Embedding social responsibility: a case study from Manchester

Professor Nalin Thakkar, Vice-President for Social Responsibility
1. Past
2. Purpose
3. People
4. Programmes
5. Performance
Past: social responsibility since 1824
1. World-class research
2. Outstanding learning and student experience
3. Social responsibility
Social responsibility is both...

- a set of values and a unifying theme
- a distinct orientation of practical and measurable activities in our university
Leadership

The University of Manchester

21 June 2010

New President and Vice-Chancellor for The University of Manchester

Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell has been appointed President and Vice-Chancellor of The University of Manchester.

Dame Nancy was selected following an international search which produced an impressive shortlist of candidates.

A distinguished Life Scientist, Dame Nancy has been a member of staff at the University since 1987 and Deputy President and Deputy Vice-Chancellor since 2007.

She will take-up her post on 1st July 2010 succeeding Professor Alan Gilbert, who is retiring after six years. Professor Gilbert was the inaugural President and Vice-Chancellor of The University of Manchester, which was established following the merger of the Victoria University of Manchester and UMIST.

Dame Nancy becomes the first woman to lead The University of Manchester or either of its two predecessor institutions.
Leadership

The University of Manchester

StaffNet

Senior Leadership Team Appointments

27 Jun 2019

Professor April McMahon to be Vice President for Teaching, Learning and Students and Professor Nalin Thakkar to be Vice-President for Social Responsibility.

The University is pleased to announce that after a competitive and international recruitment process from an exceptional field of candidates, we have appointed two highly talented and experienced leaders to join our Senior Leadership Team:
Social responsibility plan
We are committed to becoming a zero carbon university by 2038.

We are divesting from fossil fuel and other carbon-intensive investments.

We are an accredited Living Wage Employer.

Social Inclusion
As a global centre of research and teaching, and one of our city-region's largest employers, we're challenging the inequalities and prejudices that affect people's health, nationally and globally.

Widening Participation
We invest more than £1.5 million annually in financial support for students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Better Health
We're collaborating with the Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership, NHS trusts and Health Innovation Manchester to tackle local and global health challenges through research, teaching and social responsibility initiatives.

Global Partnerships
We're part of more than 50 healthcare partnerships in the Global South in pursuit of UN SDGs.

Emergency Response Register
We've created the UK International Emergency Trauma Registry and deployed medical experts during overseas disasters.

Environmental Sustainability
We're leading the way to a more sustainable world through research, teaching, operations and engagement, and activities in areas such as climate change, population growth, rapid urbanisation, overconsumption, food and water security, loss of biodiversity and pollution.

Decarbonisation
Our science has helped to create a pathway for Greater Manchester to reach a low-carbon status by 2038.

Renewable Energy
We lead the biggest research project into sustainable development of the world's dams.

Greater Inclusivity
We're investing in our Manchester Museum to create a more inclusive, caring and imaginative destination for all our visitors.

Cultural Engagement
Our unique cultural institutions – the Whitworth, the John Rylands Research Institute and Library, Manchester Museum and Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre – are engaging audiences through their diverse collections, events, exhibitions, partnerships and inspirational spaces.

Innovation Manchester
Our unique civic and academic collaboration to transform the health and wellbeing of Greater Manchester's 2.8 million citizens.

Plastic Pollution
We've eliminated more than 250,000 pieces of avoidable single-use plastic with more to come.

Carbon Literate Museum
Ours was the world's first museum to achieve a Carbon Literate Organisation Award for cultivating a low carbon culture.

Equity and Merit Programme
With support from our donors, we've helped more than 300 postgraduate students to lead on sustainable development in their own countries.

Humanitarian and Conflict Response
We partner with the KCG, Madeleine Sans Frontières and the British Red Cross in our humanitarian and conflict response work.

Green Campus
We've planted more than 300 trees on campus and launched an interactive tree trail.

Cultural Park Keeper
Our Whitworth gallery employs the UK's first Cultural Park Keeper, responsible for outdoor activities focused on wellbeing.
Purpose, Processes, People

**PURPOSE**

- **Institutional strategy:** embedding SR at all levels
- **Sustainable Development Goals:** addressing what the world wants and expects from universities
- **Civic Engagement:** addressing what our city-region wants and expects from us
- **Public engagement:** ensuring we support a culture of high-quality public engagement

**PROCESSES**

- Recognising and rewarding contributions to SR; focused programmes; evaluating what we do; joined-up thinking; communicating; learning; holding a mirror up to ourselves e.g. what we pay staff, where we invest money

**PEOPLE**

- Involving and engaging staff, students, alumni and external partners
Measure 1:
To perform in the top 2% of universities globally in the THE Impact Ranking for performance in meeting the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Measure 2:
To perform in the highest top decile in the UKRI/Research England’s Knowledge Exchange Framework segment for Public and Community Engagement
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>2019 (450 entrants, 76 countries)</th>
<th>2020 (768 entrants, 85 countries)</th>
<th>2021 (1,240 entrants, 98 countries)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Uni of Auckland, NZ</td>
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<td>UNI OF MANCHESTER, UK</td>
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<td>2</td>
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Measure 2: KEF public engagement

- Public and community engagement: top 10%
- Research partnerships: top 10%
- IP and commercialisation: top 30%
- Local growth and regeneration: top 50%
- Working with business: top 20%
- Working with the public and third sector: top 20%
- Skills, enterprise and entrepreneurship: top 40%
Seven lessons from embedding social responsibility

1. The power of strategy
2. Importance of Academic leadership
3. Importance of Professional leadership
4. Taking an ‘outside in’ approach
5. Holding up a mirror to ourselves
6. The power in our place
7. The power of partnership
‘Not about what are we good at but what are we good for’
Get in touch

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