

# Invest in UK R&D

Universities and health  
and life sciences  
in the Midlands



**Prospectus**



**GREAT**  
BRITAIN & NORTHERN IRELAND

# Contents

<b>Forge the future of health and life sciences with universities in the Midlands</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>World-leading health and life science sectors in the Midlands</b>	<b>12</b>
Biological sciences	16
Health and social care	18
Medical technology	22
<b>Enablers of research and development in life sciences</b>	<b>24</b>
Materials	26
Sport	28
<b>Invest in a partnership with Midlands universities</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Directory of significant health and life sciences R&amp;D assets across the Midlands and its universities</b>	<b>40</b>
Sectors	44
Enablers	64
<b>Work with us</b>	<b>68</b>
Our universities	70
Directory of contacts across the Midlands	71
Science Park Contacts	72
Investment support across the Midlands	74
UK Investment Support	76

**Forge the future of health and life sciences with universities in the Midlands**

## The Midlands is home to one of the greatest health and life science clusters in the world. For over a century, the Midlands has housed world-leading capabilities in health, medical technologies and life sciences.

Our region hosts the largest cluster of MedTech companies in the UK, delivering over 33,000 highly skilled jobs. There are eight medical schools, training over 20% of the UK's medical students.

It is innovation provided by the universities, hospitals, companies and cities of the Midlands that will ensure our region continues to lead the way to a healthier population and a flourishing life science sector.

Through their world-class facilities, research expertise, invention and talent universities across the Midlands are a global driving force in the development of life sciences.

Together, they offer a unique opportunity for international companies to invest in research **translation, innovation, co-location** and **integration** into an internationally competitive talent pool and extensive regional supply-chain across key life science sectors. International businesses can also take advantage of the UK's extensive package of incentives and financial support for R&D investors, and the large and diverse population makes for an ideal opportunity to test innovations with representative group.

## Redefining how universities and industry work together.

Through co-location, joint research and technology demonstrators, Midlands universities are redefining how academia works in partnership with industry and health professionals.

Across rehabilitation, health technology, medical technologies, manufacturing and R&D, the region has world-class clinical and academic capabilities coupled with well-established, highly productive, high-innovation enterprises.

The universities of the Midlands provide the foundation for one of the world's most significant concentrations of life science research and translation. This spans four key sectors:

- AI, health data science and medical imaging
- Biological sciences
- Health and social care
- Medical technologies

The Midlands region hosts national facilities developed in partnership with the UK Government, universities, hospitals and industry. Its cross-cutting R&D strengths include:

- Materials and manufacturing
- Sport and rehabilitation



University of Nottingham: Sports injury clinic at the David Ross Sports Village, University Park.

## So, if you want to...

- **attract outstanding talent** from some of the world's top health, life sciences, and medical technology graduates and academics to work for and with your business
- invest in outstanding R&D-related **capital and regeneration opportunities**
- **co-locate your business on a university science or technology park** to take advantage of the world-class health and life sciences eco-system in the Midlands and access highly qualified graduates
- **undertake joint research, product-creation, development and testing** using globally distinctive research facilities and dedicated innovation and knowledge transfer support
- invest in **equity and patient capital opportunities** across a burgeoning spin-out and scale-up portfolio of companies emerging from our region's universities
- **benefit from the UK's package of generous financial support and tax incentives** for innovation, which has led to more than half of all UK-based R&D business expenditure being undertaken by foreign-owned companies
- **deliver industry-standard, globally-relevant clinical trials** in diverse, well-phenotyped patient populations through one of the largest clusters of trials expertise in Europe...

...then come and forge the future of life sciences with leading UK universities across the Midlands.

This prospectus has been developed by the Midlands' Universities as Drivers of Trade and Investment programme, a collaboration between the universities and growth organisations from across our region and is supported by the UK Government.

## Our region

The Midlands is home to a thriving regional economy. More than 800,000 businesses are based in the region, generating 4.46 million jobs and £240 billion GVA per year. It is the second-biggest regional economy in the UK behind London, and is growing. The Midlands is home to 20 universities, and hosts more than 350,000 students and 100,000 graduates a year. The population is well-educated and young. All this contributes to a highly-skilled environment and a ready-and-accessible talent pipeline for potential projects, located in a well connected region with a high quality of life.

## Connected and integrated teams, assets and opportunities.

The highly connected and integrated nature of the region's universities with our health and social care system provides the ability to respond rapidly to critical community needs. We can easily share knowledge, resources and infrastructure with hospitals and healthcare and social care providers, and develop skills in-situ that meet the needs of local health services and businesses.



£54m state-of-the-art home for interdisciplinary biomedical research at the University of Warwick: powering research into the origins of human disease, interventions for infectious disease and solutions for neurological disorders.

# Universities and life sciences technologies in the Midlands – major R&D assets

## PAN REGIONAL INITIATIVES

- CDT in Regenerative Medicine
- Health Innovation East Midlands
- West Midlands Academic Health Science Network
- Health Innovation West Midlands
- Health Data Research UK Midlands
- PIONEER (HDRUK)
- Midlands Innovation Health
- Medilink Midlands
- West Midlands HealthTech Innovation Accelerator

## WOLVERHAMPTON

- University of Wolverhampton

## BIRMINGHAM

- Birmingham Health Partners
- (HPO) Data driven health innovation in Greater Birmingham and Solihull
- University of Birmingham
- Health Services Management Centre
- West Midlands Regional Genetics Laboratory
- BHP Centre for Regulatory Science and Innovation
- Healthcare Technologies Institute
- Centre for Human Brain Health
- Centre for Patient Reported Outcomes
- West Midlands Secure Data Environment
- Birmingham Biomedical Research Centre
- Federated and AI driven Analytics
- Institute of Translational Medicine
- Birmingham City University
- Aston University
- Calthorpe Medical Quarter
- Pathways to Healthcare Programme
- Aston Institute of Health and Neurodevelopment

## STOKE-ON-TRENT

- Keele University
- Keele Impact Accelerator Unit
- Primary Care Centre Versus Arthritis
- Staffordshire University

- Harper Adams University

## DERBY

- University of Derby

Sheffield  
Leeds  
North East  
M1 MOTORWAY (NORTH)

## NOTTINGHAM

- BioCity I and II
- Nottingham Trent University
- Medical Technologies Innovation Facility
- Advanced Textiles Research Group
- Centre for Systems Health and Integrated Metabolic Research
- MTIF BEZ Development Center

- University of Nottingham
- National Biofilm Innovation Centre
- Biodiscovery Institute
- DNP MAS NMR Facility
- Sir Peter Mansfield Imaging Centre
- Nottingham Biomedical Research Centre
- Centre for Membrane Proteins and Receptors
- Medicity nmRC
- Institute for Advanced Manufacturing
- NIHR MindTech
- Institute of Mental Health
- NIHR Clinical Research Facility
- Centre for Healthcare Technologies CHEATA

