



Newcastle  
University

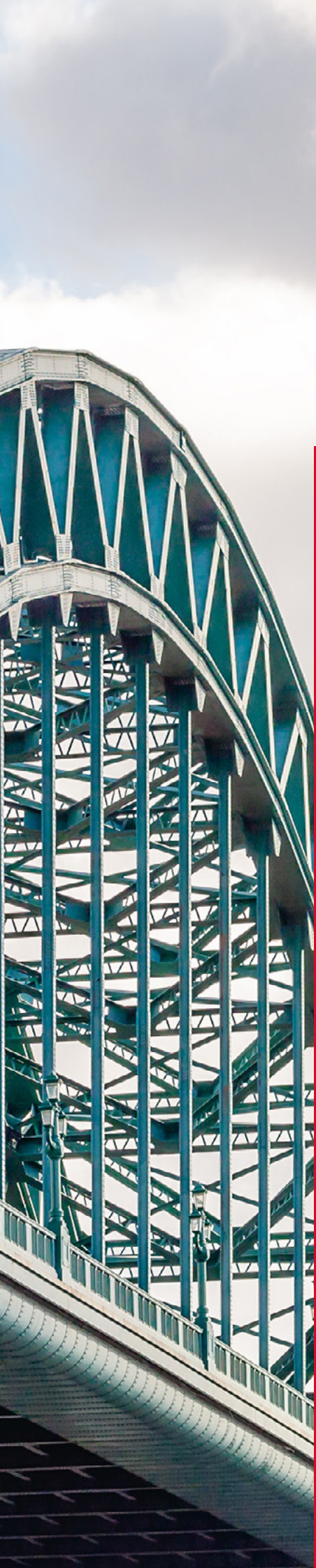
Newcastle  
Innovations

# Annual Report

2026

From Newcastle. For the world





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# Introducing Newcastle Innovations



A catalyst for impactful change and business growth for both our region and the world, Newcastle Innovations empowers you to bridge the gap between ideas and solutions.

Approachable, confident and collaborative, our team is passionate about connecting you with the talent, drive, and resources to take your ideas to the next level and create real-world impact.

We drive progress that reshapes practice, improves lives and deepens understanding across data and AI, health and ageing, energy, creative places and beyond.

Contact us and let's expand our innovation landscapes together: [innovations@newcastle.ac.uk](mailto:innovations@newcastle.ac.uk)



**'We are pursuing national priorities through our regional distinctiveness which in turn addresses global challenges.'**

- Professor Jane Robinson,  
Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Business, Partnerships and Place

**'We're creating real value through collaboration, driving investment, supporting inclusive growth and delivering transformative impact.'**

- Estelle Blanks,  
Director, Newcastle Innovations





# Our business and innovation strategy

Universities should do more than create and exchange knowledge. We can help shape places, drive economic growth, and build the future.

This civic responsibility - combining place, impact and innovation - has always been at the heart of Newcastle University's mission. And we're working to ensure that we can keep meeting that responsibility as we head into the future.

Our Business and Innovation Strategic Plan positions us as an enterprising university continually building impactful partnerships regionally, nationally and globally.

We have a distinct vision, incorporating three interconnecting principles:

- 1. Fostering innovation:** encouraging and supporting a culture of entrepreneurialism.
- 2. Enhancing responsiveness and building sustainable relationships:** aligning our offer with the changing requirements of business and creating productive collaborations.
- 3. Pursuing and capitalising on opportunities:** ensuring we leverage all capabilities to maximise impact.



# Next Generation Newcastle

As we look towards 2034 and the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our University's origins, we recognise the need to respond boldly, collaboratively and meaningfully to the world's complex challenges.

The Newcastle Innovations team is the University's front door to collaborative problem solving, driving economic growth and societal benefit.



## Our mission statement

### Turning ideas into impact, together.

Innovation isn't something you access. It's something we build together.

**Newcastle Innovations** fosters dynamic knowledge exchange and generates true impact by partnering with a variety of organisations worldwide.

Bridging the gap between ideas and solutions, we provide access to world-class research and talent, creating partnerships for shared discovery, growth, and innovation.

**Innovations from Newcastle. For the world.**

'Rather than knowledge transferring back and forth, we are bringing the walls down to create equal and trusting partnerships.'

- **Professor Jane Robinson**,  
Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Business, Partnerships and Place



# National Innovation Centres

Anchoring the landmark Newcastle Helix innovation district, our three National Innovation Centres support economic and business growth through cross-sector collaboration.

## City of Longevity

Developed by the **National Innovation Centre for Ageing**, City of Longevity was awarded the Dubai Foresight Award 2025.

City of Longevity is an open-source framework and toolkit, recognised for its ability to reimagine urban environments as prevention-first systems, using data and evidence to support healthier, longer lives.

## Regional economic impact

The **National Innovation Centre for Data** (NICD) is a vital component of the regional business landscape and a key part of the North East Combined Authority's AI Growth Zone ambitions.

The NICD team works with companies to harness the power of data, allowing them to innovate, improve productivity, and compete.

Innovation projects have helped to create 1,500 new jobs and it is predicted that NICD will boost the North East economy by £742m over the next 10 years.



## Innovation trailblazer for coastal and rural areas

The **National Innovation Centre for Rural Enterprise** (NICRE) is working closely with the North East Combined Authority to support delivery of the region's Deeper Devolution deal commitments to rural and coastal communities.

