OUR COMMITMENT TO THE UNITED NATIONS’ SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
As a world-leading, research-intensive university, the University of Glasgow is committed to contributing towards the United Nations’ (UN) 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to help tackle the most pressing global challenges facing humanity and the natural world.

This is our call to action. We are proud of our community of students and staff who, through research, education and knowledge transfer, make a meaningful impact to our global society.

As a reflection of the University’s commitment to the SDGs, Glasgow was the first UK university to declare it would divest from fossil fuels within a decade and the first in Scotland to declare a climate emergency. Our ambitious new sustainability strategy, Glasgow Green, also commits the University to a significant plan of action to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030, and through our Centre for Sustainable Solutions we enable individuals, communities and organisations to act towards a sustainable future through education, research and partnership. We support interdisciplinary, cross-campus and cross-sectoral solutions to climate change.

We are a University dedicated to supporting a more inclusive growth and a just transition to net zero, where sustainability is placed at the heart of everything we do. The city of Glasgow hosted the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26), where global leaders gathered in the city to discuss and agree action to tackle climate change, and support a renewed momentum to restore nature, reduce pollution and unleash economic growth. As a clear indicator of our commitment to the SDGs, the University is submitting to the Times Higher Education University Impact Rankings in 2022 – the only global performance ranking that assesses our progress and performance against the UN’s SDGs.

Uzma Khan
Director of Strategic Planning & Deputy Chief Operating Officer

Rachel Sandison
Vice-Principal, External Relations

University of Glasgow
PURPOSE

This report provides an overview of the work the University of Glasgow is doing to contribute towards the UN’s 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) — tackling the world’s most pressing challenges — including ending poverty and bringing economic prosperity, social inclusion, environmental sustainability and peace and good governance to all countries and all people by 2030.

As a values-based organisation, the University is committed to embedding sustainability into everything we do. Our activities are broad and far-reaching, and are not limited to those shared in this report.

However, this publication is the first annual report providing a summary of the University’s sustainability activities that support the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The University’s material impact is monitored and reported across four areas of activity: Research, Learning and Teaching, University Operations and Civic and Community Engagement.

We will continue to monitor these activities and report progress to ensure we are making a relevant and impactful difference to the world.

The report that follows sets out our highlights for our contribution to each SDG. Beyond this, there are a number of actions and achievements of which we are proud and that deliver impact across the board.

The report was produced and steered by Planning, Insight & Analytics and External Relations. Special thanks also go to Dr Linda Christie, Rebecca Kent, Tom Rice, and colleagues in both directorates for their help and guidance in producing this document, as well as to colleagues across the University who have provided data input and guidance.
In 2019 we were the first University in Scotland to declare a climate emergency.

1st
In 2014 we became the first UK university to declare it would divest from fossil fuels within a decade.

20%
More than 20% of Scottish entrants to our Medical School in 2018 were from the most deprived areas in Scotland (SIMD20), up from 4% in 2010.

54%
54% of our 2018 Scottish undergraduate entrants are from the Glasgow City Region.

11,400
We are providing 11,400 free breakfasts to school pupils in our local community over the next three years.

20m
Over 20 million COVID-19 tests have been processed at the Lighthouse Lab hosted at our Clinical Innovation Zone – making it the top-performing Lighthouse Lab in the UK.

50:50
We have achieved a 50:50 gender balance on our University Senior Management Group.

13%
We reduced our carbon footprint by 13.27% between 2015–16 and 2018–19.

54%
54% of our 2018 Scottish undergraduate entrants are from the Glasgow City Region.

+30k
Each year our Widening Participation team works with more than 30,000 pupils across all secondary schools in the West of Scotland.

£20m
We are spending £20 million on our programme of reparative justice, which includes research, scholarship, and partnerships.

9,000
We employ more than 9,000 people, accounting for around 12% of jobs within Glasgow City Region’s education sector.

We are an Accredited Living Wage employer.

Our catering operations are accredited by Fairtrade, the Sustainable Restaurant Association, the Vegetarian Society, the Vegan Society and Red Tractor.

In 2020 we set a target to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030.

In 2020 we were named THE University of the Year in recognition of our Historical Slavery Initiative.

Over 3,800 fully-funded learners have enrolled on our SFC-funded upskilling microcredentials since they launched in 2020.

Since 2020 we’ve had 84 official visits, events and meetings with parliamentarians, government and policymakers from Scotland, the UK and the EU.

£20m
We are spending £20 million on our programme of reparative justice, which includes research, scholarship, and partnerships.

+200
We hosted more than 200 on-campus and virtual COP26 events on our campus.

We were named THE University of the Year in 2020 in recognition of our Historical Slavery Initiative.
Addressing inequalities is a key factor of reducing poverty and one of our six Glasgow Research Beacons, which represent areas of research excellence and significant investment for the University. The College of Social Sciences leads on research to help address the drivers of inequality, deprivation and marginalisation, including showcasing inequality-related research at themed UN International days. A recent article by Dr Julia McClure, the Network’s lead, discusses the SDGs and their approach to eradicating poverty by 2030, highlighting how history and culture can be valuable resources in the fight against poverty.

Learning and Teaching

Our triple-accredited Adam Smith Business School offers a postgraduate programme in Development Studies. Students receive a solid grounding in policy analysis for economic growth and development, and for combating poverty, and equips them for an internationally-oriented career focused on developing countries. We also offer courses such as Human Rights & International Politics, and offer scholarships to students from low-income countries. We also offer Humanitarian Scholarships, open to applicants who are staying in the UK on humanitarian grounds and are facing challenges in progressing onto higher education. The University has submitted a bid to become a University of Sanctuary and has signed the 15 by 30 Pledge, which aims to get 15% of refugees into higher education by 2030.

University Operations

The city of Glasgow has 56 of the most deprived MD areas in Scotland. The University offers a range of anti-poverty support programmes, support services and funding to assist students facing financial hardship. Our Students’ Representative Council (SRC) provides a range of services to alleviate the pressures associated with poverty, targeted at low-income students. The SRC Advice Centre offers access to free and confidential advice on benefits and tax credits, council tax, employment rights, financial support, income tax and national insurance, health, housing and money. The University awards c50 Undergraduate Talent Scholarships each year to support students who could face financial difficulties in taking up their place to study at the University. The value of each scholarship is typically £1,500 pa for each year of the degree programme, subject to satisfactory progress. An Emergency Hardship Fund is also available to assist students in immediate and unexpected hardship. We offer a Laptop Loan Scheme for those students who cannot afford to purchase one.

Our Widening Participation (WP) programmes take a targeted approach to considering individual circumstances of pupils within all secondary schools in the West of Scotland, including those from SIMD20 postcodes and pupils with free school meal eligibility. The University works to encourage pupils from under-represented backgrounds to pursue high-demand courses such as medicine, law, finance and accountancy, engineering and education. The WP approach also supports asylum seekers and refugees.