## LINCOLN

- University of Lincoln

## LOUGHBOROUGH

- Loughborough University
- National Centre for Sport and Exercise Medicine
- Sports Development Centre
- SportPark

## LEICESTER

- De Montfort University
- University of Leicester
- Leicester Biomedical Research Centre
- Leicester Real World Evidence Unit
- (HPO) Rehabilitation in Leicester and Leicestershire
- National Rehabilitation Centre
- Centre for Ethnic Health Research
- Patient Recruitment Centre

## CRANFIELD

- Cranfield University

M1 / M6 MOTORWAY (SOUTH)  
Cranfield University  
Northampton  
London

## COVENTRY

- Coventry University
- University of Warwick
- Pathology Image Data Lake for Analytics, Knowledge, and Education (PathLAKE)
- Bioinformatics Research Technology Platform
- NIHR Coventry Health Determinants Research Collaboration
- Zeeman Institute for Systems Biology & Infectious Disease Epidemiology Research
- Warwick Evidence

## HEREFORD

## WORCESTER

- University of Worcester

## Key:

- University
- Medical Technologies
- AI, health data science and medical imaging
- Health and social care
- Biological sciences
- Sport
- Materials

## UNITED KINGDOM



## Science and innovation pedigree

At the heart of the Midlands' science and innovation landscape are its world-class universities. **Midlands Innovation (MI)** is a partnership of eight research-intensive universities in the Midlands: Aston University, University of Birmingham, Cranfield University, Keele University, University of Leicester, Loughborough University, University of Nottingham, and University of Warwick. 48% of the spinouts from these universities are in the health and life sciences sector.

The partnership leverages the research expertise of its members to address the challenges facing society, and to support the development of new technologies, products, and services. Key areas of focus include advanced manufacturing, digital innovation, energy and sustainability, and health and life sciences. The organisation collaborates with industry, government, and other partners to ensure that its research is relevant and useful.

**Midlands Enterprise Universities (MEU)** is a group of universities with a common mission to support economic growth and innovation in the region. These are Birmingham City University, Coventry University, De Montfort University, Staffordshire University, Nottingham Trent University, University of Derby, University of Lincoln, and University of Wolverhampton. MEU offers a wide range of programs and initiatives to support students, researchers, and entrepreneurs in the Midlands. MEU also supports collaborative research and development projects that focus on regional priorities, such as advanced manufacturing, digital innovation, and healthcare.

The Midlands is also home to a number of the **UK Catapult Centres**, covering Energy Systems (Birmingham and Derby), Satellite Applications (Leicester), and two focused on high-value manufacturing: the MTC near Coventry, and WMG at the University of Warwick. Catapults help turn ideas into commercial applications by addressing the gap between technology concept and commercialisation. These cross cutting sectors support the medical innovation and production in the Midlands.

Health and Life Sciences is a growing super cluster within the Midlands, with 93% company growth in the last decade. With 420 businesses incorporated since 2017 and 34 spinouts currently being tracked, the growth looks set to continue. Prominent cluster locations are Birmingham and Nottingham. There are established organisations such as Medilink Midlands and the Health Innovation networks, dedicated Life Science Opportunity Zones in Birmingham and Charnwood at Loughborough, as well as private incubator spaces such as BioCity in Nottingham: there is a robust cluster support infrastructure across the region for any life sciences investor looking to innovate, research and grow their business.



Aerial view of Birmingham.



# World-leading health and life science sectors in the Midlands

# AI, health data science and medical imaging

A critical emerging sector for the Midlands is data-driven and digital healthcare, with the region hosting a rapidly-growing cluster of digital health companies and more digital start-ups than any UK area outside of London. The Midlands also attracts global companies to relocate here through our distinctive NHS-partnering ecosystem, cutting-edge facilities and world-leading expertise, as well as critical focal points including two internationally acclaimed life science hubs - **Charnwood Campus** and **Birmingham Health Innovation Campus**. The Midlands is a health data and AI powerhouse.

Accelerating disease focused industrial research: Utilising close relationships between academic/clinical excellence and an ethnically diverse population, and world-leading data science expertise, the Midlands delivers an unparalleled opportunity to reduce development time and costs of clinical trials to innovate faster. This is demonstrated through regional infrastructure including: the UK's only **Centre for Patient Reported Outcomes**, the **Health Data Research UK Midlands Network**, the **Centre for Ethnic Health Research**, the **Midlands-Wales Advanced Therapy Treatment Centre**, **Horizon Digital Economy Research Institute**, **ARC-East Midlands**, two UK Digital Innovation Hubs (participating in a third).

The Midlands has an established strength in imaging, with the first clinical use of an x-ray occurring in Birmingham and the first MRI of a live human body part in Nottingham. Infrastructure to support this strength includes the **Sir Peter Mansfield Imaging Centre** and the **Nanoscale and Microscale Research Centre**.

Delivering unrivalled digital Infrastructure: to support collaboration, mobilise NHS data and give patients across the UK faster access to pioneering new treatments, the region has developed an internationally recognised digital health infrastructure. This features two Alan Turing Institute sites, four **NHS England Global Digital Exemplars**, the **High Performance Computing Midlands Plus centre**, the **PathLake Centre of Excellence**, one of the world's largest Arm-based supercomputer deployments and the UK's largest IBM Power9 AI cluster.

The Midlands offers an ability to link and analyse patient data, leverage our translational research infrastructure to trial and validate new health interventions, and bring those impacts back to the patient (as well as our industry collaborators). These innovative solutions will be delivered at sufficient scale and pace to meet the Grand Challenges set by the UK Industrial Strategy.

**The Midlands hosts one of the world's largest Arm-based supercomputer deployments and the UK's largest IBM Power9 AI cluster.**



Loughborough University: Musculoskeletal Research Group.



# Biological sciences

The Midlands benefits from some enviable assets that underpins the biological and life sciences sector. The region is home to 2 of the 3 largest UK NHS Trusts, the 2nd largest Clinical Trials cluster in Europe, and 7 Medical Schools (producing over 20% of the UK's medical students).

This allows businesses seeking to research, test and commercialise products the best possible environment to collaborate with experts in their field, and access world class facilities. The Midlands is home to the UK's largest experimental medicine facilities and the 2nd largest trials cluster in Europe, allowing the experienced delivery of adaptive trials at national and international scale.

The University of Leicester excels in the area of biological sciences, with the **Leicester Microbial Sciences and Infectious Diseases Centre (LeMID)** and the **Institute for Structural and Chemical Biology** leading the way in understanding the structure of proteins. Researchers are conducting ground breaking research that can ultimately lead to new medical developments with support from pharmaceutical companies like GlaxoSmithKline.

