

Partnership with the University of Leicester

College of Life Sciences <http://www2.le.ac.uk/colleges/medbiopsych>

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The University of Leicester, with the University Hospitals of Northamptonshire (Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust - NGH) and Kettering General Hospital NHS Foundation Trust - KGH), is committed to enhancing the partnership between academia and the NHS in Leicester, Leicestershire, Rutland, Northamptonshire and the wider geographical area. A strong synergy between our organisations is the key to success. Major contributions made by consultant colleagues to the academic mission through research, teaching and education, clinical leadership, enterprise and innovation are recognised by the award of a range of honorary titles from Honorary Fellow through to Honorary Professor.

The mission of the College of Life Sciences is to pursue the highest standards of research, education and training in biomedical and related subjects, and to apply this knowledge and expertise to enhance the quality of life and economic prosperity of populations, both locally and in the wider world. Its considerable academic resources mean that it is widely recognised for its world-leading and internationally excellent research and the quality of its undergraduate and postgraduate teaching.

Based in some of the newest purpose-built and modern facilities in the UK, the College offers a wide range of courses and education in the areas of laboratory, clinical, and population health through the provision of innovative education and globally recognised research. The George Davies Centre is the largest investment in medical teaching and applied research by a UK university in the last decade. Building on the foundations laid at the inception of the medical school in 1975, the College provides an academic and physical environment to enable scientists and clinicians to work together across traditional boundaries to address some of the key outstanding questions in biomedical research, and to engage with increasing effectiveness with commercial and public bodies. We are a thriving community of academic expertise based in laboratory, clinical, health and social science settings.

The high calibre of our academic endeavour is increasingly being recognised, with the latest Research Excellence Framework (REF2021) ranking the University of Leicester 2nd for Clinical Medicine (UoA1), with 95% of our submission ranked world-leading (4-star) or internationally excellent (3-star). In addition, we were also the 2nd highest rated institution for Sports and Exercise Sciences (UoA24). These results have had a significant impact on our international and national standing; Leicester was ranked 18th (of almost 3,000 medical schools) in both the 2021 and 2022 Shanghai World Ranking, and 5th in the UK (the highest rank for Clinical Medicine outside of the Golden Triangle). In addition, Medicine was ranked 7th in the Complete University Guide 2023; a rise of 18 places.

The College comprises a matrix structure of four Research Departments: Cardiovascular Sciences, Genetics and Genome Biology, Molecular and Cell Biology, Population Health Sciences, Respiratory Sciences; two Teaching Schools: Leicester Medical School, School of Biological Sciences; and two combined Research and Teaching Schools: School of Healthcare and School of Psychology and Vision Sciences.

The University Strategy recognises the Mission of the University as 'diverse in our make-up and united in our ambition, we change lives through education and research'. Our vision is to provide inspiring education and research working in partnership with our communities to become a truly

inclusive theme. Our strategy consists of three themes, World-Changing Research, Research-Inspired Education and Our Citizens, underpinned by our three values of: **Inclusive**, diverse in our makeup and united in ambition; **Inspiring**, passionate about inspiring individuals to succeed and realise their ambitions; and **Impactful**, as Citizens of Change we generate new ideas which deliver impact and empower our community

World-Changing Research

The University's institutional research strategy emphasizes our commitment to research that informs and enhances our teaching and learning, and is underpinned by the core values of excellence, rigour, originality and integrity. A key part of this strategy was the establishment of flagship interdisciplinary Research Institutes, Centres and Networks. We host a number of these within our College around which much of our research is now focused. These include two Institutes: [Leicester Institute of Structural and Chemical Biology \(Led by Prof John Schwabe\)](#) and the Leicester Institute for Precision Health (led by Professor Chris Brightling); and nine Research Centres: Centre for Cancer Research, Centre for Diabetes Research, Centre for Microbial and Infectious Disease, Centre for Environmental Health and Sustainability, Centre for Phage Research, Centre for Lifespan Health and Wellbeing, Centre for Fibrosis Research, Centre for Sarcopenia and Muscle Research, and Centre for Population Health.

The NIHR Biomedical Research Centre (BRC) is a collaboration between the University of Leicester, the University of Loughborough, the University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust and the University Hospitals of Northamptonshire NHS Group. A recently awarded expanded BRC with six themes has received a 2.5-fold increase in funding, and brings together the work of: Cardiovascular; Respiratory and Infection; Lifestyle; Personalised Cancer Prevention and Treatment; Environment; and Data innovation for Multiple Long-Term Conditions and Ethnic Health.