A wide-ranging review of strategic evidence helped shape priorities within the North East Environment, Coast and Rural Investment Plan and informed an initial combined authority investment of £17m.

NICRE subsequently formalised a partnership with North East CA to provide the intelligent secretariat for its Coastal and Rural Taskforce. This Taskforce will develop policy blueprints and act as a national innovation trailblazer for devolution in coastal and rural contexts.



Newcastle University

# Collaborative research

Newcastle Innovations supports the connection between academics, researchers and partners to address real, pressing problems through collaborative discovery.

By working in partnership with organisations locally, nationally and globally, we combine expertise, drive and innovation to find sustainable solutions efficiently.

## Great British (GB) Chemicals

### Goal

To replace fossil petrochemicals with clean, sustainable chemistry linked with social sciences, environmental science, economics, and policy.

### Solution

A major research centre to validate laboratory research through real-world demonstration – promoting UK investment and highlighting potential export markets for the chemical industry.

### Looking ahead

Led by a core team of transdisciplinary experts from 10 founding universities, GB Chemicals is a leading and collaborative solution, crafted for the future. Its ambition and long-term impact are underpinned by significant funding and strategic investment, including:

- major research centre funded by EPSRC and NERC at £22.5m for seven years
- investment for 'moonshot' projects in novel catalysts and development to scale
- three-year initial funding to explore emerging themes and quick benefits

**'If we want to cut pollution, improve health outcomes, become more resilient, grow the economy, provide jobs and keep products affordable, we need to urgently accelerate the deployment of smarter technology.'**

- Libby Gibson, Professor of Energy Materials, Newcastle University

# Royal Air Force (RAF) Project ViTAL

## Goal

To reach Net Zero carbon emissions by 2040 while maintaining full operational capacity for defence.

## Solution

Working in partnership to create the ViTAL Living Lab at RAF Leeming, built to conduct and assess experiments with the aim of quantifying the sustainable efforts of the sector.

## Success

Our teams discovered viable, innovative climate change solutions that integrate the defence sector with conservation and sustainability. This unlocks the potential to lower the carbon footprint of the sector as a whole, through:

- cutting-edge solar technology
- new ways to assess the potential of geothermal energy
- land management techniques for carbon capture

**'Project ViTAL provides the Ministry of Defence with a terrific opportunity to leapfrog to the front of the field in terms of addressing our sustainability and Net Zero carbon emissions challenges.'**

- Group Captain Gareth Prendergast, RAF

# Energy village: technology adoption and consumer behaviour

## Goal

To help achieve Net Zero targets by 2050 by examining the viability of transitioning to a decarbonised energy system.

## Solution

The collection of data and feedback on the success of innovative technologies installed in a range of housing types.

## Success

Valuable data was successfully gathered, helping further our understanding of how the UK can reach Net Zero targets when it comes to household energy consumption. A national exemplar of whole-system, user-centred energy research, the work includes:

- nine demonstrator houses, constructed at the heart of the Northern Gas Networks Net Zero Research Village
- approximately 500 sensors across the nine test houses, monitoring temperature, humidity, gas, water and electricity consumption, with results sent back to a shared project platform
- a consideration of the lived experience of the technologies in everyday life

# Working in partnership

**We work with organisations across the public, private, health and voluntary sectors to co-define challenges, share expertise and develop responses that deliver long-term value for people and places.**

These partnerships are built on trust, mutual benefit and a shared commitment to learning, rather than short-term transactions or one-off projects.

From place-based collaborations and infrastructure programmes to long-standing strategic relationships, each partnership is shaped by shared goals and how we can best support one another to deliver impact.

## The FairWater Project

### Goal

To help UK households reduce their water consumption, lower energy emissions and cut overall utility bills.

### Solution

A collaborative project led by Northumbrian Water Group in partnership with Newcastle University, National Energy Action, Procter & Gamble and Northern Gas Networks.

### Success

High engagement from communities across the North East enabled data collection from 162 households, which continues to reveal patterns in water usage. These insights highlight which interventions have the greatest potential to drive real change, both for our local communities and when considering future, wider-scope projects. This is demonstrated through:

- discovery of validated pathways for reducing household water and energy use
- 55 households installing sensors to monitor water and energy use for detailed data
- 107 households involved in valuable qualitative research

**'We are very excited to be able to develop our research alongside industry to help resolve and find innovative solutions for future generations.'**

- Professor Boguslaw Obara, Dean of Business, Partnerships and Place, Newcastle University

# Smart Skies, Healthy Waters

## Goal

To allow for faster and more frequent water quality checks, protecting the environment, while keeping our water clean and safe.

## Solution

Automated drones and smart robotics have been programmed to collect water samples and carry out high-level tests to determine water quality.

## Success

In a world-first, automated technology can now sample and deliver near-lab-grade analysis of coastal and inland water quality in real time, providing an instant understanding of conditions.

- winner of £6m in the fifth Water Breakthrough Challenge, supplied by the Ofwat Innovation Fund
- development of the 'lab-in-a-box': a shipping-container-style lab that can be deployed wherever required along the English and Welsh coasts
- collaborative effort from Newcastle University, data experts Makutu, drone experts Skyports Drone Services, and real-time sensor specialists Proteus Instruments, led by Northumbrian Water

**'This project provides a ground-breaking opportunity to harness new technologies to enable more frequent monitoring. It will be a world-first, helping to ensure healthier waters.'**

- Richard Warneford, Head of Wastewater, Northumbrian Water

# Newcastle Health Research Partnership

## Goal

To improve health, reduce health inequalities and generate economic growth through research, training and education.