Civic Engagement

The University is a member of the Poverty Alliance – a national anti-poverty network in Scotland comprising voluntary organisations, policymakers and local people with direct experience of poverty. Recent projects include Evidence, Participation, Change (EPIC), engaging with people with experience of issues of poverty and offers the opportunity to participate in anti-poverty policy development in Scotland. The work of the Alliance also led to the development of the Stick Your Labels campaign to help tackle poverty and stigma. The University also participates in events during Challenge Poverty Week, including recent discussions on poverty and human rights led by the UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights.

Our SRC facilitates almost 3,500 student volunteering opportunities both on and off campus. Our student volunteers were part of the Glasgow Improvement Challenge, providing classroom support as part of the Scottish Attainment Challenge.
End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

OUR RESEARCH

Our research on food security and sustainable agriculture touches on key aspects of nutrition and hunger. Research by Professor Justin Hargreaves in our School of Chemistry investigates how industrial processes which feed nearly half the world’s population can be more sustainable. We are also leading research to help develop very low-cost diagnostics to improve the health of livestock in low- to middle-income countries. Academics from the Institute of Biodiversity, Animal Health & Comparative Medicine are also working in partnership with the fish feed company, EWOS, to better understand behavioural differences in farmed fish, helping to inform improvements in the production and flesh quality of farmed salmon.

Researchers from our School of Education and the charity Food Train have published research on food access and risk of malnutrition for older people. The research shows that barriers such as loneliness and the changing nature of the high street are leading to a lack of access to healthy and nutritious food to the detriment of physical health. The research calls for a rethink of food insecurity, particularly in older adults, as access to food is not simply down to financial means. Academics within the Adam Smith Business School are also researching how derelict land and community gardens demonstrate how growing initiatives can improve healthy consumption and sustainable food production.

LEARNING AND TEACHING

Our postgraduate programme in Food Security concentrates on the issues of food and sustainable agriculture. Our Plant Science programme is focused on developing sustainable agriculture in an era of climate change, whilst our aquaculture module explores the complex issues involved in managing human activities in the sea.

The University owns 850 acres of farmland, Cochno Farm, supporting teaching and research at the School of Veterinary Medicine. Students enrolled in the Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine & Surgery (BVMS) and Veterinary Biosciences (BSc) consider all aspects of modern food production, animal management and husbandry. The farm is accredited as ‘Quality Assured’ for milk, beef and lamb production. It carries out commercial enterprises and is used extensively for student teaching and veterinary investigation.

UNIVERSITY OPERATIONS

The city of Glasgow has 56 of the most deprived (MD) areas in Scotland. The University offers financial aid to help students in need pay for essentials such as food, rent, travel and childcare costs. The University’s Sustainable Food Policy sets out our commitment and action plan to ensure the provision of healthy and sustainable food at our catering outlets. We were only the second university in Scotland to achieve Fairtrade status, and our Catering and Events team holds a variety of food accreditations.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

The University works closely with the city’s local government on a number of community food-growing initiatives, including the Glasgow Food Policy Partnership and Glasgow City Food Plan. The University supports Mary’s Meals Scottish charity, dedicated to providing a daily school meal to some of the poorest children in the world. The University also supports Greggs Breakfast Club to provide breakfast for school children in a Govan Primary & High School for the next three years.

Academics at the University are working in partnership with the Baltic Street project in the heart of Dalmarnock, an area of high deprivation, to deliver a Food Hub. The project helps to provide hot, healthy meals for families living on tight budgets, and encourages people to take part in cookery sessions or grow their own food. The project won the ‘Making a Difference’ award at the Scottish Knowledge Exchange Awards in February 2020.

Students from our SRC take part in the Helping the Hungry Society. Students collect food donations for local food banks, provide food collection boxes at university halls and fundraise for food banks. The Glasgow University Environmental Sustainability Team (GUEST) are also working with local businesses to provide a communal fridge in the University library. The fridge contains food donated by local businesses that would otherwise go to waste. The fridge is free for everybody using the library.
The world is facing a global health crisis unlike any other. The COVID-19 pandemic increased the need for more efforts to eradicate a wide range of diseases and address persistent and emerging health issues. Academic staff across the University have been at the heart of the research response to the pandemic in Scotland and the UK. Our staff successfully secured funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for research on the impact of COVID-19 in lower and middle-income countries. Staff at our James Watt School of Engineering also secured funding to work with Ona, to develop new medical diagnostic technologies and help treat infectious diseases in Africa and Vietnam.

Our internationally recognised College of Medical, Veterinary & Life Sciences (MVLS), significantly contributes towards the University’s Glasgow Research Beacons in One Health, Precision Medicine and Chronic Disease and Addressing Inequalities. The University’s Institute of Health & Wellbeing (IHW) leads on research into population health and health inequalities, bringing together academics from public health, medicine, epidemiology, psychology and health data science. Recent research demonstrates how the issue of multimorbidity is putting healthcare resources around the world under increasing strain. Academics from our IHW have brought greater recognition of the challenges multimorbidity presents, by identifying possible solutions for healthcare professionals and policymakers.

The University offers undergraduate and postgraduate programmes to support the development of health professionals and public health practitioners. Our School of Medicine, Dentistry & Nursing is the largest of ten institutes and schools at our MVLS College and offers courses in Medicine, Dentistry, Physiology & Sports Science and Human Nutrition. Masters courses in Public Health are also available, focused on promoting health, preventing disease, reducing inequalities in health, and prolonging life, ensuring that its practitioners are well placed to improve health wherever they are.

The IHW offers a Masters in Global Health, where our world-leading researchers teach on health issues faced by different population groups and including the social and cultural constructions of health, chronic illness and disability, and global and national health policies. IHW also offer a programme focused on Global Mental Health designed to produce graduates who can take charge of mental health and wellbeing – Glasgow Anywhere – to help staff and students adapt to new ways of working and studying from home.

The University subscribes to the Big White Wall, Anywhere – to help staff and students adapt to new ways of working and studying from home.

Our policy on work-related stress sets out our approach to managing stress and wellbeing.

The MalDent project is a unique collaboration with the Kamuzu University of Health Science to develop a national Oral health Policy and Implementation Strategy for Malawi.
The University’s School of Education is committed to social justice in education, and to education research and practice of the highest quality. The School brings together researchers with expertise across all sectors of education.

A key feature of the School’s interdisciplinary research is to support the development of more equitable societies and its contribution to producing better places locally, nationally and globally. This is evidenced through the School’s contributions to major programmes of work, such as What Works Scotland, the Urban Big Data Centre and the GCRF Centre for Sustainable Healthy Learning Cities.

Key members of the School also play significant roles within government through a range of secondments and knowledge exchange roles within government through a range of secondments and knowledge exchange. The teaching team combines expertise and research experience in several parts of the world, including South and Central America, South-East Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, the Arab world, and Western and Eastern Europe.

