Lancaster University unites a rich history of intellectual innovation with a responsive environment for cutting-edge research and education. Set in the historic city of Lancaster, we are on the edge of the beautiful Lake District National Park.
LANCASTER UNIVERSITY

The University was given its royal charter in 1964 and in just 50 years has become one of the top Universities in the world. We are consistently ranked in the UK top ten universities, notably higher than the majority of Russell Group universities.

In September 2017 Lancaster was named University of the Year 2018 by the Times and the Sunday Times.

"In the 19 years of our University of the Year awards, there has rarely been a more clear-cut winner."

Alastair McCall, Editor
The Sunday Times Good University Guide

Lancaster University’s research has a global reputation and was ranked 13th in the UK for its proportion of world-leading research in the most recent Research Excellence Framework. We are one of a small number of UK universities to combine excellence in research with the highest quality teaching, as indicated by a gold ranking in the UK’s Teaching Excellence Framework 2017.

Our attractive parkland campus is safe and welcoming, and offers a vibrant living and working environment. A collegiate university, all students are members of one of our nine colleges.

We provide award-winning facilities and in recent years have invested over £500 million in the campus buildings, facilities and infrastructure with a further £400 million planned over the next five years.

Our on-campus accommodation won Best University Halls in the 2017 National Student Housing Survey, an award we have won for seven out of the last eight years.
The Faculty is diverse, interdisciplinary and collaborative in ethos. Each of our nine departments has distinct strengths and individual reputations. Collectively they are part of a faculty that challenges established thinking, champions new ideas, works creatively across academic borders and actively responds to local and global challenges. We also host 25 research centres through which we are exploring and maximising the benefits of interdisciplinary research with management, the sciences, health and medicine, both within and beyond Lancaster.

As a Faculty, we are committed to educating the brightest students to the highest standards, generating knowledge that inspires and matters globally, engaging and influencing beyond the University. We encourage all members of our community to reach their highest potential.

Our commitment to connectivity, inquiry and transformation is part of the DNA of Lancaster, glimpses of which you will find in the following samples of our intellectual programme.

We hope you will identify areas of shared interest and collaborative possibilities and that this booklet will catalyse a conversation with you.

Professor Simon Guy
Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
A VIBRANT ARTS COMMUNITY

With close links to Lancaster Institute for the Contemporary Arts (LICA), Lancaster Arts is the University’s centre for the presentation, production and preservation of the contemporary arts.

It presents a rich and exciting programme of theatre and dance performances, exhibitions and concerts for the public, and supports opportunities for artists and creative approaches to knowledge exchange within public programmes. It also stewards a growing art collection, full and exciting programme of theatre and dance performances, exhibitions and concerts for the public.

Dating back to the 1970s, Lancaster University has a long heritage of presenting both cutting edge and mainstream artistic works, with performers as diverse as Pink Floyd, Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy and the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra. The past 5 years have seen concerts, talks and stagings from artists including Grayson Perry and PJ Harvey.

www.lancasterarts.org
The Faculty and its nine departments are closely connected to the local, regional, national and international environments they are situated in.

We use a collaborative approach to actively respond to the wider research and policy challenges that surround us, and use this to shape our research and teaching.

Our work is funded by research councils, The European Commission, charities, industry and government. We work collaboratively with stakeholders large and small, public and private, local and global.
A GLOBAL COMMUNITY

The Faculty is a highly diverse and cosmopolitan community, with staff and students from over 100 different countries, and our impact and influence extends right across the globe.

We have major teaching and research partnerships with institutions in North America, Europe, China, Malaysia and Ghana, including many of the world’s top ranking universities.
Academics from Creative Writing to Physics, Design to Languages, are researching, teaching and working with researchers, authors and artists worldwide. Together they are seeking to explore and share the wider application of this medium, and to use their interest and expertise in graphic fiction and comic art to benefit initiatives such as education and community projects.

In 2016 Tintin expert Professor Benoît Peeters took up a ground-breaking new post at Lancaster University and became the UK’s first Professor of Graphic Fiction and Comic Art. We are proud sponsors of the annual Lakes International Comic Art Festival in nearby Kendal, and as part of this partnership we also sponsor the position of UK Comics Laureate. Charlie Adlard, the artist behind zombie series The Walking Dead, took up the mantle of UK Comics Laureate in 2017.

Across Lancaster University academics in many different disciplines share an interest in images, comics, graphic novels and illustration and their transformative potential.

Comics Research Network ReOPeN is a research, outreach and pedagogy network that connects academics, authors and artists around the world. Together they research, write and engage with initiatives such as education and community projects through the medium of comics, graphic novels and illustration.

In a recent project, artist Joe Decie worked with two researchers at Lancaster University – Dr Emma Halliday (Health and Medicine) and Dr Natasa Lackovic (Educational Research) – to create a collective graphic memoir booklet about UK communities’ experiences and action, related to health inequalities.

“The power of comics to encourage learning and develop literacy shouldn’t be underestimated. Comics can connect with people who may never pick up a normal book and really help encourage a love of reading. I see this as a great opportunity to bring the wonders of comics to a wider audience.”