## Solution

Leveraging the combined strengths of Newcastle University, Northumbria University, local NHS Trusts and Newcastle City Council to cultivate collaboration in health and care research and innovation.

## Success

The Newcastle Health Research Partnership has created a collaborative innovation space that provides vital insights for regional NHS Trusts. This is demonstrated through:

- public involvement in vital research to embed the patient experience into future innovations
- interdisciplinary research allowing for local and regional healthcare innovations that support those most in need
- realisation of a shared commitment to supporting the future of research leaders within the health sector

# Company creation

**The creation of spin-out companies is a critical route that allows research discoveries to deliver real-world impact.**

By supporting the spin-out process, Newcastle Innovations enables breakthrough ideas to reach the market, delivering societal benefit while creating high-value jobs and investment opportunities in the North East of England.

In 2025, we celebrated the University's first major spin-out acquisition, a milestone that demonstrates the maturity of our approach to company creation. We also enjoyed a second consecutive year of significant investment in spin-out companies.

## FibroFind acquired by private equity firm Vespa Capital

There are few effective treatments available to treat the debilitating condition of fibrosis. FibroFind is on a mission to change this, aiming to transform the testing process for new medicines.

The company's patented Precision Cut Tissue Slice (PCTS) platform allows for the preservation of tissue samples within laboratories, providing highly accurate results.

Vespa Capital's investment in this vital spin-out provides FibroFind with the expansion opportunities required to analyse more types of tissue and invest in alternative pre-clinical testing.

The innovative methods pioneered by FibroFind are set to have a global impact, elevating forms of care offered to those living with fibrosis.



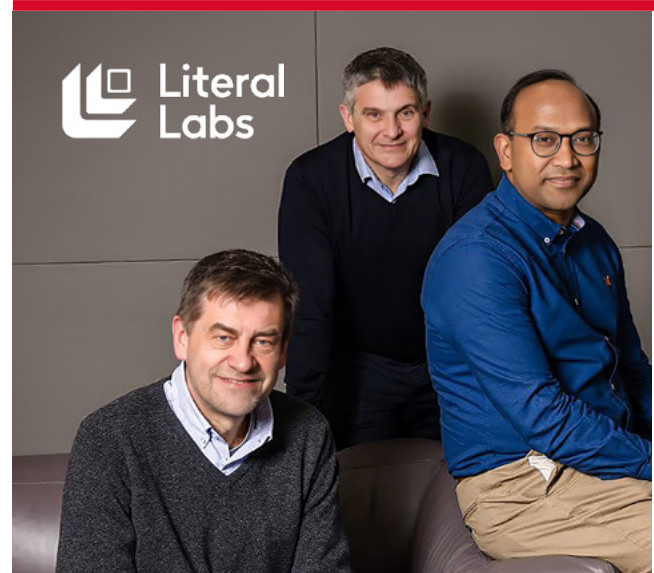
**'Partnering with Vespa Capital is an exciting next step. We are already seeing strong global demand for our platform, and this investment allows us to scale our operations, broaden our scientific reach, and expand the impact we can have on drug development.'**

- Jelena Mann, CEO of FibroFind and Professor of Epigenetics, Newcastle University

# £4.6m pre-seed funding for Literal Labs

The spin-out Literal Labs is pioneering a logic-based AI model that far outperforms today's neural networks.

This funding allowed the company to launch its first commercial product, providing customers with highly efficient, low energy consumption AI models.



## 54x

faster inferencing



## 250x

faster performance



## 52x

less energy consumption

**'Our logic-based AI offers a new solution for those that want and need high-performing AI that is faster, more energy efficient and more explainable than what's currently available via neural networks.'**