**BioCity Nottingham** is a bioscience science park in Nottingham. It is the UK's largest bioscience innovation and incubation centre. BioCity Nottingham houses a dedicated, interactive and close-knit community. With floors of flexible lab space and offices across four unique buildings, the space allows businesses and life science start-ups and scale-ups to

benefit from joining the collaborative contract research organisation (CRO) cluster in the East Midlands, with access to University of Nottingham facilities and the Queen's Medical Centre all in close proximity. Also in Nottingham is the £100 million **Biodiscovery Institute**, home to nearly 850 talented academics, researchers, and clinicians. The Institute is a world-leading hub of interdisciplinary research excellence that is shaping the future of health and biotechnology.

Elsewhere in the East Midlands, **Charnwood Campus** is situated on the outskirts of Loughborough, Leicestershire. The region has a legacy of pharmaceutical research and development and is a hub for healthcare, bioscience, medical equipment and devices, pharmaceutical and biotechnology businesses. Charnwood is a leading science and Innovation campus focusing on the biopharmaceutical sector with state-of-the-art laboratories, specialist GMP manufacturing facilities and clean rooms. Charnwood Campus is the first UK Life Sciences Opportunity Zone and a successful Enterprise Zone.

The West Midlands' interconnected Life Science network of hospitals, clinical research centres and innovators in the healthcare sector offers a stand-out speed-to-market opportunity. **Birmingham Health Partners** brings together two universities, five NHS Trusts and the WM-AHSN through a unified strategic vision, clustered around the UK's largest single-site

academic-NHS campus, recently designated as a Life Sciences Opportunity Zone by Government.

Warwick Interdisciplinary Biomedical Research includes £54 million of flagship infrastructure and 30 principle investigators from life science and medicine focusing on the origins of human disease, AMR, Host-pathogen interactions and Neurological disorders; underpinned by MRC and BBSRC funded doctoral training partnerships. The Zeeman Institute for Systems Biology & Infectious Disease Epidemiology Research (SBIDER) specialises in bringing sophisticated mathematics to challenges in biological sciences - with world leading expertise in infectious Disease epidemiology.

Coupled with the Midlands' diverse population of 10.7 million potential trial participants, the entire region is an advantageous place to develop pharmaceuticals. There is also the opportunity the access world class research facilities, such as the **Aston Institute of Health and Neurodevelopment** – an integrated research environment for the study of neurodevelopment in health and disease – the Sir Peter Mansfield Imaging Centre, and the Centre for Human Brain Health.

The **Birmingham Health Innovation Campus** builds on Birmingham's strengths in health and life sciences. In partnership with Bruntwood SciTech, the Campus is offering the full circle of translational medicine from drug development to real world studies as a science park in the region dedicated to health and life sciences. It will create opportunities for transformative collaborations between businesses, the University, and NHS partners.

Also in Birmingham, the **Experimental Cancer Medicine Centre**, aims to improve the feasibility and quality of research in the areas of immunotherapy and gene therapy, translational genetics and biomarkers. This work is being conducted in many different types of cancer. The Centre has established bio-repositories, developed antibody-based assays and conducted various immunotherapy/gene therapy trials.

An example of the Midlands strengths in biological sciences is the research strength in diabetes. The **NIHR ARC East Midlands, Diabetes Research Centre**, the University of Leicester's **Centre for Diabetes Research**, and the University of Birmingham's **Centre for Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism** are just three of the centres conducting world class research into diabetes, including through clinical trials in the diverse Midlands population.

The Midlands is home to:

**2 of the 3 largest UK NHS Trusts, the 2nd largest Clinical Trials cluster in Europe, and 7 Medical Schools (producing over 20% of the UK's medical students).**

# Health and social care

Across the region, hospital trusts, universities and companies work in collaboration to develop new treatments, techniques and methods to enhance health and social care for people in the Midlands.

On supporting rehabilitation and care for the aging, the Midlands offers the ideal environment, infrastructure and expertise for the development and production of defence- and rehabilitation-focused innovations. The focus of activity is the **Stanford Hall Rehabilitation Estate**, outside of Loughborough, which hosts the UK's Centre of Excellence for Rehabilitation and Defence Medicine, the new £300 million Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre, and soon, the **National Rehabilitation Centre**. The Centre brings together a 'hub and spoke' network of more than 20 universities with the universities of Nottingham and Loughborough as lead academic partners.

IMPACT is a £15 million UK centre for implementing evidence in adult social care, funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and the Health Foundation. The team includes academics, policy partners, and practitioners to increase the use of high-quality evidence and build capacity and skills in the adult social care world. The work is embedded locally, regionally, and nationally in the UK.

The University Hospitals Birmingham (UHB) NHS Foundation Trust is world-renowned for their trauma care and has developed pioneering surgical techniques in the management of ballistic and blast injuries.

As a result of its clinical expertise in treating trauma patients and military casualties, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham has been designated a Level 1 Trauma Centre.

Calthorpe Estates is home to **Edgbaston Medical Quarter (EMQ)**, which boasts 64% of Birmingham's health care economy and offers a high concentration of assets – more than any other region in the country. The region is home to over 550 medical companies, over 180 medical organisations, 80 hospitals and specialist care centres, 44 GP clinics and routine care facilities and 23 training facilities. It is home to 27 life science specialisms with active research programmes. EMQ offers an unparalleled blend of existing medical buildings and health care development opportunities, coupled with strong collaboration, research and clustering, supported by a knowledgeable and well-connected community.

The Institute of Mental Health at the University of Nottingham is the UK's prime location for inter-disciplinary research in the mental health field. It is a partnership between two highly respected organisations, Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and The University of Nottingham. Since its formation in 2006, the Institute has established a track record of success, with achievements in pioneering and innovative, service-facing, inter-disciplinary research. It hosts eight centres of excellence, alongside other key areas of mental health research.