Charlie Adlard
UK Comics Laureate

www.lancaster.ac.uk/comic-art
LOCAL LANDSCAPE, POETRY AND THOUGHT

Situated on the southern edge of the English Lake District, Lancaster University is an established site for scholarly study of British 19th Century poetry and thought.

The Wordsworth Centre for the Study of Poetry, Co-directed by Professors Simon Bainbridge and Sally Bushell, aims to promote wider thinking around the poet and the Lake District.

The Ruskin Centre for Culture, Landscape and Environment, established in 2017, provides a platform for critical, reflective and cultural studies on the nature of human existence within environment, and the place of the landscape in artistic and cultural tradition.
ENGAGED EDUCATION

Digitally-mediated Education

The Department of Educational Research offers unique Distance Learning Masters and PhDs in Education, which are mainly undertaken online. The programmes are designed so that participants can study from home and enable issues, theories, methods and evaluations to be applied specifically to the particular concerns, contexts and priorities of the organisations and environments in which they are working.

The programmes build a mutually supportive spirit among a worldwide community of over 300 students, all of whom have overlapping professional and academic interests.

The Lancaster Law Clinic

Our Law Clinic allows students to apply their legal education to real-life cases, giving students the benefit of working on cases with real clients. Getting involved in the Law Clinic enables students to gain invaluable experience delivering legal advice to clients, developing their communication skills, practising interviewing, drafting advice and managing case files. The Law Clinic provides legal advice and information on a range of issues including family, employment, consumer, and tenancy issues. In addition, by working in partnership with North Lancashire Citizens Advice Bureau, we can provide legal advice to people from across Lancaster and Morecambe. A pop-up clinic moves around organisations within the community including a local food bank, a supported housing project, and a youth organisation. Feedback from both students and clients show that the Clinic is making a real difference. Clients can access free legal advice at a time when legal aid for most civil disputes has all but disappeared in the UK. The students understand the work of a lawyer and develop their interviewing, research and case-management skills.
The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences holds true to the University’s original mission to challenge established thinking and champion new ideas through high quality research and teaching.

We are a pluralistic research community that works in an interdisciplinary manner across the arts, humanities and social sciences, using diverse methodologies and theoretical approaches as part of a broad commitment to impactful critical inquiry.

We devise and employ a range of pedagogic approaches to create a research-led learning culture of exploration and inquiry among our students.
Ground-breaking work in digital humanities

Lancaster is home for a burgeoning community of researchers who apply digital methods to the study of human culture. Groundbreaking work has been led by Ian Gregory, Professor of Digital Humanities, who uses the latest technology to examine historical changes in the human geography of Britain and Ireland. Digital technology has also enabled radically new ways of looking at our literary past, allowing automated, large-scale analysis of vast bodies of text.

We have recently been awarded research funding to enable the creation of the first complete encyclopaedia of Shakespeare’s language, led by Professor Jonathan Culpeper. The encyclopaedia will be used by literary scholars, linguists, theatre professionals, historians, teachers all over the world to better understand how Shakespeare wrote, and his effect on our language today.

Using corpus techniques to enhance social science research

The Centre for Corpus Approaches to Social Science (CASS) brings the benefits of Corpus Linguistics – the computer-aided study of language use on a large scale – to areas of Social Science that include Criminology, International Relations, Geography, Psychology, Accounting and Finance, and, more recently, social scientific approaches to health(care) communication.

Research in CASS develops in interaction and collaboration with partners in industry, the public sector and charitable organisations. For example, the Centre’s work on hate speech has influenced Twitter’s decision to change its privacy rules in response to hate attacks. The Centre also offers training in the use of corpus linguistic tools to the Metropolitan Police and the National Health Service, as well as for over 25,000 participants worldwide in the Centre’s Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) in Corpus Linguistics.
Through a three-year funded project, staff from English Literature and Creative Writing are developing entirely original methods for mapping literary texts, generating visual landscapes from spatial references found in writing. The project brings together experts from a range of related subjects (history, geography, literature, archaeology) and a range of approaches to mapping texts (Corpus methods, GIS, Story Maps, 3D gaming) in order to break new ground in this area.

The products of the work will be shared with schools and libraries with help from The Wordsworth Trust and The British Library. Our spin-off educational project "Litcraft" uses the Minecraft platform to create scale maps of works such as Treasure Island, Kenzuke’s Kingdom and Lord of the Flies with linked educational resources. We are now in partnership with Minecraft.edu, with Litcraft Treasure Island as their flagship literature project.

This work has attracted media attention around the world, with Reuters making a short film about the project and articles appearing in The Guardian and on Yahoo News.

“We have created an educational model that connects the imaginative spatial experience of reading the text to an immersive experience in the game world.”

Professor Sally Bushell
Researchers within Sociology undertook a process of rapid evidence assessment to compile a report for the Independent Inquiry on Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA). The research, led by Professor Corinne May-Chahal, integrates findings from a wide range of studies exploring the nature and extent of the use of the internet and other digital communications technology to facilitate child sexual abuse. Published in 2017, the Lancaster report represents the current state of knowledge in this domain, laying out what is known now and a roadmap for future research.