- Noel Hurley, CEO of Literal Labs



## Royal Society Entrepreneur in Residence Fellowship

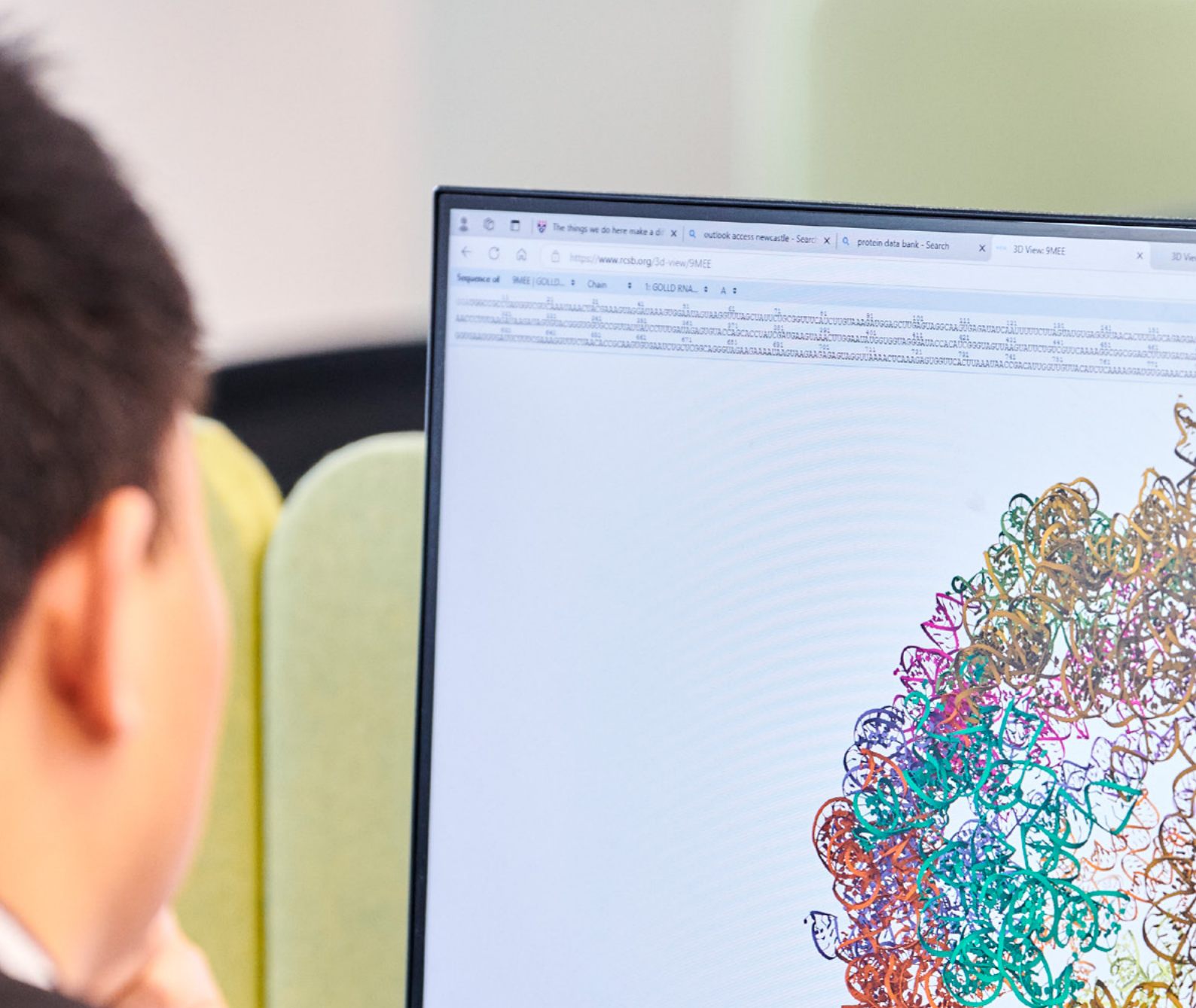
Since its launch in 2018, the scheme has funded over 130 placements in 65 institutions, aiming to increase the knowledge in UK universities of the science, research and innovation taking place in industry.

Dr Mick Hunter is halfway through his Entrepreneur in Residence Fellowship at Newcastle University.

Mick has extensive biotech R&D experience, spanning the entire drug development process from concept to clinic, across a

range of therapeutic areas including small molecules and biologics.

He is using his expertise to support and mentor academics in translating innovative life science discoveries into the commercial sector. His work focuses on creating business plans, launching new therapeutic biotech companies, and engaging stakeholders across Newcastle University and the North East to provide expert advice on pharmaceutical R&D.



# Innovation and technology transfer

**Technology transfer is still a key part of the knowledge exchange and innovation landscape.**

We are continually working to ensure that research discoveries and patented technologies are available to partners who help us drive real-world change.

## A groundbreaking advancement: MSI-plus

Developed by Newcastle University and Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, the Microsatellite Instability Plus (MSI-Plus) assay for colorectal cancer is groundbreaking.

Winner of Cancer Research Horizons' Translational Project of the Year Recognition Award, this assay delivers **highly accurate and rapid results**.

It now meets all NICE recommendations for patients and is in use across the UK, bringing real-world impact to thousands.

## NIHR Innovation Observatory

Newcastle University has secured **£22m funding** from the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) to continue delivery of the NIHR Innovation Observatory.

The programme supports world-leading horizon scanning across diagnostics, emerging technologies and new medicines. It strengthens our University's role in translating complex data into evidence that informs decision-making, while expanding international collaboration and supporting SMEs, charities and investors at the forefront of health and care innovation.

## Kuano AI's 'outstanding' innovation

Seeking to upgrade its existing software stack in order to optimise the innovation of machine learning models for charge prediction, artificial intelligence company Kuano AI turned to Newcastle Innovations.

Our partnership resulted in the development of a generic drug discovery platform and associated tool, which can be used by a variety of companies within the sector.

This Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) project was rated 'outstanding' by Innovate UK for going far beyond the original brief.

**'Coupling our industry knowledge with Newcastle University's academic drive meant we were able to nurture that all-important link between academic curiosity and real-world impact.'**

- David Wright, CTO at Kuano AI and Project Co-Lead

# Commercial projects

The expertise and drive of our academics have played a significant role in the development of new products, processes and facilities.

## Berghaus ZonalAdapt: designed for women

Our collaboration with outdoor clothing and equipment brand, Berghaus, has led to the development of a brand-new form of legwear, specifically designed to support the female body.

Thanks to scientific testing and analysis at Newcastle University, this legwear, known as ZonalAdapt, was designed to combat issues often experienced by women while exercising outdoors including discomfort due to bloating, waistbands that dig in, chafing and more.

Biomechanical modelling and physiological analysis carried out at Newcastle University's advanced sport and exercise research and testing facilities validated and refined the final design of the product.

**'We wanted a partner that could underpin the whole process with science, critically analyse the product and help us make an informed, validated decision at the end.'**

- Rosie O'Sullivan, Head of New Product Innovation, Berghaus

## Curium Pharma facility development

Our partnership with Curium Pharma, a global leader in nuclear medicine, has led to the creation of a new diagnostic radiotracer production facility on our University campus.