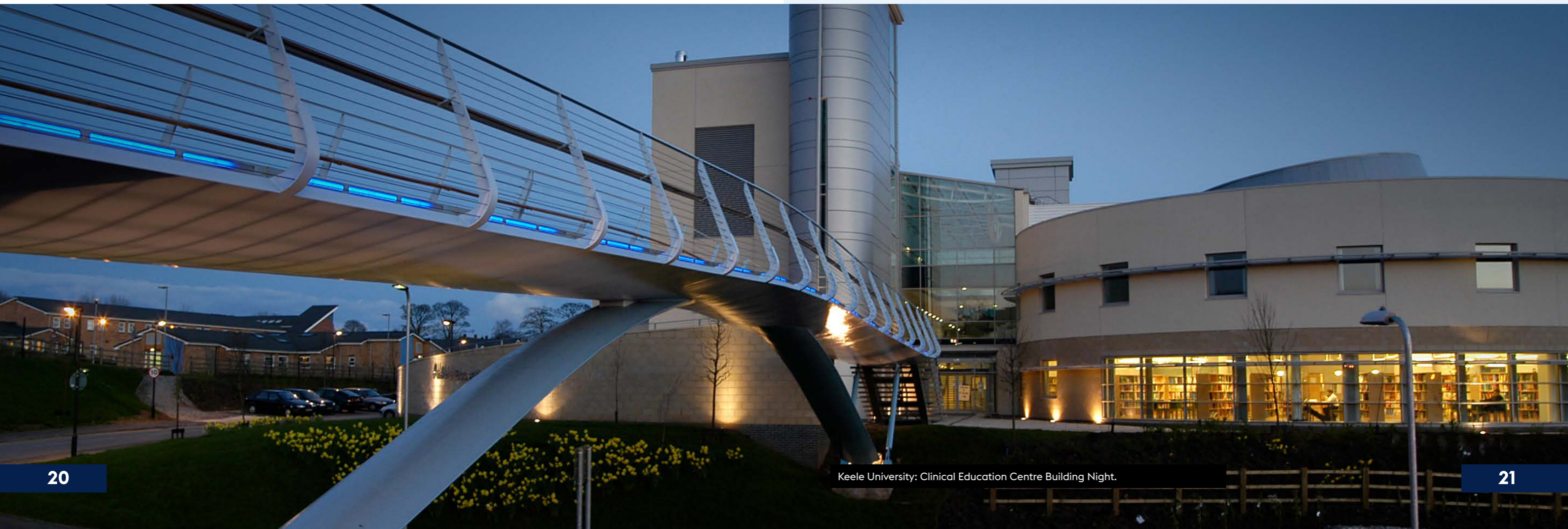
- 11,200 life sciences students graduate each year from the Midlands universities
- Life sciences supports 634,000 jobs in the region
- The Midlands has a stable, ethnically diverse population of over 10.7 million – an ideal test bed for global health and interventions to address multi-morbidity.

The unique **Centre for Ethnic Health Research**, in Leicester, has one clear vision: “To reduce ethnic health inequalities”. This is achieved by working with patients, the public, community and voluntary sectors, researchers, health and social care organisations, supporting individuals and organisations in planning and undertaking research and healthcare delivery involving and understanding ethnic minorities and seldom-heard communities. The Centre also offers training and infrastructure for public engagement and involvement to help improve the quality, quantity and impact of research output in the area of ethnic and migrant health.

The **Keele Impact Accelerator Unit** works to close the gap in research development to practice in health and care, so people can benefit from the latest treatments faster. By working with strong NHS networks and communities with high-performing individuals with a range of different skills, the Unit mobilises knowledge, puts evidence into practice, and involves patients and the public in research.

In Nottingham, the University Hospitals (NUH) provide services to over 2.5 million residents of Nottingham and its surrounding communities. They also provide specialist services for a further 3-4 million people from across the region. The **NIHR East Midlands Applied Research Centre**, East Midlands, is a collaboration made up of world class clinical academics, NHS and other health and social care partners supported by close relations with the public. Its primary aim is to deliver a program of research aimed at improving outcomes for patients and the public and to increase the efficiency, quality, accessibility and sustainability of care services.

The **NIHR West Midlands Applied Research Collaboration** is a five-year initiative from the NIHR with a mission to create lasting and effective partnerships across health and social care organisations and universities, namely Birmingham, Keele, and Warwick. Research is carried out across four themes: long term conditions, acute care interfaces, integrated care in youth mental health, and maternity services. The ARC is committed to involving patients, carers, and all people who use health and social care services in its activities.



# Medical technology

The Midlands is ideally placed to lead the development of new MedTech products and services from bench to bedside, create start-ups, drive regional growth and capture the growing national and global MedTech market.

The thriving NHS partnering ecosystem, together with cutting-edge facilities and internationally renowned expertise, also attracts global companies eager to relocate to our region. Generating an impressive £1.6 billion GVA annually, the Midlands MedTech sector is a robust and highly sustainable industry supported by almost 1,000 businesses and a workforce of 23,600. The majority of organisations within the sector are over ten years old, a longevity that is testament to the region's innovative and entrepreneurial spirit.

The **Centre for Healthcare Equipment and Technology Adoption (CHEATA)** was set up within the Department of Clinical Engineering at NUH NHS Trust in response to the challenge laid out in "Innovation Health and Wealth - Accelerating Adoption and Diffusion in the NHS" to help the NHS become the best health system in the world by rapidly adopting new devices and technologies into practice. CHEATA is hosted by Clinical Engineering service at Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust.

The University of Birmingham **Health Technologies Institute** and NHS-affiliated **Medical Device Testing and Evaluation Centre** offer one of the most advanced environments for the development and deployment of health technologies in the UK,

bringing together multidisciplinary academic expertise, pioneering clinicians and a wide range of industry partners to deliver support across all TRLs of innovation and implementation, including the UK's leading regulatory science cluster. Together with a wide range of partners from across the region, this includes the largest HealthTech-focused Innovation Accelerator programme in the UK to support businesses.

**Warwick Evidence** undertakes reviews and evidence synthesis on the clinical and cost-effectiveness of health care interventions for the NIHR Evidence Synthesis Programme on behalf of a range of policy makers, including the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE). It is one of nine Technology Assessment Report Teams in the UK.

The **Medical Technologies Innovation Facility (MTIF)** is a new state-of-the-art, integrated, dual site MedTech research and development centre based at the Nottingham Trent University Clifton Campus and Boots Enterprise Zone. Both sites are equipped with complementary, state-of-the-art equipment, facilities and GMP standard cleanrooms. MTIF supports the regions industry and universities to accelerate the process of product ideation through the commercialisation of MedTech innovations getting new products and interventions to patients faster. ABHI recently awarded Nottingham partner city status in recognition of its strengths in HealthTech – one of only 5 English cities.

The **University Hospitals of Leicester** are one of the biggest and busiest NHS trusts in the country, serving one million residents from Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland - and increasingly specialist services over a much wider area. At any one time there are more than 800 research projects active in the Trust, including in MedTech. Supporting this, the **MedTech Foundation** is a national engagement initiative for university students and early career professionals. This initiative aims to support healthcare technology innovation by bringing medical, engineering, scientists, product design, business and industry specialties together. They actively support MedTech development in Leicester.

**Medilink Midlands** is the Midlands Life Sciences industry association with a vision to stimulate the growth of the Midlands life science sector by helping companies establish, develop and grow. Its network of more than 6,000 contacts in over 1,700 organisations represents all aspects of the sector; from multi-nationals to high potential start-up companies, as well as the NHS and universities.

Combining many specialist areas, the **Ophthalmic Technology and Devices research centre at Aston University** has spun off several companies in the Midlands and beyond, and is working with businesses from SMEs to multinationals to translate technological advances into clinical practice.