In 2020, we introduced a range of SFC-funded, fully online microcredentials; anyone is eligible to apply for these courses, offering in-demand professional skills and insights, and providing a springboard onto further study. Lifelong learning opportunities are also provided by our Short Courses team, offering a wide range of credit-bearing subjects both for access to full degree programmes at the University for non-traditional students, or for enjoyment and interest.

The University offers a comprehensive range of scholarships based on both academic merit and financial need, to ensure that background is not a barrier to higher education for the brightest minds.
The University coordinates a Gender Based Violence Research Forum, leading to the delivery of a number of Scottish GBV-related research articles and reports published in the past five years. Professor Mo Hume has undertaken research on how different forms of violence are perceived by those who live in (post-) conflict contexts. For over a decade, Professor Hume has worked with civil society groups in El Salvador to co-produce research, monitoring and evaluation to prevent gender-based violence, and her research underpins El Salvador’s Program to Prevent Gender Violence, which has changed attitudes towards gender-based violence and has successfully been rolled out on a smaller scale in Guatemala and adapted for use in schools. Research at the School of Education and School of Social & Political Sciences looks at how South Asian women in Scotland get help for domestic abuse and their experiences of the criminal justice system.

The University’s research partnership with the Glasgow Centre for Population Health (GCPH) recently produced research briefings on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on women, focusing specifically on the unequal social and economic burden, which the pandemic has disproportionately impacted women.

The University is committed to increasing the proportion of women in senior professional and professorial roles to 50% by 2030.

**Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls**

**OUR RESEARCH**

The study of gender and gender equality forms part of several of our courses. Our postgraduate programme in Gender History is the only leading course of its kind in Britain, drawing on the expertise of world-leading scholars from the Centre for Gender History to provide tuition on topics including feminism, patriarchy, sexuality, masculinity and intersectionality and their application to a wide range of historical contexts. Our programmes in Equality & Human Rights and Human Rights & International Politics are taught by specialists from a range of areas of inequality, including gender, and with a wide variety of country and regional expertise. Our Centre for Gender History holds regular events and free courses on global histories of gender and sexuality. Their new MOOC is aimed at anyone interested in these issues, regardless of educational background or experience, and has attracted almost 8,000 subscribers to date.

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**LEARNING AND TEACHING**

In 2016, the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) published their Gender Action Plan, following which the University developed a working group to review progress against a set of milestones and objectives to tackle gender imbalances in certain disciplines. Our Gender Equality Steering Group brings together men and women from our academic, professional services and student communities to promote and advance gender equality across the University.

The University joined the Athena SWAN Charter in August 2011 and was awarded the prestigious Bronze Award in April 2013. Following this, our Schools and Research Institutes began submitting applications for their own departmental awards, and 23 areas have gained Gold, Silver and Bronze level awards. The University is committed to increasing the proportion of women in senior professional and professorial roles to 50% by 2030 as part of our PSED Equality Outcomes targets.

A number of our Schools and Research Institutes consider student intake through the Athena Swan process, highlighting gender imbalances on our programmes. We are committed to supporting students and rewarding academic excellence, having invested more than £1m in additional scholarship funding in recent years. The Amazon Future Engineer bursary is a national bursary programme aimed at supporting women A-level and BTEC/OCR (or Scottish equivalent) students from low-income households who wish to study computer science or related engineering courses at UK universities. Alongside the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, we launched the Developing Female Medical and Academic Leaders Scholarship Programme to help close the gender gap in senior medical leadership roles.

**CIVIC ENGAGEMENT**

The University is a member of the Fearless Glasgow campaign – a partnership between universities and colleges in the West of Scotland to tackle gender-based violence, raise awareness of sexual violence, and offer enhanced support to more than 150,000 students. Our MRC/CSO Social and Public Health Sciences Unit are working with Rape Crisis Scotland to deliver the Equally Safe at School (ESAS) partnership, to help prevent gender-based violence. The partnership provides all secondary schools with free access to online tools and resources to help staff and students working together to promote and implement measures on equality and prevent violence.

University of Glasgow students have also set up the Let’s Talk about Sexual Violence programme in partnership with our SRC and Rape Crisis Scotland.
OUR RESEARCH

Our School of Geographical & Earth Sciences is ranked amongst the top ten in the UK (Complete University Guide 2020). Staff within the School lead on the delivery of a number of internationally excellent publications and research via its Earth Systems Research Group.

Academics within the School of Interdisciplinary Studies are also carrying out research relating to water, environment and natural resources management. Professor Cecilia Tortajada has been working in this area for over 25 years and is a winner of the prestigious Crystal Drop Award, by the International Water Resources Association. One of Professor Tortajada’s recent publications analyses the transformation of the Phnom Penh Water Supply Authority, one of the most successful water utilities of the developing world in the last 15 years. The book analyses the conditions that made this possible and recommends the introduction of a framework for water utilities from developing countries so that they can also be transformed into functional, efficient, equitable and financially viable institutions on a sustainable basis.

Professor William Sloan from our James Watt School of Engineering is undertaking research into harnessing the power of microorganisms to deliver clean drinking water and treat wastewater in rural communities using low-energy, sustainable, off-grid technologies. In October 2020, Professor Sloan was awarded a ten-year Royal Academy of Engineering Chair in Emerging Technologies to tackle the most pressing global water problems and help decarbonise the water industry.

LEARNING AND TEACHING

Our School of Geographical & Earth Sciences offers programmes that contribute to SDG 6. These include our Sustainable Water Environments MSc, which equips students with an interdisciplinary and global perspective on different surface water environments, incorporating issues such as climate and land use change, flood risk, restoration, ecosystem health, and associated management perspectives. Our MSc in Environmental Futures: Sustainable Solutions also incorporates recent advances in ecology and the restoration of river, coastal and lake environments, and teaching includes case studies of managing, protecting and restoring water systems.

UNIVERSITY OPERATIONS

The COVID-19 pandemic has underlined the importance of clean water due to the need for frequent handwashing and maintaining good personal hygiene. The University currently provides access to fresh drinking water stations on campus, freely available for staff, students and visitors. All water equipment is regularly checked as part of the University’s General Risk Assessment of activity on campus, to ensure they are fully functional before use. Our Safety & Environmental Protection Service has policies in place to ensure that any potentially hazardous biological and chemical waste generated through our activities is correctly disposed of so that we uphold high water-quality standards.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

The University works closely with Scottish Water to help seek solutions to some of the world’s most pressing issues, including clean water and sanitation, sustainable management of the environment, and extracting energy and resources from waste. Academics at our James Watt School of Engineering are currently working on a joint project with Scottish Water on the implementation of ecological models and the development of tools for the effective design and management of biofiltration systems for sustainable water supply to rural communities.

The University works closely with Scottish Water to help seek solutions to some of the world’s most pressing issues, including clean water and sanitation, sustainable management of the environment, and extracting energy and resources from waste.
As part of our £1 billion investment into our Campus Development programme, we are ensuring that all of our new buildings are built in accordance with sustainable construction principles in order to minimise energy consumption and carbon emissions. This forms part of our wider efforts to reduce carbon emissions, as set out in our Energy Strategy, which includes actions on improving energy efficiency in our buildings and making increased use of renewable energy sources, such as water and air source heat pumps and solar panels. Our Glasgow Green strategy, launched in 2020, details our response to the climate emergency and includes a target for net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. In October 2014, we became the first university in the UK to commit to fully disinvesting from fossil fuel industry companies.