Providing expedited access to advanced diagnostics for both patients and professionals across our region, the facility reduces supply chain fragility and will improve patient outcomes via earlier, more accurate diagnoses.

This facility pairs Newcastle University's medical science and innovation knowledge with Curium's worldwide expertise in radiopharmaceutical manufacturing to create a hub for essential research and real-world clinical impact.

**'This partnership with Curium brings further, leading-edge care, research and innovation to the region. This collaboration reflects our ongoing mission to translate research into real-world healthcare impact.'**

- Professor Quentin Anstee, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Faculty of Medical Sciences, Newcastle University

# P&G Partner Excellence Award

Procter and Gamble (P&G) Research and Development has awarded Newcastle University the Connect + Develop Partner Excellence Award – bestowed for playing a pivotal role in bringing superior products and technical excellence to life.

Our commitment to innovative work that ultimately provides real-world solutions to a range of problems across various sectors includes:

- the discovery of new enzyme technologies
- new mechanistic insights
- confirmed claims regarding the development of new ingredients and products

**'P&G is an important global strategic partner. By combining our distinct skills, facilities and experience, we have been able to make significant progress in industrial biotechnology that really makes a difference to society.'**

- Professor William Willats, Professor of Agri-Diagnostics, Newcastle University



# Training and skills

**Skills development is a critical part of how innovation translates into long-term economic and societal impact.**

We're working with industry and educational partners, as well as public bodies, to design and deliver training that responds to real workforce needs – from advanced manufacturing and electrification to health and emerging technologies.

These programmes support people at different stages of their careers, strengthen regional capability, and ensure that innovation is matched by the skills required to adopt, scale and sustain it.



## Training for power battery technologies

### **A collaboration between:**

Newcastle University and New College Durham.

### **Funded by:**

Faraday Battery Challenge.

The National Battery Training and Skills Academy (NB TSA) is a collaborative initiative between Newcastle University and New College Durham, established to support the growing skills needs of the UK's battery and electrification industries.

The Academy provides industry-aligned training for current and future learners, supporting workforce development at a time of rapid technological change.

By combining academic expertise with employer engagement and applied training environments, the Academy plays a role in strengthening regional capability while contributing to national efforts to build a resilient, future-ready battery supply chain.

# Electrification and advanced manufacturing

## **Funded by:**

Driving the Electric Revolution Challenge.

## **Co-funded by:**

Newcastle University.

The Institute of Electrification and Sustainable Advanced Manufacturing (IESAM) brings together Newcastle University, regional Further Education providers, industry partners and the North East Institute of Technology to address skills demand in electrification and advanced manufacturing.

IESAM delivers a coordinated skills pipeline spanning Levels 3–7, including degree apprenticeships, professional development, and specialist short courses aligned to industry need. This includes the Level 6 BEng Product Design and Development Engineer Apprenticeship, alongside a growing portfolio of CPD courses supporting engineers, technicians and managers working in electrification, power electronics, machines and drives.

By combining academic expertise, applied research facilities and employer engagement, IESAM supports workforce development that enables innovation to be adopted and scaled across the region and beyond.

## Supporting health research careers

The Newcastle Health Research Partnership (NHRP) Academy provides bespoke support to health and care researchers seeking to progress their academic careers.

Based on the Newcastle University campus, the Academy supports health and care colleagues from any discipline who wish to develop their skills and experience.

By supporting healthcare research career development, the Academy helps to grow the pipeline of discovery needed to support future healthcare innovation.

The Academy provides a range of support, including:

- advice on career and training options
- guidance on external fellowship and training award applications
- support with interview preparation and mock interviews
- a nurturing and supportive review process delivered with NHS and local authority partners

# Innovation in the North East of England

**Innovation in the North East of England is central to Newcastle University's mission and contribution to society.**

Working from a region with deep industrial heritage and significant future opportunity, Newcastle Innovations supports place-based innovation that delivers local value while contributing to national priorities and global challenges.

Our partnerships, research and innovation activity are rooted in the North East, but informed by international expertise, investment and collaboration.

Regional innovation is a platform for wider impact, connecting local strengths to national programmes, global networks and long-term economic and societal benefits.

## AI Growth Zone boosts regional skills and jobs

The UK government has announced the creation of an AI Growth Zone in the North East, set to generate more than 5,000 new jobs and attract up to £30 billion in private investment.

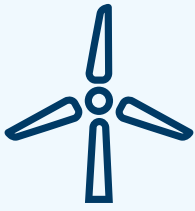
The programme aims to accelerate AI adoption, strengthen skills and training pathways, increase productivity across key sectors, and support breakthroughs in areas including healthcare, clean energy and advanced technologies.

Newcastle University colleagues, alongside infrastructure such as the National Innovation Centre for Data, are key members of the AI Growth Zone taskforce. The taskforce is supporting the development of the Growth Zone and working to maximise the impact of AI on the local economy, employment, and opportunities for young people.



**'The North East is once again leading the charge – this time in the AI revolution. We're backing local talent with the skills and training they need to thrive in the jobs of tomorrow.'**

- Liz Kendall, Technology Secretary



## Leading the Northern Net Zero Accelerator

Creating regional value through Net Zero innovation, the Northern Net Zero Accelerator (NNZA) exists to expedite the decarbonisation of the North East, Teesside and Humber regions.

With £5m-worth of funding from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, this initiative brings together regional universities, industry and the public to support the journey towards Net Zero.