**MedTech in the Midlands supports over 23,000 jobs, in 1,000 companies, creating £1.6bn GVA annually**



University of Nottingham: A patient waiting to be scanned by the 3T Wide Bore scanner.

# Enablers of research and development in life sciences



# Materials

Researching, developing and manufacturing new materials is a critical enabler of new medical technologies, devices and techniques to support rehabilitation and recovery. This is a natural strength of the Midlands – building on existing world class capabilities in engineering, material and advanced manufacturing, and life sciences.

The Midlands has a number of world leading centres that are seeking to commercialise new inventions in materials.

The Midlands are very strong in prosthetics manufacturing, with Medalin in Leicestershire and ExpHand Prosethitics -- set up by a Loughborough University graduate -- two examples of the innovative companies present in the region. The **Centre for Custom Medical Devices** at the University of Birmingham is leading the way in innovative, multidisciplinary methods to overcome such challenges in the medical device supply chain, through innovations like 3D metal printing. 3D metal printing or additive manufacturing removes many of the limitations seen in more traditional healthcare manufacturing methods, and opens up new possibilities for the medical field.

The **Advanced Textiles Research Group (ATRG)** at Nottingham Trent University is a world renowned research centre, that has had a significant impact on the health and sports sectors. Examples of research include a new hip protector system, the manufacture of second-generation electronic textiles in the form of knitted garments for older people which are used for vital sign monitoring, and the development of electrically heated gloves.

The **National Biofilms Innovation Centre (NBIC)**, in Nottingham, is an Innovation Knowledge Centre funded by BBSRC, Innovate UK, and the Hartree Centre. NBIC brings together over 100 businesses and experts in biofilm research to accelerate the commercial development of new solutions, products and services. It catalyses collaboration between companies, engineers, scientists and clinicians to develop new innovative technologies that prevent, detect, manage and engineer biofilms in industrial, personal, household and clinical environments. The NBIC works closely with research partners across the region, such as the University of Birmingham, where research is being conducted into oral biofilms – modelling, imaging, host-pathogen interaction, multispecies oral biofilms, and surface coatings.

Across the region, a number of specialist degrees provide the skills needed to develop new medical materials. The **Biomedical Materials Science** course at Birmingham is one of few courses in the UK to focus equally on both the biological and material sciences. The course places a major emphasis on tissue engineering, orthopaedic and dental biomaterials, preparing students for a variety of specialisms.

The **Aston Institute of Materials Research (AIMR)** is a multidisciplinary group comprising chemists, biologists, physicists, chemical engineers, polymer scientists, process and formulation engineers, mathematicians, theoreticians, mechanical engineers and nanotechnologists. AIMR researchers work closely with industrial collaborators on a wide range of applied projects, such as biomedical implants and devices.

- The National Biofilms Innovation Centre, in Nottingham, has over 100 commercial partners, 63 research partners, and 81 proof of concept projects.
- The **Centre for Custom Medical Devices** at the University of Birmingham is leading the way in innovative, multidisciplinary methods to overcome challenges in the medical device supply chain, through innovations like 3D metal printing.

# Sport

Understanding how to promote healthy living is critical to tackling some of the biggest health challenges of today. In the Midlands, 1 in 13 adults has received a diagnosis of diabetes – the highest of any region in England. 26% of adults in England are considered obese.

Sports science has a critical role to play in supporting efforts to address these chronic conditions.

The **School of Sport, Exercise and Health Sciences** at Loughborough University, in the East Midlands, is a globally recognised centre of excellence for the study of sport, exercise and health across the natural and social sciences. Specialist areas of research include: medicine, molecular biology, nutrition, physiology, biomechanics, economics, psychology, sociology and sport management.

The **National Centre for Sport and Exercise Medicine East Midlands (NCSEM-EM)**, in Loughborough applies world-class expertise to policies and practice that will benefit the health and wellbeing of the nation – from everyday people at risk of ill health through to elite athletes. Evidence shows that sport, exercise and physical activity are effective in the prevention, treatment and management of disease and can enhance mental health and wellbeing, reducing the risk of mental illnesses such as depression, dementia and Alzheimer's. The NCSEM-EM builds on this evidence which is translated into teaching and training through the educational programmes and clinical services it offers.

The University of Nottingham was the 2023 Sports University of the Year and leads the **Centre for Sport, Exercise and Osteoarthritis Research Versus Arthritis**, in collaboration with Versus Arthritis and five other universities. The Centre works with sports representatives, patients, the public and carers, to improve the understanding of the effects of sport and exercise on joint health and osteoarthritis.

The **NIHR Biomedical Research Centre** at the University of Leicester also has a long standing track record of working with industry partners, to facilitate the opportunity to work with world leading researchers embedded into translational clinical research work streams. The centre offers state of the art infrastructure set out over 10,000m<sup>2</sup> of clinical research space, with capabilities such as Physical Activity Measurement, integrated health informatics and big data capabilities, including their **Real World Evidence Unit**.

The University of Birmingham's top-rated School of **Sport, Exercise and Rehabilitation Sciences** is one of the longest established in Europe for scientific research into sport, exercise, health and rehabilitation, and boasts the largest custom-built facility in the UK. This includes training and research laboratories for physiology, biochemistry, psychophysiology, biomechanics, sport psychology, motor skills, immunology, muscle mechanics and the neurophysiology of movement.

Elsewhere in the Midlands, health, rehabilitation and sports science professionals and research specialists are collaborating in globally recognised facilities – such as at Nottingham Trent University, where students have access to the British Olympic Association (BOA) approved Environmental Chamber, as well as a biomechanics laboratory, and performance analysis suite. Or, in Birmingham, where a £16.4 million investment has created the largest custom built Sport, Exercise and Rehabilitation Sciences facility in the UK. This includes teaching and research laboratories for physiology, biochemistry, psychophysiology, biomechanics, sport psychology, motor skills, immunology, muscle mechanics and the neurophysiology of movement.

## Loughborough University is ranked number one in the world for Sport Sciences

- The £16.4m Sport, Exercise and Rehabilitation Sciences facility at the University of Birmingham is the largest custom built site in the UK.
- With 26% of adults in England considered obese, sports science has a critical role to play in tackling chronic health conditions.



The National Centre for Sport and Exercise Medicine East Midlands, located at Loughborough University.

**Invest in a  
partnership  
with Midlands  
universities**





# Research translation

Universities in the Midlands have an exceptional track-record of working with the world's largest companies, helping translate fundamental research into industry-leading innovations.

Our universities have dedicated teams and institutes that provide a concierge service to companies seeking to access our expertise, technology-platforms and equipment you won't find anywhere else in the world. Extensive NHS resources within the region, hundreds of thousands of life sciences professionals, and a resident population of ten million people, provide a ready base from which to co-locate, and expand your business.