In the run-up to the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) in November 2021, which the city of Glasgow hosted, we partnered with Scottish Power and the University of Strathclyde to run a series of Connect with Climate Change events. These events offered a platform for academics, students, public and businesses to engage, share ideas and views on a range of climate change topics. We are also part of a consortium of 13 institutions involved in a ground-breaking project to look at how best to engage citizens on sustainability and the climate emergency. The project aims to share new knowledge and motivate the broadest possible population of “energy citizens” to help the EU fulfil its promise of a just and inclusive decarbonisation pathway.

Our researchers are exploring the cultural aspects of cooking practices in Bangladesh and Malawi that underpin the interrelated topics of sustainable cooking, clean energy, air pollution, health and wellbeing, and to ultimately contribute to reducing the household energy access gap.

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
interventions can be targeted to them.
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affected by physical and mental health conditions
driving factors of employment retention for those
Dr Pattaro’s research aims to understand the
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One of the School’s academics, Professor Alan McGregor, is also a leading
academic on the Scottish labour market and is a
specialist adviser to the Scottish Government on
Employability.
Our Urban Studies research was ranked joint 1st in the UK in REF 2014 in recognition of its
innovative, interdisciplinary research. Dr Serena Pattaro from the Urban Studies department is
currently leading a piece of research for the
Scottish Centre for Administrative Data Research, a
consortium of government, academic
institutions and other organisations, which seeks
to analyse public sector data for the public good. Dr Pattaro’s research aims to understand the
driving factors of employment retention for those
affected by physical and mental health conditions
in Scotland in order that appropriate health interventions can be targeted to them.

LEARNING AND TEACHING
Our students are learning about inclusive and
sustainable economic growth at our world-leading Adam Smith Business School.

LEARNING AND TEACHING
Our students are learning about inclusive and
sustainable economic growth at our world-leading Adam Smith Business School, which
offers a range of undergraduate, postgraduate
taught and research courses in subjects
such as accountancy, finance, economics,
management, and financial technology. Two of
our leading academic economists, Professor
Alan McGregor and Professor Graeme Roy,
jointly deliver CPD courses on Local Economic Development and Inclusive Growth to
employees of public, private and third sector
organisations in Scotland.

UNIVERSITY OPERATIONS
As a major anchor institution of the metropolitan
economy, the University of Glasgow is the
third-largest employer in Glasgow after the
NHS and the City Council, employing over
9,000 people. As a major employer, we have
a role to play in leading the way on new and
fair ways of working: we are proud to be an
Accredited Living Wage employer, committed
to equality and diversity in the workplace, and
closely monitor staff pay scales for gender,
equality and disability pay gaps. We recognise
that we have a significant economic footprint,
and have measures in place to ensure that
our expenditure helps to maximise economic
gains by supporting jobs and economic
growth. Through our procurement procedures,
we proactively engage with contractors and
potential contractors to encourage them to also
pay the Living Wage to people working on our
premises.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT
Universities are fundamental in supporting the
future economic and social prosperity of the
city and in supporting civic partners and
businesses to “build back better”. Universities
don’t just deliver teaching, learning and
research – they are also major drivers of, and
contributors to, inclusive economic and social
development. The University’s Principal and
Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir Anton Muscatelli,
is committed to supporting the city’s economic
and social prosperity, chairing its Commission for Economic Growth (established in 2016) and
fulfilling advisory roles on economic growth
and productivity at Scottish and UK level.
The University also participates in the city’s
Sustainable Glasgow initiative and we are
committed to delivering our own Glasgow Green
strategy to achieve our bold ambitions towards
net zero.
The University is also a key player in the city’s
ambitious plans for the regeneration of the
Clyde and a key partner in the development of
a Glasgow Riverside Innovation District (GRID). GRID is helping to transform some of the most
deprived areas in Scotland through an inclusive
approach to innovation, by engaging with local
communities traditionally under-represented in
trepreneurial and innovation activities, to help
develop a community-centred innovation district
strategy.

The University participates in the
city’s Sustainable Glasgow initiative
and we are committed to delivering our
own Glasgow Green strategy
to achieve our bold ambitions
towards net zero.
Our research is helping to establish Glasgow, Scotland and the UK as leaders in several key sectors for the economy, from life sciences and precision medicine to quantum technology, 5G and digital innovations.

The University was recently awarded £38 million from UK Research and Innovation’s flagship Strength in Places Fund to create the Precision Medicine Living Lab. The award will enable the creation of a global centre of excellence for precision medicine, building on the existing world-leading ecosystem already in place.

The Living Lab project will establish a new life sciences cluster around the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital and offer growing space and support infrastructure for the development of precision medicine-based health innovations so they can go from lab to health service. The Living Lab will help to support companies to develop and commercialise as well as to encourage business start-ups while offering the NHS substantial savings.

As well as contributing to innovation by attracting investment, we have developed partnerships with Scottish businesses to engage in knowledge transfer between industry and academia, using research insights to help businesses access new markets, develop new processes, products and services, and improve their growth prospects. A key example of this is Project Mobius, which is a collaboration between academics from our Centre for the Study of Perceptual Experience in the College of Arts and Glasgow-based Sublime to build a higher education virtual reality (VR) platform. The project has been awarded funding of £1 million by Innovate UK.

Learning and Teaching

We run several courses that equip students to contribute to delivering inclusive, sustainable, and resilient infrastructure and innovation. Our students are helping to build Glasgow and Scotland’s reputation for excellence in the field of precision medicine through our postgraduate programme on Precision Medicine & Pharmacological Innovation, which is being developed in conjunction with the industrial partners of the Stratified Medicine Scotland Innovation Centre (SMS-IC). Our triple-accredited Adam Smith Business School offers programmes in entrepreneurship, innovation, and business development, and our Erasmus Mundus Master in Global Markets, Local Creativities provides students with perspectives on the globalised economy, focusing particularly on creative and cultural economies and industries, urban ecosystems that foster entrepreneurship, creativity, innovation, and business cultures. Our postgraduate research programme in Infrastructure & Environment is underpinned by our engineering research. The Smart Infrastructure research group’s efforts are directed towards meeting the needs of local and global communities via the development of new materials and systems for the next generation of infrastructure applications that promote environmental protection and advance ecological responsibility in the built environment.

University Operations

The University’s Research & Innovation Services directorate has responsibility for implementing the University’s research and knowledge exchange strategies and supporting delivery of research, knowledge exchange and commercialisation objectives. Through its business and innovation services, the University helps connect researchers with industry, supports staff and student start-ups, and provides access to its high-technology facilities.