The NNZA supports sustainable research and skills enhancement to achieve Net Zero, while championing under-represented partners in our region.

## SCENE awarded £8.9m in funding

The five-year Strategic Commercialisation Ecosystem North East (SCENE) programme pulls together expertise from Durham, Newcastle, Northumbria, Sunderland and Teesside Universities to expand our collective ability to commercialise impactful academic research.

Providing an ecosystem for business and commercial activities, SCENE aims to build on the strong foundations of the Northern Accelerator programme, further supporting innovative spin-outs.

Creating the correct conditions for spin-outs to attract vital early-stage investment, SCENE will ensure commercialisation is driven by real-world needs.

**'Universities in the North East play a significant role in inclusive growth through innovation. SCENE is helping us to build a stronger and more supportive ecosystem for business and commercial activities in the region.'**

- Estelle Blanks, Director, Newcastle Innovations

## Arrow

Connecting North East businesses to experts and facilities in the local area, Arrow provides world-class academics and researchers to enable companies to innovate and develop tangible solutions to real-world problems.

**'Newcastle University helped us identify gaps in our team and has allowed us to employ more staff and fund PhD students. We have also cemented our relationship with the University's Centre for Cancer.'**

- Jurek Kozyra, Founder and CEO of Nanoverly

### Arrow by impact forecast\*:

**143** new jobs created

**£16.9m** increase in turnover

**53** new products and services delivered

**£2.6m** increase in private investment

\*Arrow phase one figures, up to 2024

# Culture and creative

Through Newcastle Innovations, the University works with artists, cultural organisations, communities and researchers to develop new approaches to place-making, public engagement and social value.

Drawing on strengths across the arts, humanities and creative practice, these partnerships apply new models of collaboration and co-creation, alongside economic and technological change.

**'Whatever the question is we feel we need answering, it feels like there is somebody within Newcastle University who can help.'**

- Andrew Poad, General Manager, National Trust



# Green Corridors North East

A pioneering £3m project transforming urban and rural spaces across Gateshead, Durham and South Tees heralds the arrival of three Green Corridors.

The first of their kind in the UK, the Green Corridors will connect communities with nature, culture and regional history, boosting wellbeing and linking beautiful walking trails

with heritage sites and city centres.

The National Trust is committed to the development of 20 Green Corridors across the UK by 2030, nurturing the connection between our communities and the wonder of nature. The three North East Green Corridors bring together leading local universities with community organisations and local authorities.

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## The Festival of Blossom

A fascinating immersive experience, The Festival of Blossom allowed communities to follow the dawn-to-dusk cycle of a Japanese cherry blossom tree.

Created by Newcastle-based creative studio NOVAK, this visually stunning exhibition encouraged a true connection between community and nature, instilling the image of blossom as a universal symbol of hope and renewal.

With various interactive experiences taking place within the exhibition, local communities were treated to a week of art, culture and nature.

The exhibition also featured a soundscape – devised by Digital Voice for Communities in collaboration with the students of Riverside Academy Primary – and poetry penned by Newcastle University PhD researcher, Lotte Dijkstra, in collaboration with local school children.

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## Social, community and cultural engagement

Attendance at Newcastle University's social, cultural and community engagement activity has recovered strongly following the disruption caused by Covid-19 restrictions.

In 2020–21, attendance was understandably low, with around 177,000 participants. As restrictions eased, engagement rebounded to 626,000 in 2021–22, before increasing again to 638,000 in 2022–23. In 2023–24, attendance reached 824,000, exceeding pre-pandemic levels.

This momentum accelerated markedly in 2024–25, with total attendance rising to 1.62 million, reflecting both the scale and growing reach of the University's engagement activity.<sup>1</sup>

By continuing to invest in accessible, welcoming programmes, effective promotion and sustained engagement platforms, the University is strengthening connections with communities and audiences across the region.

<sup>1</sup>Data rounded to nearest 1,000. Data taken from Higher Education Business and Community Interaction Survey. Available at: <https://www.hesa.ac.uk/data-and-analysis/business-community/engagement>. Open data licence: CC-BY-4.0.

# Engagement and community

**Engagement with communities plays a vital role in shaping innovation that is relevant, inclusive and trusted.**

Newcastle Innovations supports programmes and events that invite people to explore ideas, contribute perspectives and engage with research and innovation in meaningful ways.

Working with partners across culture, education and public life, these activities help strengthen connections between the University and the wider community.

## Steam to Green: a North East energy revolution

Steam to Green opened at Discovery Museum in 2024 as a long-term public exhibition, developed in partnership with Newcastle University. Running until September 2027, it provides a sustained platform for engaging communities with the North East's energy heritage and future.

Through accessible, interactive displays, the exhibition connects the region's industrial past with emerging green technologies and pathways to Net Zero.

Operating over multiple years in a prominent civic venue, Steam to Green demonstrates how long-term public engagement can strengthen understanding, encourage dialogue and support innovation-led transitions.

