through the birth of Pop Art in the 1940s to obtaining, in 2017, the world’s first licence for a pioneering technique to eradicate inherited mitochondrial disease.

The University’s main campus is located in the centre of Newcastle upon Tyne, the cosmopolitan capital of the North East of England. The city enjoys a worldwide reputation for the quality of its cultural and social life.

Academic Excellence

In June 2017, we were awarded Gold status in the TEF (Teaching Excellence Framework), and in 2018 we were ranked 9th in the Times Higher Education Ranking of Teaching in Europe, a ringing endorsement of our long tradition of excellence in teaching.

The 2014 Research Excellence Framework (REF) placed Newcastle University 16th in the UK for Research Power and the vast majority of our research (78 per cent) was assessed to be world-leading or internationally excellent. We also ranked:

- 4th amongst UK medical schools for Clinical Medicine Research Intensity.
- 3rd in the UK for English (1st for impact), and in the top 12 for Geography, Architecture and Planning, and Cultural and Media Studies research quality.
- 1st in the UK for Computing Science research impact, 3rd in the UK for Civil Engineering research power and 11th in the UK for Mathematical Sciences research.

We are a three-time winner of the coveted Queen’s Anniversary Prizes for Higher and Further Education, most recently in 2013 for our research into sustainable rural economies and societies, which has influenced policy and practice around the world. In 2005, we gained the Prize for our innovative solutions to minewater pollution, and in 2009 we were recognised for research into ageing.

There are a number of characteristics that have defined us over the years and which will continue to be prominent features of our Vision. These include our clear focus on education and research that is of direct relevance to our city and region, a culture of openness and transparency and longstanding commitments to equality, diversity and inclusivity and academic freedom.
Globally Ambitious

We have extended our reach beyond the UK by establishing a presence in Singapore and Malaysia. In 2008, in partnership with the Singapore Institute for Technology, we opened our Newcastle University in Singapore where we now offer six degree programmes supporting more than 700 students annually, together with a number of Master degree programmes.

With the opening of Newcastle University Medicine Malaysia (NUMed) in 2011, we became the only UK University to have a fully owned medical campus overseas. NUMed delivers degrees in medicine and biomedical sciences to 800 students. The first doctors from NUMed graduated in June 2014.

Meanwhile, Newcastle University London, located in the City of London, opened in September 2015. Here we provide full and part-time undergraduate and postgraduate study programmes for students from all over the world, with a focus on business programmes. Newcastle University London also provides students and staff with increased links to national and international businesses.

The University is 27th in the Guardian University league tables 2019, 22nd in the Complete University Guide 2019, 21st in the Times/Sunday Times Good University Guide 2019 and in the top 150 of universities in the world in the QS World University Rankings 2018 and top 200 in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2018.

Excellent Staff and Students

In 2015, Newcastle University won the Outstanding Leadership and Management Team category in the Times Higher Education Leadership and Management Awards for the second time in four years, receiving praise for our innovative programmes to develop leadership throughout the University and improve the diversity of those in senior positions.

In terms of staff and student numbers, the University has recently grown more rapidly than comparable institutions, with income of more than £500 million in 2017/18. We are one of the largest employers in the North East of England, with approximately 6,100 employees. Our recent engagement survey says our staff enjoy working here and we were placed in the top five of the best places to work, according to the Best UK University Workplace survey carried out by the Times Higher Education magazine in 2014.

Student satisfaction at Newcastle University is consistently above the national average. Traditionally we have strong performance in the National Student Survey (NSS) with the 2018 survey showing that 86% of students were satisfied with their time in Newcastle – placing us joint 4th in the Russell Group. Newcastle University students are also among the most employable in the UK, 86% are in graduate level jobs or further study within six months of graduation, placing us 10th in the UK. We also have an active 220,000-strong global network of alumni in 200 countries and independent states around the world, encouraging mutual support and keeping us connected.
Investing in world-class facilities

The University’s financial position is strong: over the past few years we have invested approximately £100 million in our city centre campus and will continue to do so over the coming years. This has enabled us to achieve major refurbishments of our existing estate, for example the phased refurbishment of the Armstrong Building, and the development of outstanding new facilities such as our flagship, £58m Urban Sciences Building and the 1,277 bed Park View Student Village. Current projects include a new £16.2m Sports Centre and the refurbishment of the Claremont Complex.