We will work with your R&D divisions to support everything from product design, development, testing, joint application for UK Government funding and direct contract research.

For the life sciences, the Midlands universities and NHS Trusts are world-renowned as translational research partners.

The University of Warwick and the University of Nottingham are both in the **Top 5 recipients of the £885m of Innovate UK Funding allocated across the UK in the last 10 years.**

# Innovation

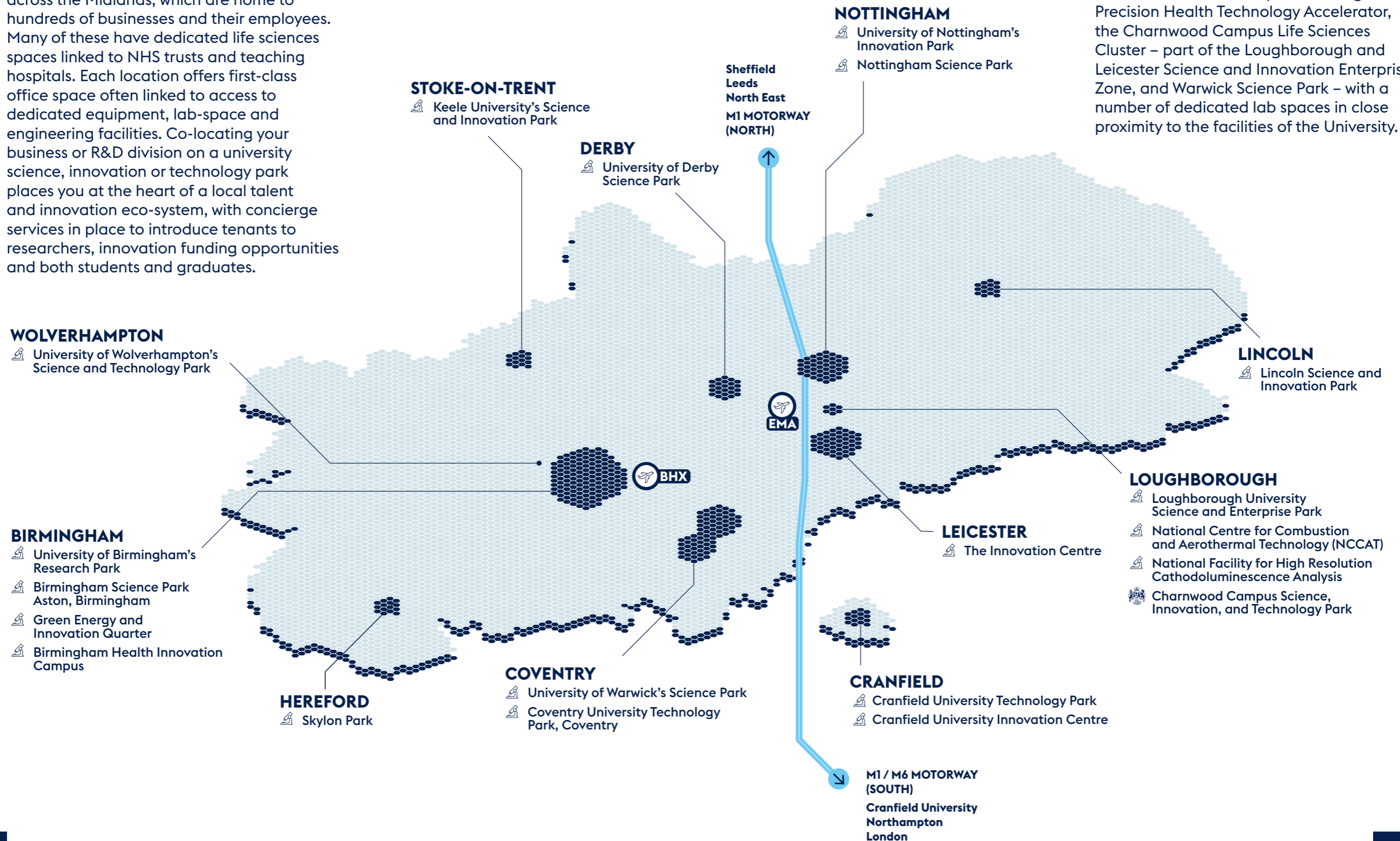
Midlands universities have been supporting the innovation eco-system of their local and regional economies for decades. If your business is looking to access innovation support chains, our dedicated support programmes, funding and networks can help you do this. Through co-funded Government schemes like Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs), which is one of the most successful, long-running innovation schemes anywhere in the world, we help business of all sizes to innovate using the knowledge and expertise of UK universities.



# Co-location

There are numerous university-linked science, innovation and technology parks across the Midlands, which are home to hundreds of businesses and their employees. Many of these have dedicated life sciences spaces linked to NHS trusts and teaching hospitals. Each location offers first-class office space often linked to access to dedicated equipment, lab-space and engineering facilities. Co-locating your business or R&D division on a university science, innovation or technology park places you at the heart of a local talent and innovation eco-system, with concierge services in place to introduce tenants to researchers, innovation funding opportunities and both students and graduates.

The Midlands also offers a number of co-location opportunities closely aligned to life sciences. This includes BioCity in Nottingham, multiple sites within the Edgbaston Medical Quarter in Birmingham, the Birmingham Health Innovation Campus including the Precision Health Technology Accelerator, the Charnwood Campus Life Sciences Cluster – part of the Loughborough and Leicester Science and Innovation Enterprise Zone, and Warwick Science Park – with a number of dedicated lab spaces in close proximity to the facilities of the University.



# Regeneration and integration

Universities across the Midlands work in partnership with the UK and Local Government to help drive economic growth through innovation and inward investment. Through a range of public-private partnerships, universities are involved in over 20 major economic development opportunities identified by the Midlands Investment Portfolio, worth over £10bn in Gross Development Value. In the West Midlands, universities work with the Combined Authority and Growth Company to work on a range of projects as a part of one of only three UK Innovation Accelerators.

Through two of the Department for Business and Trade's High Potential Opportunities programme, Midlands universities have dedicated inward investment concierge support for life science clusters. These include those seeking to invest in: rehabilitation in Leicestershire, and data driven health innovation in Greater Birmingham and Solihull.

Businesses looking to integrate into life sciences clusters can take advantage of the interconnections, networks and eco-system of one of the greatest life sciences clusters in the world. Across the Midlands, universities host and work in close partnership with life science networks and business membership organisations such as Midlands Health Alliance, Medilink Midlands, and Birmingham Health Partners. The universities also work extensively with each other, with an estimated 11,000 life sciences graduates per providing a pipeline of talent for the sector.