## Farrell Centre

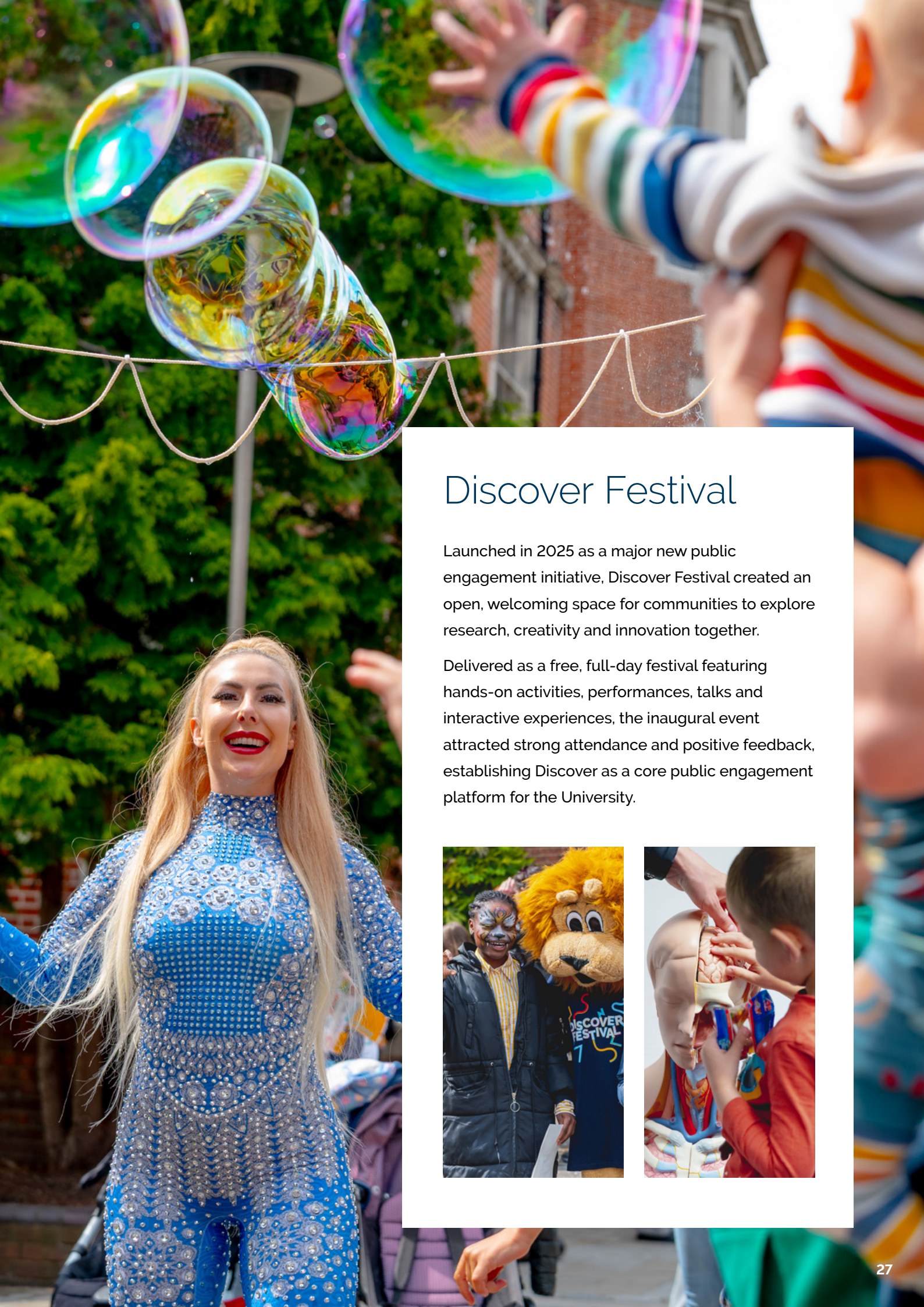
The Farrell Centre is Newcastle University's public space for dialogue, learning and debate around the built environment. Located in the city centre and free to access, it provides a long-term platform for engaging communities, professionals and policymakers in conversations about architecture, planning and the future of cities.

Through a programme of exhibitions, public talks, professional events and activities for schools and community groups, the Centre brings together academic insight, professional practice and public perspectives.

By creating an open civic space for exchange, the Farrell Centre supports innovation in how we think about place, design and the long-term challenges facing towns and cities.

**'Every city needs a place where people can come together to debate its future.'**

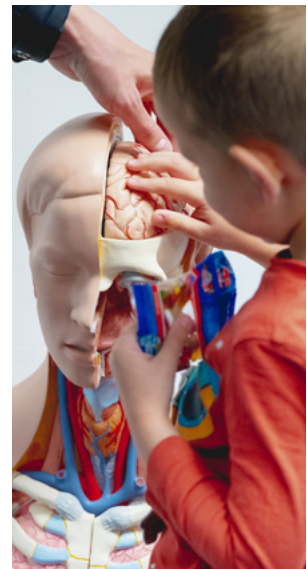
- Sir Terry Farrell



## Discover Festival

Launched in 2025 as a major new public engagement initiative, Discover Festival created an open, welcoming space for communities to explore research, creativity and innovation together.

Delivered as a free, full-day festival featuring hands-on activities, performances, talks and interactive experiences, the inaugural event attracted strong attendance and positive feedback, establishing Discover as a core public engagement platform for the University.