We actively invest in projects that are helping to attract new businesses and jobs to the region. In partnership with Newcastle City Council, we are creating Newcastle helix, a £350m urban regeneration project, which is the largest of its kind in the UK. Here, we are investing £34m in a new Learning and Teaching Centre, and £50m in bespoke headquarters for our National Innovation Centres for Ageing and Data and the National Institute for Health Research Innovation Observatory. Together with the Urban Sciences Building, these innovation centres will create a full-scale demonstration site in the heart of Newcastle that will provide real-world solutions to the issues facing modern and growing cities that businesses and communities can get involved with and help to shape. These projects are creating high quality teaching, learning, social and living environments for our students and staff.

We also invest in cultural venues linked to our academic excellence. The Hatton Gallery is part of our world-class School of Arts and Cultures while the Great North Museum: Hancock (GNM) is home to extensive natural history, archaeology and ethnography collections. Managed on our behalf by Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums, the GNM and Hatton Gallery welcomed almost 580,000 visitors in 2017-18.

Living and Working in Newcastle

Newcastle is the cosmopolitan capital of the North East of England. Over the past 20 years, a cultural regeneration has changed the area beyond recognition, creating a stunning cityscape and a special place that rewards people who choose to visit, live, work, study and invest here.

Today, Newcastle is a modern, compact and culturally vibrant European city with a strong identity. The city centre is easy to get around and offers excellent shopping, restaurants, museums, galleries and cinemas. The city centre is renowned for its stunning architecture with many fine buildings and streets including Grey Street, described by renowned architectural historian, Nikolaus Pevsner, as ‘one of the finest streets in England’. Once a busy industrial and commercial dockside, Newcastle’s Quayside is now packed with cafés, bars and restaurants from which to enjoy views of the River Tyne and its bridges.

Neighbouring Gateshead, on the south bank of the Tyne, is now famed for its contemporary culture and iconic structures, including BALTIC, converted from a landmark industrial building in the 1990s and now a major international centre for contemporary art, the Sage Gateshead concert venue occupying a curved glass and steel building designed by Norman Foster, the Stirling Prize – winning Gateshead Millennium Bridge and Antony Gormley’s Angel of the North.

Sports fans are spoilt for choice in Newcastle, with regular topflight football, rugby and basketball fixtures taking place in the city. Gateshead Stadium brings international athletics to the region, while the world-class Durham International Cricket Ground plays host to county, one-day international,
Twenty20 and Test matches. Nearby, Close House golf resort is listed among the UK’s top 100 golf courses and, every year, the world’s largest half marathon, the Great North Run, attracts some 57,000 participants and many thousands more spectators.

The region is steeped in history. The Northumberland coast and its historic castles, designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, are only 30 minutes’ drive to the north, while to the west lies Hadrian’s Wall world heritage site. South of the city is County Durham where the ancient City of Durham is complemented by a heritage coastline and rural towns and villages.

Exceptional transport links connect the city and region to the rest of the UK, Europe and beyond. Newcastle International Airport is just over 20 minutes from the city centre by car or public transport, from where there are direct flights to and from London (Heathrow and Gatwick), Dubai, Amsterdam, Brussels, Dublin, Paris, New York and over 65 other destinations around Europe, together with frequent flights to most major domestic hubs. The East Coast mainline provides direct access to London by train in less than three hours and Edinburgh in just over an hour, with trains running approximately every 30 minutes. The A1(M) motorway links the area to London, Edinburgh and other major UK cities.

Getting around Newcastle on foot or by public transport is much easier than in many other urban centres. The modern, integrated transport system includes an extensive network of local buses and the Metro which connects the airport, city centre, coast and Sunderland. Services are reliable and good value and make commuting extremely easy.

Our region is one of the best value places to live in the UK based on the average cost of living, and property is significantly more affordable than in many other parts of the country. From carefully restored Victorian terraces to contemporary city-centre apartments, semi-rural locations to a seafront home, the region offers a wealth of choice in accommodation.

Newcastle’s hospitals have an international reputation for excellence in health care, and the University works in close partnership with the Newcastle Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. Education here also has a strong reputation, with a choice of excellent state and private schools, several Further Education colleges and of course our world-class universities.