Our commitment is that if our universities can't help, we will introduce you to someone who can.

# Talent

Home to 20 universities, the Midlands hosts over 350,000 students and 100,000 graduates a year, including 20% of the UK's medical students. Our universities will work in partnership with local economic growth organisations to develop tailored skills and training package – from degree apprenticeships, to dedicated training and skills programme, to industry-funded PhDs – to support the growth of future industries and your business.



University of Nottingham: Graduating students.



Brilliant ideas | Successful businesses | Global impact

## Midlands Mindforge - £250m patient capital fund combining the spinout portfolios of eight leading UK universities

Midlands Mindforge is an ambitious, patient capital investment company aiming to transform ground-breaking science and technology into successful businesses with the potential to positively impact our world and accelerate the commercialisation of research from our partner universities - Aston, Birmingham, Cranfield, Keele, Leicester, Loughborough, Nottingham, and Warwick.

By providing capital and company-building skills to university spinouts and early-stage IP rich businesses in the Midlands, we will build the foundations of a new technology eco-system in the region and create companies that can drive economic growth whilst delivering real-world impact.

Midlands Mindforge is an independent company that aims to raise up to £250m from strategic corporate partners, institutional investors and qualifying individuals.

Mindforge will “invest with impact” to found and scale transformational science backed companies in sectors such as Clean Technologies, AI and Computational Science, Life Sciences and Health Tech, to create highly skilled jobs and support the UK’s ambition to become a science and technology superpower.

[enquiries@midlandsmindforg](mailto:enquiries@midlandsmindforg)

# Directory of significant health and life sciences R&D assets across the Midlands and its universities



A research technical professional utilising mass spectroscopy to do Proteomics research.

# Health and life sciences in the Midlands

Businesses can work with a range of research and development facilities, which can help them translate their research, innovate their product, or co-locate to access research and NHS facilities, and a skilled community of life sciences experts. Companies could choose to co-locate with innovators in biological sciences at BioCity in Nottingham, at the Charnwood Life Sciences Cluster in Loughborough, or in the Edgbaston Medical Quarter in Birmingham. Co-locating with other innovators can also be an excellent way to access support networks, as well as engage with pre-seed and seed funding partners.

## Investor Support

Alongside wider life sciences investment support, and local assistance available to businesses through research collaboration, grant support can be found from a number of sources. Funding is often made available through time limited competitive calls for projects from UK Research and Innovation.

As an example of this support, the **Medicines and Diagnostics Manufacturing Transformation Fund (MDMTF)** pilot programme, launched in April 2021, delivered £75 million in joint government and industry investment, while also creating 224 new jobs and protecting 345 existing roles.

In another example of support, the Life Sciences Innovative Manufacturing Fund – a country wide fund – recently helped:

- **Ipsen** - £75 million investment to grow the manufacture of innovative medicines for neurological conditions, creating 39 new jobs and safeguarding a further 37 at their Wrexham facility.
- **Pharmaron** - £151 million investment in capital and people will substantially grow operations in Liverpool, increasing production capacity four-fold for critical gene therapy and vaccine components and creating 174 jobs, while also safeguarding a further 156.
- **Touchlight** – £14 million investment will create 17 jobs and protect a further 6, boosting UK health resilience by establishing the commercial scale manufacture of DNA at their Hampton, London base.
- **Randox** - £36 million investment to modernise the manufacture of antibodies used across diagnostic tests. A new facility in Crumlin, Northern Ireland, will create 90 new jobs.



## Charnwood Campus Science, Innovation and Technology Park

Is a business-led life sciences ecosystem that provides world-class flexible laboratories, specialist manufacturing facilities and a comprehensive support package for life science and associated companies. Set in 70 acres of landscaped grounds, the park combines nature with modern facilities to create the ideal conditions for start-ups and established enterprises to grow their businesses. The site offers immediately occupiable laboratory and office space, and over 12 acres of development land. Ideally situated on the outskirts of Loughborough, in the heart of the UK, the Campus benefits from excellent transport links.

# AI, health data science and medical imaging

## Sir Peter Mansfield Imaging Centre

The Sir Peter Mansfield Imaging Centre is an interdisciplinary, cross-faculty centre for innovation imaging in experimental and translation medicine, bringing together researchers who develop new medical imaging techniques with clinicians and scientists who use them. Staff come from the schools of physics and astronomy, medicine, psychology, and life sciences. It houses MRI, MEG, EEG, and fNIRS medical imaging equipment, and staff with training and experience in working to Good Clinical Practice standards, as well as clinically qualified radiographers available. There is a wide ranging list of partners covering collaborative networks, MR safety actors, learned societies, charities, research groups, other centres, and manufacturers. The Centre has recently been awarded over £29 million to develop the UK's most power MRI scanner.

## Research Assets

### University based

#### Centre for Health Data Science

- Location: University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT
- Key features: Includes clinicians and academics that cover expertise in digital epidemiology, clinical bioinformatics, learning health systems, and artificial intelligence for health. Aims to harness the full potential of Birmingham's health data science capabilities to develop regional, national, and global leadership in the field of health data science.
- Opportunity: Access world leading research and talent, and make use of facilities.
- Contact: [k.nirantharan@bham.ac.uk](mailto:k.nirantharan@bham.ac.uk)

#### Centre for Human Brain Health

- Location: Centre for Human Brain Health, School of Psychology, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT
- Key features: Collaboration between the College of Life and Environmental Sciences and the College of Medical and Dental Sciences with cutting-edge brain imaging facilities. Equipped with MRI, MEG, EEG, OPM, and fNIRS machines, as well as sleep and non-invasive brain stimulation equipment.
- Opportunity: Collaborate on and access world class research and brain imaging facilities.
- Contact: [chbh@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:chbh@contacts.bham.ac.uk)



## Centre for Patient Reported Outcome Research

- Location: Institute of Applied Health Research, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT
- Key features: Internationally recognised as leading research into best practice for patient reported outcomes (PROs). Supports clinicians, trial units, ethics committees, funders, regulators and policy makers. Strategic links with Birmingham Health Partners, the Institute for Translational Medicine, and surrounding hospitals.
- Opportunity: Receive PRO specific training from world leading professionals and access their research.
- Contact: cpror@contacts.bham.ac.uk

## Pathology Image Data Lake for Analytics, Knowledge, and Education (PathLAKE)

- Location: PathLAKE, Dept of Computer Science, University of Warwick, CV4 7AL
- Key features: £15 million to create a unique data resource of pathology images and techniques. Brings together researchers from universities, hospital trusts, and leading AI/software business developers. Focus on building PathLAKE Analytics Engine.
- Opportunity: Partner with PathLAKE to access the data pond and improved efficiency of pathology reporting.
- Contact: pathlake@warwick.ac.uk