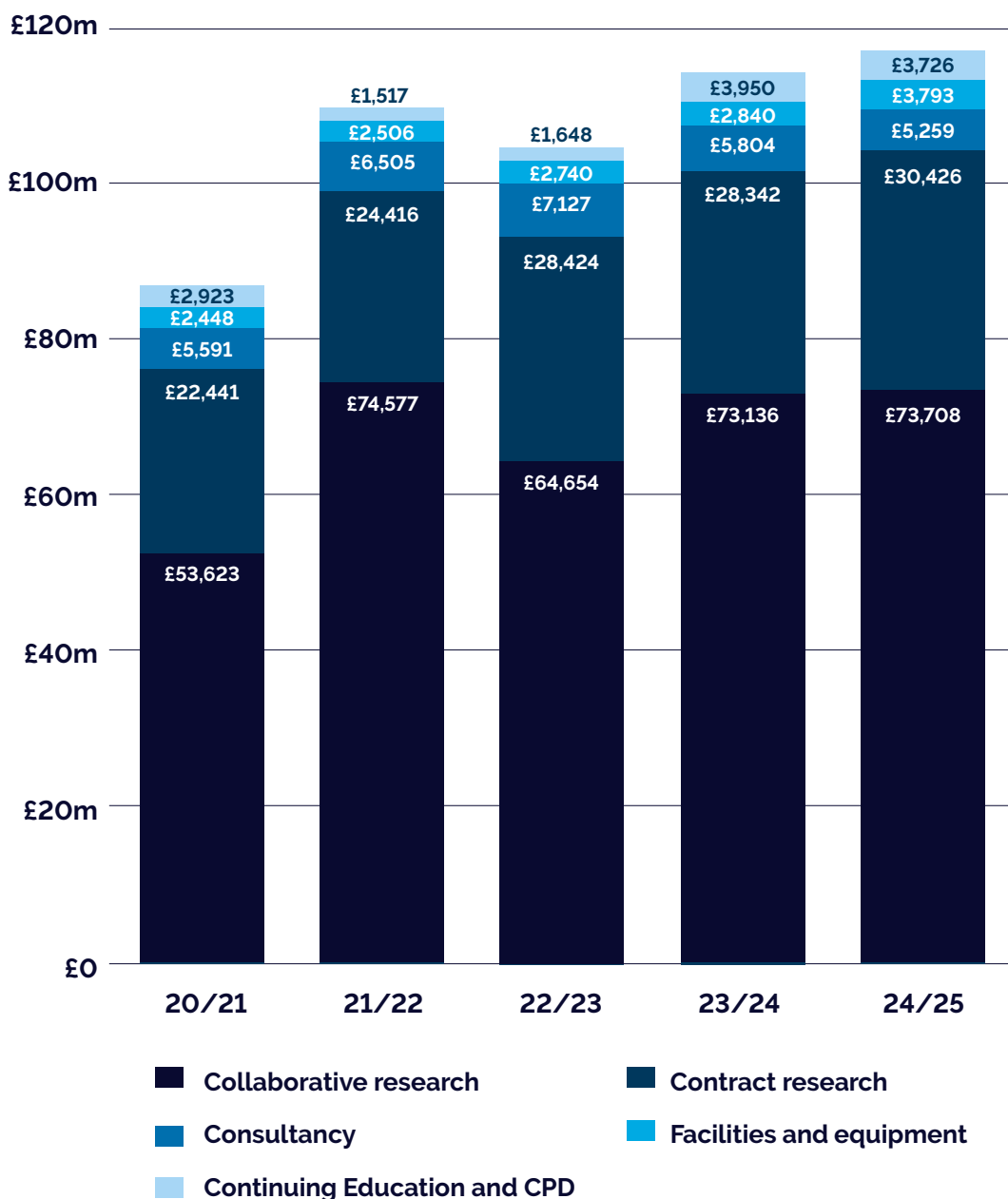


# Performance indicators

Higher Education Business and Community Interaction is an annual national dataset collected and published by the Higher Education Statistics Agency.

It measures how UK universities engage with business, the public sector, third-sector organisations, and communities beyond teaching and research.

## Income



In 2024/2025



## Intellectual property, spin-outs and graduate start-ups

Intellectual Property	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25
Number of disclosures	33	41	45	50	74
New patents applications filed in year	34	32	22	23	9
Cumulative patent portfolio	339	376	391	397	281
Total number of licenses	158	178	195	206	219
Total IP revenue (£ks)	£867	£1,367	£1,348	£1,620	£4,586

### Spin-outs

Number of active firms	29	30	37	40	42
Estimated current employment	234	287	310	370	333
Estimated external investment received (£ks)	£47,344	£8,374	£25,983	£64,148	£33,390
Estimated current turnover (£ks)	£9,438	£13,638	£19,791	£17,227	£14,518

### Graduate start-ups

Number of active firms	191	193	196	218	226
Estimated current employment	940	1120	1498	1176	1280
Estimated external investment received (£ks)	£43,481	£18,526	£128,473	£122,068	£393
Estimated current turnover (£ks)	£87,043	£153,742	£283,148	£155,988	£218,277

# Looking to the future



The launch of Newcastle Innovations builds on a strong foundation of partnership, delivery and impact across the University's business, innovation and engagement activity.

As expectations of universities continue to evolve, Newcastle University remains committed to working collaboratively with partners to address shared challenges and create long-term value for people and places.

Looking ahead, Newcastle Innovations will continue to strengthen connections between research, education and external engagement, supporting innovation that is place-based, inclusive and globally connected.

By focusing on partnership, capability and sustained engagement, we aim to ensure that innovation at Newcastle University translates into meaningful economic, social and cultural impact.

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[Newcastle Innovations](#)



Newcastle University exists for the public benefit to advance education, learning and research. Our objective is to build on this core purpose and, in doing so, provide new knowledge and creative solutions that make a positive impact. We aim to work collaboratively with our many external partners to shape brighter futures, grow the economy, and champion social justice.

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