The University is currently investing £1 billion to develop its campus, providing the University community and Glasgow’s residents with world-class facilities and civic spaces. The development plans include the creation of an innovation zone, which will enable local start-up and scale-up businesses, University staff and students, as well as those seeking to develop their skills and networks, to interact and collaborate. This will be supported by a programme of intra- and entrepreneurship training and development, which will help to strengthen capabilities and innovative capacity within the region.

Civic Engagement

One particularly important example of our contribution to SDG 9 is the development of the Glasgow Riverside Innovation District (GRID). Dialogue between the University and key partners about how to advance further collaboration around Glasgow’s science and innovation audit and maximise the benefits of the University’s £1 billion Campus Development and the £1.13 billion Glasgow City Region city deal, concluded that a supportive ecosystem was needed to encourage innovation, together with a commitment to addressing the inclusive growth challenges that the city faces. The agreed programme of coordinated action led by the University takes advantage of the opportunities that infrastructure investment along the Clyde and the new Govan-Partick bridge made possible and the leading-edge imaging, precision medicine and quantum technologies science base being developed in and around the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital in Govan, one of the most deprived areas in Scotland. A hallmark of GRID is engagement with the communities living nearby, ensuring that their priorities have been factored in and that residents benefit directly from investments in their area.
the severity of the disease. The study found a link between economic disadvantage and health inequalities. Researchers from the University partnered with colleagues from the University of Edinburgh to conduct a nationwide study to investigate the health impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in exacerbating inequalities. The research highlighted the particularly unequal impact of cuts to local government budgets, as people living in poorer communities tend to rely more on services delivered by local government to provide for their basic needs. The research also led to the creation of a Social Impact Tool that is available for anyone to use. The tool allows councils to assess the distributional impact of cuts in the wake of the global financial crisis.

Economic inequalities

Academics within our Urban Studies department have conducted research and developed tools to help national and local government understand the distributional impact of cuts in the wake of the global financial crisis. The research highlighted the particularly unequal impact of cuts to local government budgets, as people living in poorer communities tend to rely more on services delivered by local government to provide for their basic needs. The research also led to the creation of a Social Impact Tool that is available for anyone to use. The tool allows councils to assess the distributional impact of their savings plans by revealing which services are used by certain groups more frequently and with greater intensity.

Health inequalities

Our academics have also been at the forefront of researching the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in exacerbating inequalities. Researchers from the University partnered with colleagues from the University of Edinburgh on a nationwide study to investigate the link between economic disadvantage and the severity of the disease. The study found that patients from the most economically disadvantaged areas had a higher chance of critical care admission, and that intensive care units within these areas were more likely to be over capacity. Similar research is also being carried out in partnership with a number of developing countries to address the negative impacts of COVID-19 on communities worldwide, which are already vulnerable due to issues such as long-term conflict, food and water shortages, and crowded living conditions.

International inequalities

As well as focusing on some of the health and social inequalities that particularly affect the Glasgow City Region, the University’s research has a strong international reputation and reach and has influenced international policy. Researchers at the University produced an IMF working paper that considered how to optimally adjust macroeconomic policy for developing countries when faced with highly volatile external resources. The research fed into real-time policy analysis on infrastructure investment programmes, underpinning IMF recommendations adopted by the Botswana government.

The study of health inequalities forms a core part of several programmes delivered by the College of Medical, Veterinary & Life Sciences. Our postgraduate programme in Global Health allows students to examine health issues that arise for different population groups and across national boundaries, including the social and cultural constructions of health, chronic illness and disability, and global and national health policies.

We are committed to ensuring that the University is accessible to people from a wide range of backgrounds and circumstances. We have awarded more than 50 scholarship schemes to 1,268 new entry students from more than 90 countries and regions.
Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

OUR RESEARCH

The Glasgow Centre for International Development leads a number of research programmes on sustainable cities. One example is the Centre for Sustainable, Healthy and Learning Cities and Neighbourhoods, for which the University is the lead partner. This £7.1 million four-year programme of research explores urban neighbourhoods to address the challenges caused by large-scale rural to urban migration and brings together researchers, policymakers and local partners in South Africa, India, Bangladesh, Philippines, China, Tanzania and Rwanda.

Our Urban Studies department is a world-leading centre for innovative, interdisciplinary urban research, spanning all aspects of social, economic and physical change in cities and creating significant impact. The University’s Urban Big Data Centre promotes the use of big data and innovative research methods to improve social, economic and environmental wellbeing in cities, and works closely with government, industry and third sector partners.

We are also helping to record and preserve cultural heritage. Our academics have played a key role in the excavation of the Govan Stones, conducting research into the stones’ importance, and carrying out public and community engagement to elevate the local appreciation of the cultural heritage significance of the Govan Stones.

LEARNING AND TEACHING

Our students are learning how to make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. For example, our Erasmus Mundus Master in International Law of Global Security, Peace and Development provides training on the ability to navigate the political context of international law and the issues of global security, peace and development. Our world-leading Urban Studies department also provides courses that examine social, environmental, economic and physical change in cities, with particular focus on sustainable housing and transport development in cities.

We are also a member of the International Green Academy, a coalition of academic and community partners from the University of Glasgow, the University of Leeds, the University of Arizona, and high schools across the same regions. The Academy aims to promote ecological justice, connect Glasgow students to their local environment, and encourage an awareness of urban environmental justice, sustainability, and food autonomy.

UNIVERSITY OPERATIONS

We have implemented policies to ensure that our activities are sustainable. For example, we have produced guidance on sustainable business travel for staff and postgraduate researchers and have implemented a Strategic Transport and Travel Plan. The plan aims to identify and eliminate unnecessary travel and reduce the impact of transport generated by the University on the rest of the community, and contains targets on cutting carbon emissions from business travel and promoting other travel options, such as cycling or walking. A further way in which we’re doing this is by promoting flexible and remote working to reduce the need for commuting and cut carbon emissions.

As our Campus Development programme progresses, the University recognises that this offers a unique opportunity to create a sense of place through the development of new civic spaces that will bring together the University and the West End community. Sustainability and environmental considerations are at the heart of the development, and our approach to sustainable construction will ensure that new buildings are delivered to the highest standard, with designs based on established methods of sustainable construction in order to minimise energy consumption and carbon emissions.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

The Hunterian, which comprises a museum and art gallery, is Scotland’s oldest public museum and has been recognised as a collection of national significance. The Hunterian provides free access to members of the public, and self-guided tours of our iconic Gilmorehill campus are also free for anyone to enjoy. The University also worked with partners Glasgow Life and the National Library of Scotland to redevelop Kelvin Hall, a much-loved and iconic building in Glasgow’s West End. This has created an unparalleled, multi-use space, combining a museum, gallery, tourist centre and learning space in one location. It is a pioneering development as the first higher education, city and national institution shared space.