The College's central provision in support of research and teaching includes a Preclinical Research Facility, Core Biotechnology Services (covering bioinformatics, imaging technologies and protein and DNA facilities); a Central Technical Service (supporting teaching laboratories); a Clinical Trials Unit, and the Leicester Drug Discovery and Diagnostics Centre.

The College continues to grow funded research activity with a dual approach of encouraging individuals to win project grants and personal fellowships, and supporting teams to achieve major awards with large strategic initiatives. Examples of Leicester's infrastructure success include: an NIHR Biomedical Research Centre, an NIHR Global Research Centre, an NIHR Patient Recruitment Centre, an NIHR Applied Research Collaboration Centre (ARC), an NIHR Clinical Research Facility, an Experimental Cancer Medicine Centre, an MRC Impact Accelerator Account, an MRC Midlands Cryo-Electron Microscope Facility, the Midlands Health Data Research UK Substantive Site, a British Heart Foundation Research Accelerator Award, and a Wellcome Doctoral Training Programme for Health Care Professionals.

We are responding to the rapidly changing national and international research landscape that places an increasing emphasis on interdisciplinary and impactful research. For this purpose, we are working closely with our key NHS and other partners, University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust, Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust and University Hospitals of Northamptonshire NHS Group, West Anglia NHS Foundation Trust and LOROS (Hospice Care for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland), and growing our industrial engagement with biotech companies and pharma to meet the goals of the Government's Industrial Strategy and Life Science Sector Deal. In addition, we are building exciting research programmes with partners in overseas countries through the Global Challenges Research Fund. We are also very conscious of the need to play to our institutional and

regional strengths, and are engaging closely with Leicester City and County Councils, and the Midlands Health Innovation network of regional Universities.

Research-Inspired Education

Our ambition is to deliver a world-class, discovery-led and discovery-enabling learning experience in all teaching. There are programmes in Medicine and a growing range of healthcare professions including Midwifery with Leadership, Nursing with Leadership, Operating Department Practice, Physiotherapy and Radiography; a new Clinical Pharmacy course is also planned.

A new more patient-centred undergraduate curriculum in Medicine was launched in 2016 with long 'apprenticeship-style' placement blocks developing student skills as they enter the clinical phase of our course. We are particularly proud that our course has for many years delivered doctors who progress. We have been ranked third in UK medical schools for progression to Core & Specialty training over the past five years.

The course features:

1. A clinical focus throughout underpinned by excellence in bioscience, and access to one of the largest dissection suites in the UK;
2. Early clinical experience including a new Healthcare Assistant (HCA) programme in year one;
3. A strong group-work provision supporting student learning throughout the course;
4. A wide range of hospital and GP placements with many areas of national excellence;
5. Excellent intercalated degree opportunities, with particular strengths in our iMSc in Research and a new Masters in Clinical Education; and
6. Foundation Assistantships in year 5 which has enhanced our graduates preparedness for work as a Foundation doctor

We are also proud of our work widening participation to medicine, and have developed an excellent [Medicine with Foundation Year MB ChB](#) which was launched in 2017. This recruits 35 students to an integrated Foundation Year enabling progression onto Year 1 of the MB ChB course. Since 2020, we also have an international joint educational partnership with the Chongqing Medical University, where students gain a Clinical Medicine degree in China and a Bachelor of Sciences in Clinical Sciences from the University of Leicester; spending a year of their course at Leicester.

The Stoneygate Centre of Excellence in Empathic Healthcare was launched in 2022, following a major philanthropic donation to the University. The Centre will be a flagship institute and be world-leading: in the development and delivery of transformational empathy training; in establishing the best means of assessing clinical empathy; and in measuring the impact of empathic healthcare on patient and practitioner outcomes.

In addition there are a broad range of programmes in Biological Sciences and Psychology at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels, including the DCLinPsych. A new suite of postgraduate programmes reflecting the areas of research excellence in the College is under development including strengths in epidemiology, diabetes, medical statistics, quality and safety in healthcare, and social sciences in medicine.

Our Citizens

We value, nurture and celebrate our people and relationships, ensuring they are inclusive, impactful, sustainable, and influence positive change in our world. Accordingly, we nurture strong partnerships with the NHS and other organisations, including the University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust,

Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust and University Hospitals of Northamptonshire NHS Group, West Anglia NHS Foundation Trust and LOROS (Hospice Care for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland), that support the delivery of our strategy. Through our NHS relationships, as well as strategic partnerships with the wider community including the Integrated Care System, the Borough, City and County Councils, and other East Midlands Universities (through the Civic University Agreement), we seek to shape policy and influence decision-making locally, regionally and nationally, to improve lives and livelihoods. We work with others to tackle the big issues of today and tomorrow with a focus on climate change, inclusion and wider