The report highlights the need for children to develop digital skills to manage unwanted online experiences, and the importance of open and trusted avenues for children to report and discuss them. These findings connect with broader research themes explored within the department relating to the safeguarding of children in the context of rapidly-developing technologies and the social practices that emerge around them.
Complex global challenges characterised by interlocking problems and multiple factors can only be tackled by interdisciplinary work. At Lancaster we are committed to generating new forms of social, natural and design science to analyse and propose interventions within the interdependent systems implicated in these global challenges.

Working across academic borders we aim to bring together colleagues and activities located across departments and faculties, linking them with one another and external partners – both academic and non-academic. Our collective aim is to understand and engage with some of the world’s intractable problems.
ENVISIONING AND EXPLORING POSSIBLE FUTURES

The Institute for Social Futures, co-directed by Professors Linda Woodhead, Richard Harper and Rebecca Braun, explores methods of ‘anticipating futures’ such as utopian/dystopian imaginaries, scenarios, forecasts, and learning from history. Visualising futures can be an effective approach to addressing the grand challenges facing the world, and considering how new systems may be contingently embedded.

This requires collaboration, openness to unusual partnerships, and willingness to embrace new and visionary ways of working and thinking. These could include co-design and collaboration with groups, companies, NGOs, innovators, rural and city governments, and communities that in various ways are wrestling with the prospects and implications of multiple and contested futures.

Through the Institute we are strengthening links with leading institutes around the world to co-examine, analyse and intervene in concentrated areas of interdisciplinary endeavour such as mobility and diversity, health and wellbeing, education, and security futures.

Expertise for a changing world
Lancaster is home to the Richardson Institute, the oldest Peace Studies centre in the UK, established in 1959 in the spirit of the Quaker scientist, Lewis Fry Richardson. With particular relevance at this time, Institute staff play an active role in contemporary debate on politics, conflict and religion.

Lecturer Dr Simon Mabon has recently been appointed to the House of Lords International Relations Select Committee, drawing on his expertise in the political, economic and social change, taking place in the Middle East and beyond. He is considered the ‘go to’ expert on Syria, IS and the Middle East by many broadcast journalists both in the UK and overseas.
Co-design to connect with young people

Working with a team of young people in care, Lancaster researchers helped to co-design a collection of eight free, adaptable tools anyone can use to engage and work with young people. In collaboration with Child Action North West and Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council, the Leapfrog project employed a co-design approach led by young people and professionals who work with them every day.

By putting young people in the driving seat, the tools offer a new approach to engaging young people. They have given young people inspiring, creative ways to articulate their ideas, and more importantly the tools offer ways of working that fit with the way young people think and develop ideas. The tools have proved to be a great success, used over 1000 times in the first year, and winning the Youth on Board Innovation Award from the British Youth Council.

Research at the Boundaries

Launched in 2006, ImaginationLancaster is one of the most dynamic design research centres in the UK with an active research portfolio of over £15 million. The group of 22 academics and researchers undertake collaborative research in a wide variety of areas including urban living, game design, well-being, sustainability, policy and co-design. ImaginationLancaster’s research crosses traditional disciplinary boundaries, using design to take on some of the world’s most challenging problems that demand new understanding of people, products and places.
University of the Year 2018
The Times and The Sunday Times

Lancaster is distinctive in the UK as it is one of only a small number of universities that is recognised for excellence in both research and teaching. The growing reputation of Lancaster is reflected by its high rankings in each of the UK’s major university league tables;

8th in the Complete University Guide (2019)
9th in the Guardian University Guide (2019)

Our research has an excellent reputation, in particular Politics, Philosophy and Religion is ranked third overall for research and top in the UK for research impact in the most recent Research Excellence Framework. Sociology is ranked third for world-leading research and second for research impact, and English Language and Literature is ranked third for research power.

Lancaster University has been awarded Gold in the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) 2017, which reflects our success in offering our students a first class experience. All of Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences main subject areas are in the top 100 in the world according to the 2017-18 Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings.

Education #54
Arts and Humanities #55
Social Sciences #73
Law #82
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<th>Subject</th>
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## EXCELLENCE AND RECOGNITION

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<th>Research impact</th>
<th>Research environment</th>
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<td><strong>LAW</strong></td>
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<td><strong>EDUCATION</strong></td>
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<td><strong>ENGLISH LANGUAGE &amp; LITERATURE</strong></td>
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### Research outputs
- 4★ research is world-leading
- 3★ is internationally excellent
- 2★ internationally recognised
- 1★ nationally recognised

### Research impact
Each department's research was assessed for 'originality, significance and rigour', with reference to international research-quality standards.

### Research environment
An assessment of the vitality and sustainability of our research environment.

### Research outputs
This is an assessment of the 'reach and significance' of our research's impact on the economy, society and culture, as well as our approach to enabling impact from research.
We are open to exploring new connections and opportunities. We would welcome an email, a visit or a conversation with you.

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