In an effort to make our city more sustainable, we are working alongside Glasgow City Council and other local partners to help reduce the carbon emissions of Glasgow’s tenement buildings. The funding provided for the project is the first outcome of the Memorandum of Understanding agreed between Glasgow City Council and the academic institutions in the city, which seeks to advance shared priorities and use academic expertise to inform public policy in Glasgow.

Building on this collaborative approach, the University also recently proposed an initiative to tackle homelessness in the community. Whilst still in its initial phases, the intention is to mobilise the resources of the University in the widest sense to make a positive impact in this area, drawing on our academic expertise, our strong links with the City Council and other stakeholders, the energy of members of our community and our physical and financial resources over an extended period.
OUR RESEARCH
Our research explores many different aspects of sustainable consumption and production. Our Centre for Sustainable Solutions was established in 2020, and one of its core aims is to enable the University to lead and be part of the current global movement calling for sustainable solutions across all sectors. Our academics work with national and local governments, businesses and third sector organisations to help deliver upon this aim, using their research expertise to advise on energy efficiency in manufacturing, retrofitting housing to reduce carbon emissions, and sustainable construction.

Our College of Social Sciences is leading research on sustainability in a transdisciplinary approach, considering socio-political and ecological issues by working closely with partners in government, NGOs and directly with communities in the UK and elsewhere in the world. Through the Urban Big Data Centre and Glasgow Centre for Population Health, both of which are aligned with the College, our academics and practitioners are contributing to research on active travel and transport planning, which helps to improve communities’ health and wellbeing, reduce air pollution, and mitigate further effects of climate change.

Academics within the College’s Adam Smith Business School are also leading research on sustainability, covering areas such as food, energy efficiency in manufacturing, retrofitting housing to reduce carbon emissions, and sustainable construction.

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Our Centre for Sustainable Solutions was established in 2020, and one of its core aims is to enable the University to lead and be part of the current global movement calling for sustainable solutions across all sectors. Our academics work with national and local governments, businesses and third sector organisations to help deliver upon this aim, using their research expertise to advise on energy efficiency in manufacturing, retrofitting housing to reduce carbon emissions, and sustainable construction.

The University is part of the Sustainable Futures in Africa Network, an interdisciplinary collective of researchers, administrators, educators, development workers, farmers, and artists. The network aims to build understanding, research, and practice in socio-ecological sustainability in Africa.

LEARNING AND TEACHING
We are teaching our students about the global responsibility to better manage our shared natural resources, and the associated issues, challenges, and potential solutions. We run several postgraduate programmes focused on sustainability, including Environment & Sustainable Development, which equips students with the tools to contribute to a range of environmental management problems, with a particular focus on developing countries; Food Security, which focuses on sustainable agriculture; Sustainable Energy, which addresses all the key aspects of sustainable energy, from the most advanced technologies through to ethical and economic considerations; and numerous programmes on sustainable tourism offered at our Dumfries Campus. Our Centre for Sustainable Solutions coordinates and offers a range of courses and events for individuals, communities and organisations to act towards a sustainable future through education, research and partnership.

UNIVERSITY OPERATIONS
We have various sustainability strategies, policies and action plans in place, covering areas such as sustainable travel, food, procurement, construction, waste and recycling. Our Glasgow Green strategy outlines a number of initiatives that we’re taking forward to help reduce waste and contribute to the wider sustainability agenda, including phasing out single-use plastics from our catering operations by December 2021, promoting active travel and enabling staff and students to use environmentally friendly transport methods, and installing freely available water fountains in all our main buildings. Glasgow was the second university in Scotland to achieve Fairtrade status, and Fairtrade foods are available for sale in all campus shops and used in all cafes, restaurants and bars on campus. Our Catering and Events team holds several other food accreditations and promotes sustainable alternatives for students and staff. Our approach to waste minimisation and sustainability extends to our suppliers through our Sustainable Procurement policy.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT
We are a signatory to the SDG Accord and organising events that promote open discussion around issues of environmentalism and sustainability. A further example of this is the role that academics from the Adam Smith Business School have played in supporting and developing the sustainability of the Community Food Hub within the Baltic Street Adventure Playground in Dalmarnock. Feeding the children who attend the playground has become a core aspect of supporting local families. Fresh produce is grown in the community garden space, tended by the children, with the help of community growers.

Glasgow is the second university in Scotland to achieve Fairtrade status, and Fairtrade foods are available for sale in all campus shops and used in all cafes, restaurants and bars on campus.
Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

OUR RESEARCH

We offer a number of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes on climate change and sustainability. All students are able to enrol on the Introduction to Climate Change and Sustainability course, which was designed by students aligned with the University’s Green New Deal movement, together with support from the Centre for Sustainable Solutions.

The Centre for Sustainable Solutions also offers various courses and events that are accessible to anyone with an interest in tackling climate change. We run two microcredentials: one on Climate Change & Carbon Literacy, which equips learners with the key skills needed to implement sustainability practices within their organisation, community or household; and another on Systems Thinking: Climate Change & Sustainable Decision Making, which aims to empower participants to create solutions for a sustainable future by shifting their mindset away from looking at individual, siloed components of a system towards an understanding of how these components interrelate. Applications for these courses are open to all, and a number of SFC-funded places are available to Scottish residents, enabling them to undertake the course for free.

LEARNING AND TEACHING

The University has shown sectoral leadership in the efforts to tackle climate change. In 2014 we became the first UK university to declare that it would divest from fossil fuels within a decade, and in 2019 we were the first university in Scotland to declare a climate emergency. Our commitment to tackling the climate emergency is enshrined in our Glasgow Green strategy, in which we pledge to go ‘further and faster’ in our response with a raft of new commitments, including a target for net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. Emissions across our campuses have already fallen by more than 13% from 2015–16 levels to 60,358 carbon dioxide equivalents, or tCO2e, in 2018–19. The report identifies a series of actions, including energy efficiency improvements, water source heat pump and solar panel installation, and a reduction in business travel, to further reduce our footprint to 32,000 tCO2e by 2035. To reach our target of carbon neutrality by 2030, we will make new efforts in carbon offsetting to help push net emissions to zero.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

One of the key enablers of the Glasgow Green strategy is ‘Building resilience through partnerships’, recognising the need to work with other universities and national bodies responsible for the environment to raise awareness of the climate emergency, support natural initiatives and ensure that offsetting is taken forward in a responsible, impactful way.

UNIVERSITY OPERATIONS

The University is also a key player in the wider community. We are part of several networks and initiatives, including COP26 Universities Network, Climate Ready Clyde and Sustainable Glasgow. Our partnerships within the region are especially important, given that the city of Glasgow was host to the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26), and we are playing an active role in helping the city achieve its aim of making Glasgow one of the most sustainable places in Europe. As part of COP26, we hosted various events, lectures, exhibitions and roundtables, to help raise awareness and promote discussion of the conference’s aims within the community. The University’s student-led Green New Deal movement also organises a number of events that are open to all staff and students, including monthly drop-in sessions with the Centre for Sustainable Solutions.

In 2020 the University’s Policy Scotland unit and Centre for Sustainable Solutions worked with Glasgow City Council to organise a series of Green Recovery Dialogues, which were focused on ensuring that Glasgow’s recovery from COVID-19 is sensitive to environmental and social concerns. The dialogues involved a full range of experts and senior leaders from academic, public, private and third sector organisations, ensuring that civic society was effectively represented.

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
The University has a wide range of expertise in the marine sciences and sustainability of aquatic ecosystems across our Colleges. Our Institute of Biodiversity, Animal Health & Comparative Medicine has strong links with many other research organisations within Scotland, including Marine Scotland and the Marine Alliance for Science and Technology for Scotland, and further afield. Academics from the University are leading on the Dynamic Coast project, a pioneering coastal assessment project funded by the Scottish Government. The world’s rising sea levels are expected to put up to one billion people living in low-lying coastal regions at risk by 2050. Scotland is particularly affected by this, as it has a lot of coastline and one in five people live within 1km of the sea; almost one fifth of this is “erodible” in the form of beaches, dunes and salt marshes. The research has had a major impact on informing Scottish Government policy around coastal flood and erosion management and climate change risk, and the research findings and interactive maps are being used to develop the development of SDG monitoring and planning – globally and regionally, as well as in country contexts.

Our postgraduate programme in Sustainable Water Environments provides students with multidisciplinary knowledge and expertise in river catchment, lake and coastal environments, including climate and land use change, flood risk, restoration, ecosystem health, and associated management perspectives.

The University also offers a number of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes focusing on the protection and sustainability of aquatic ecosystems. Our undergraduate programme in Marine & Freshwater Biology focuses on the study of the world’s aquatic environments, and students cover a wide range of topics, including aquatic environments, conservation and environmental management of aquatic pollution. The course involves frequent visits to hatcheries, fish farms and aquaculture projects, and students have the option to complete an additional year to gain an MSc, in which they carry out research in industry, or at a research institute in the UK or overseas.

Our postgraduate programme in Sustainable Water Environments provides students with multidisciplinary knowledge and expertise in river catchment, lake and coastal environments, with a focus on the impact of, and adaptation to, changing environments. The programme is designed to enable students to develop an in-depth and critical understanding of contemporary global issues in surface water environments, including climate and land use change, flood risk, restoration, ecosystem health, and associated management perspectives.

Our Glasgow Green strategy commits us to phasing out single-use plastics from our catering operations by the end of 2021, helping to minimise the risk posed to marine species by plastics. Our Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan for non-hazardous waste aims to help us ensure that any waste generated is collected, sorted and recycled. Our Safety & Environmental Protection Service provides guidance on the disposal of potentially hazardous biological and chemical waste to ensure that we uphold water quality standards.

Conserving and sustainably using the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Our Research
The University is part of the COP26 Universities Network and several of our researchers have contributed their expertise to a recent briefing paper produced by the network, which considers how nature-based solutions could help nations mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change. The paper states that as societies face the triple challenge of enhancing human wellbeing, avoiding dangerous climate change and protecting remaining biodiversity, solutions need to be designed that simultaneously address each of these problems and end siloed thinking. Examples of possible solutions include tree planting to sequester atmospheric carbon, restoring coastal habitats to mitigate floods, sustainable management of working landscapes, such as agricultural land, and the creation of novel habitats.

Academics from our School of Interdisciplinary Studies are leading on research as part of the Luanhe Living Lab project, investigating the use of river basins, specifically the Luanhe River Basin in China, as ‘living laboratories’ for achieving SDGs across national and sub-national scales. As part of the research, academics explored four scenarios of land use change – Trend, Expansion, Sustainability, and Conservation – to explore the effect that changes might have in the river basin by 2030. The scenarios were designed based on different socio-economic development and environmental protection targets, local plans and policies, and the information from a stakeholders’ workshop. A key finding was that unless the forest areas and biodiversity conservation targets are implemented (Conservation scenario), the forest areas are projected to decrease under the other three scenarios. The results indicate that implementing future ecological restoration projects and protection policies could be an important strategy for maximising the synergy of SDGs 6, 11, 13 and 15, but could potentially hinder the achievement of SDG 2.

Our College of Arts is also involved in research to develop new tools and approaches that will help trees and woodlands adapt to climate change and enable the UK to reach net-zero greenhouse emissions. The research will also improve public understanding of the value of trees to people and the planet, and support the expansion of treescapes across the UK.

Learning and Teaching
Our Institute of Biodiversity, Animal Health and Comparative Medicine offers several programmes that contribute to SDG 15. Two key examples are the postgraduate programmes in Quantitative Methods in Biodiversity, Conservation & Epidemiology, which teaches students how to use and analyse quantitative ecological and epidemiological data that is critical for monitoring biodiversity, conservation and animal health; and Conservation Management of African Ecosystems, which aims to support the development of national conservation research and policy that is knowledge-based and built on cutting-edge methods and analysis. The programme has the option of working closely with our African partners, in particular the Nelson Mandela African Institution for Science and Technology in Arusha, Tanzania.

Civic Engagement
We are part of the International Green Academy, an international coalition of universities, community organisations and schools within Glasgow, Leeds and Arizona. The Academy works with students, often those from more disadvantaged backgrounds, to teach them key skills to allow them to create urban green spaces and produce fresh food in their own school gardens. Crucial to the success of the gardens have been the Green Technicians, geography undergraduate volunteers who are working to empower the younger generation with knowledge and practical gardening skills, while at the same time gaining hands-on ecological experience in collaboration with pupils and staff.

Our Cochno Community Garden (CCG) is based at the University-owned Cochno Farm estate, which encompasses 850 acres of pasture and woodland situated six miles from Glasgow city centre. The CCG provides a space to grow fruit and vegetables; a place for outdoor play; and acts as a source of understanding of nature and the natural environment. The garden is open for University students, staff members and their families to get involved. We also have a Wildlife Garden at our Gilmorehill campus, and their families to get involved. We also have a Wildlife Garden at our Gilmorehill campus, and a Wildlife Garden at our Gilmorehill campus, and its managed by the Biodiversity branch of our student-led GUEST network. Students and staff have also produced the Species Stories project, which seeks to tell the past, present, and future stories of some of the plant and animal life that exists on our campus.
**Our Research**

Our highly regarded School of Law was ranked 33rd in the 2022 Times Higher Education World University Rankings by subject, scoring particularly well on its research. The School’s staff and students work together on a diverse range of research themes, including commercial and competition law, corporate and financial law, criminal law and criminal justice, family law, intellectual property, and international law.

The School’s research in the theme of international law aims to have an impact on law-making, implementation and enforcement and on the wider administration of justice within the international society. Academics from the School are also engaged in research to help advise governments, including a project funded by the Scottish Government that examined various aspects of the way in which juries reach their decisions in criminal trials and how to ensure that safeguards against wrongful conviction are maintained. This influenced Government actions on reforming Scots law with regard to the requirement for corroboration, requiring two sources of evidence in support of every “crucial fact” in a criminal trial, and ensuring safeguards are maintained.

**Learning and Teaching**

We offer a number of law programmes that support SDG 16, as well as programmes in criminal justice, international relations, human rights, global security, slavery and forced migration. Our Erasmus Mundus Master in International Law of Global Security, Peace and Development offers a uniquely comprehensive degree, bringing together all international legal regimes relevant to global security, peace and development, by incorporating specialists in human rights, migration, peace and security, and sustainable development.

**University Operations**

Our governing body, the University Court, has elected representation drawn from the academic, professional services and student community. We are also committed to engaging with the public and local community and working in the wider interest of Glasgow and Scotland through our Civic Strategy & Delivery Board. The University has policies in place on anti-bribery and corruption, socially responsible investment, and freedom of speech. Our procurement policy also ensures that those in our supply chain fulfil their social and ethical responsibilities, including identifying modern slavery risks.

**Civic Engagement**

Our long-standing reputation for excellence in the field of economics means that the expertise of our staff is frequently sought out by local and national government. Our academics sit on Glasgow City Council’s Glasgow Economic Recovery Group, the Glasgow City Region Deal’s Commission for Economic Growth (chaired by the University’s Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir Anton Muscatelli), the Scottish Government’s Economic Advisory Council and Enterprise and Skills Strategic Board. This expertise has been particularly important as the Glasgow City Region and Scotland plan for a more sustainable and inclusive post-COVID economic recovery.

Our research has also played a key role in trying to mitigate some of the health and educational impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. At the onset of the pandemic, the University dedicated space at its campus at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital to became one of the first (and Scotland’s only) Lighthouse laboratories, dedicated to mass-testing samples for COVID-19. The rapid creation of the facility, which was set up within weeks, was facilitated by the expertise of partners from the University, industry and the NHS co-located within the University’s Clinical Innovation Zone. The University has also played a key role in contributing scientific research for the newly formed ‘Coronavirus: The Science Explained’ website, launched by UK Research & Innovation. The website provides authoritative scientific information available on the pandemic, providing public access to up-to-date scientific information on the evidence and facts about the virus and its control.
Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development

OUR RESEARCH
The Glasgow Centre for International Development addresses global challenges through world-class research and knowledge exchange relating to societal and environmental impact. Our strength in this area comes from our ability to successfully bridge our considerable expertise in diverse research areas to build highly effective multidisciplinary teams connected to a diverse network of international partners. Research topics that the centre’s staff collaborate on include global health, migration, conflict and sustainable peace, people and environments, water and sanitation, food security, and education and employment. Staff from the centre are part of the GCRF Centre for Sustainable, Healthy and Learning Cities and Neighbourhoods, an international consortium of nine research partners aiming to strengthen capacity to address urban, health and education challenges in neighbourhoods across fast-growing cities in Africa and Asia.

Partnership is also at the core of the Centre for Sustainable Solutions’ activities. Staff from the Centre are part of the Sustainable Futures in Africa Network, a long-standing and large network of scholars, artists, educators, NGOs and communities with a shared commitment to sustainability challenges as they manifest in very different ways across the world. Over the past five years, this network has supported over 100 members in capacity strengthening, training, research and development through genuine ethical partnerships and friendships.

LEARNING AND TEACHING
The University’s Learning and Teaching Strategy, launched in 2021, committed us to explicitly position our teaching in relation to sustainability, civic engagement, global challenges, and the SDGs, using our leading research to inform course and programme development. With over 420 study abroad and exchange partners, our students also have myriad opportunities to experience living and learning in countries all over the world, fostering links and gaining an appreciation of how global challenges impact countries differently.

We offer a number of undergraduate, postgraduate taught and research programmes focusing on sustainability and have introduced a student-designed course, Introduction to Climate Change and Sustainability, which is open to all students across the University. Our Centre for Sustainable Solutions, which help launch the course, also runs courses and events that are open to anyone, helping to raise awareness of sustainability within the wider community.

UNIVERSITY OPERATIONS
The University is a signatory to the SDG Accord and our new Learning and Teaching Strategy sets out how we will integrate the SDGs into our educational activities. This is supported by the work of our Sustainability in Learning and Teaching Community of Practice, which seeks to be a hub of multidisciplinary connections that lead to learning and teaching collaboration for developing activities and practice. We are also an internationally connected university, collaborating with other institutions in order to develop our teaching and research. We have over 420 study abroad and exchange partners, strategic alliances with universities across the world, and are a founding member of Universitas 21 and the Guild of European Research Intensive Universities. We are also a member of the European University Alliance, CIVIS, where a consistent focus of collaborative activities centres on the SDGs. In 2020, we also signed a strategic Memorandum of Understanding with the African Research Universities Alliance. Our International Partnership Development Fund provides financial support to facilitate the development of sustainable and mutually beneficial international partnerships with education providers worldwide.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT
The University’s staff have direct involvement in national government and regional non-government organisations on challenges relevant to the SDGs. The Centre for Sustainable Solutions is building collaborative relationships between the University and partners across the city and country to respond to the climate emergency. An example of this is the Green Recovery Dialogues that the Centre jointly hosted, alongside Policy Scotland and Glasgow City Council, which sought to ensure that Glasgow’s recovery from COVID-19 has a social and environmental focus. We are also an active member of several local and national networks aiming to make a significant contribution to tackling climate change, including Climate Ready Clyde, Sustainable Glasgow, and the COP26 Universities Network.

Our Policy Scotland centre works to foster cooperation between academics, practitioners and policymakers. The centre’s staff focus on a variety of topics and challenges, including public health, education and policy reform, looking to stimulate discussion not just about Scotland but also the rest of the world. An example of this is the role that Policy Scotland is playing in the International Congress for School Effectiveness and Improvement (ICSEI); ICSEI comprises members from more than 50 countries who collaborate for enhanced quality, equity, and excellence in education. Policy Scotland’s director currently holds the presidency of ICSEI.
LOOKING AHEAD

This report is the first comprehensive annual publication by the University of Glasgow assessing our contribution to the delivery of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

As an international university rooted in our civic community, we are committed to understanding and measuring the impact of everything we do – locally, regionally, nationally and globally.

This report is complementary to our recently launched University strategy, World Changers Together: World Changing Glasgow 2025. Within our strategy we are proud to reaffirm our commitment to global connectedness and collaboration, whilst recognising the important role that our people and partners play in the University’s future success and our ability to deliver impact both here and around the world. We are a values-led organisation that appreciates the importance of fostering a culture of open cooperation, and the need to do so within a community of discovery that works collaboratively across academia and industry to address the greatest challenges of our time.

We have aimed to set the bar high in terms of our reporting and actions. Going forward, we will continue to focus on understanding how our activities make a tangible difference to society, and create inclusive economies through our world-class research, learning and operations.

This may be our first report, but we will continue to build and refine our understanding of the impact and contribution we make by seeking to make progress faster and further against the SDGs, year on year.

We have been changing the world since 1451 – and we’re just getting started.