## Sir Peter Mansfield Imaging Centre

- Location: Sir Peter Mansfield Imaging Centre, Building 18, University Park Campus, Nottingham, NG7 2QX
- Key features: Bringing together scientist and clinicians to develop and apply novel imaging technologies in mechanistic experimental medicine studies and for translational clinical research. Includes the GE SPINlab MRI Hyperpolariser, Krypton Hyperpolariser, Xenon Hyperpolariser. Awarded £29.1 million to establish the most powerful MRI scanner in the UK.
- Opportunity: Partner with the Centre to access a range of human imaging facilities and world class research.
- Contact: +44 (0) 115 951 4747

## West Midlands Secure Data Environment

- Location: University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT
- Key features: Run through University Hospitals Birmingham, part of a national SDE programme that supports the creation of Platforms to give authorised and trained researchers the ability to analyse health and social care data securely. Two year project funded by the NHS.
- Opportunity: Work with the project to access the NHS's unparalleled stores of data for research.
- Contact: hdr-midlands@contacts.bham.ac.uk



## Cluster organisations

### Centre for Ethnic Health Research

- Location: Leicester General Hospital, Gwendolen Road, Leicester, LE5 4PW
- Key features: Supports individuals and organisations to involve and understand the needs of ethnic minority and underserved communities when planning and undertaking research and healthcare delivery. Research team works closely with community-based Engagement Officers to engage with diverse communities, locally and nationally, to identify the priorities and needs of these communities around their health. Academics also work with international collaborators to tackle Global health priorities.
- Opportunity: Get support to tackle global challenges and collaborate with others undertaking pivotal research.
- Contact: via website

### Leicester Real World Evidence Unit

- Location: University of Leicester NHS Trust (Leicester General Hospital)
- Key features: Committed to harnessing the power of real world data and delivering robust studies. Services include pragmatic trials to evaluate the effectiveness of interventions, data harmonisation, systemic review and meta-analyses, facilitation of statistical training and resources, and bespoke statistical analyses.

- Opportunity: Contract the Unit for statistical analyses, statistical training and support, and assessment and interpretation of results.

- Contact: lrwe@le.ac.uk

### Health Data Research UK Midlands

- Location: Across the Midlands
- Key features: Part of the national institute for health data science, aiming to unite the UK's health data. Partners are University of Birmingham and its NHS Trust, University of Leicester, University of Nottingham, and University of Warwick. Coordinated by the University of Birmingham, through joint leadership across the region.
- Opportunity: Get support to access the UK's rich health data sets for research and innovation.
- Contact: enquiries@hdruk.ac.uk

### PIONEER (HDRUK)

- Location: Across the Midlands
- Key features: Aims to improve healthcare pathways and treatments by understanding the symptoms and diseases people have when they become unwell. Makes routinely collected health data available under licence. Partners are University of Birmingham, University Hospital Birmingham, West Midlands Ambulance Service.
- Opportunity: Get in contact to access real-time healthcare data for research and innovation.
- Contact: pioneer@uhb.nhs.uk



# Biological sciences

## BioCity

BioCity, run by Pioneer Group, is a former Boots R&D site that has been transformed into a centre of excellence for pharmaceutical and biotech innovation. It provides flexible access to lab space, research facilities and serviced offices across four buildings - perfect for life science start-ups and scale-ups. BioCity was founded by Nottingham Trent University, the University of Nottingham, and the East Midlands Development Agency and is serviced by the Pioneer Group. Pioneer Group provides coaching for entrepreneurialism at every stage and has a specialty accelerator programme, as well as operating several funds that invest in young businesses and specialise in pre-seed and seed funding. The lab space at BioCity is serviced with easy-in, easy-out leases for start-ups and longer term leases for established companies, and will work to modify spaces to make them right for a company's specific needs.

## Research Assets

### University based

#### Biodiscovery Institute

- Location: University Park, Biodiscovery Institute, Nottingham NG7 2RD
- Key features: £100 million institute home to 850 academics, researchers, clinicians and other support staff. Globally respected in six key areas: taming microbes, defeating cancer, regenerating and modelling tissues, engineering biology, demystifying biomolecular complexity, pioneering therapeutics.
- Opportunity: Collaborate with the Institute for new ideas, pioneering research, and translation into commercial reality.
- Contact: [research@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:research@nottingham.ac.uk)

#### Centre for Membrane Proteins and Receptors

- Location: The University of Nottingham, Executive Office, Trent Building, University Park, Nottingham, NG7 2RD
- Key features: A unique cross-University Research Centre between the Universities of Birmingham and Nottingham aimed at investigating mechanisms of cell communication in physiology and disease to develop innovative therapies.
- Opportunity: Initiate collaborative research projects that bring together experts from various inter-disciplinary fields. Access world-class studies on the potential of membrane proteins and receptors in the development of innovative healthcare.
- Contact: [compare@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:compare@contacts.bham.ac.uk)

#### Centre for Systems Health and Integrated Metabolic Research

- Location: School of Science and Technology, Clifton, Nottingham NG11 8NF
- Key features: Delivers interdisciplinary research to explore health and diseases across the life course. Aims to tackle some of this century's most urgent health challenges by harbouring expertise in priority research themes: Cancer Biology, Immunology and Therapeutics (CBIT); Metabolic Health; Antimicrobial Resistance, Omics and Microbiota (AROM); and Integrative Neurophysiology.

- Opportunity: Partner with the Centre and access dedicated, state-of-the-art facilities including the Advanced Imaging Facility, as well as academic researchers.
- Contact: [enquiries@ntu.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@ntu.ac.uk)

#### NIHR Leicester Biomedical Research Centre

- Location: NIHR Leicester Biomedical Research Centre, Leicester General Hospital, Gwendolen Road, Leicester, LE5 4PW
- Key features: £26.1 million award from National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR), enables research into medical advancements to continue apace in Leicester through BRC. Specialising in six key areas; respiratory and infectious diseases, lifestyle, personalised cancer prevention, environment and health, using data to understand long term health conditions and health inequalities, cardiovascular disease.
- Opportunity: Work with the Centre to collaborate on research, design trials, advise on how trials are conducted, and shape the Centre's work.
- Contact: via website

## NIHR Nottingham Biomedical Research Centre

- Location: NIHR Nottingham Biomedical Research Centre, B Floor Medical School (via West Block), Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust, Queen's Medical Centre, Derby Road, Nottingham, NG7 2U
- Key features: World renowned expertise across five research themes: hearing, gastrointestinal and liver disorders, musculoskeletal diseases, mental health and technology, respiratory diseases, and MRI. Supports dedicated research fellowships, strategic partnerships, and reinvesting in research themes.
- Opportunity: Partner with the Centre and access world class research with a specialty in MRI.
- Contact: +44 (0) 115 924 9924

## NIHR Birmingham Biomedical Research Centre

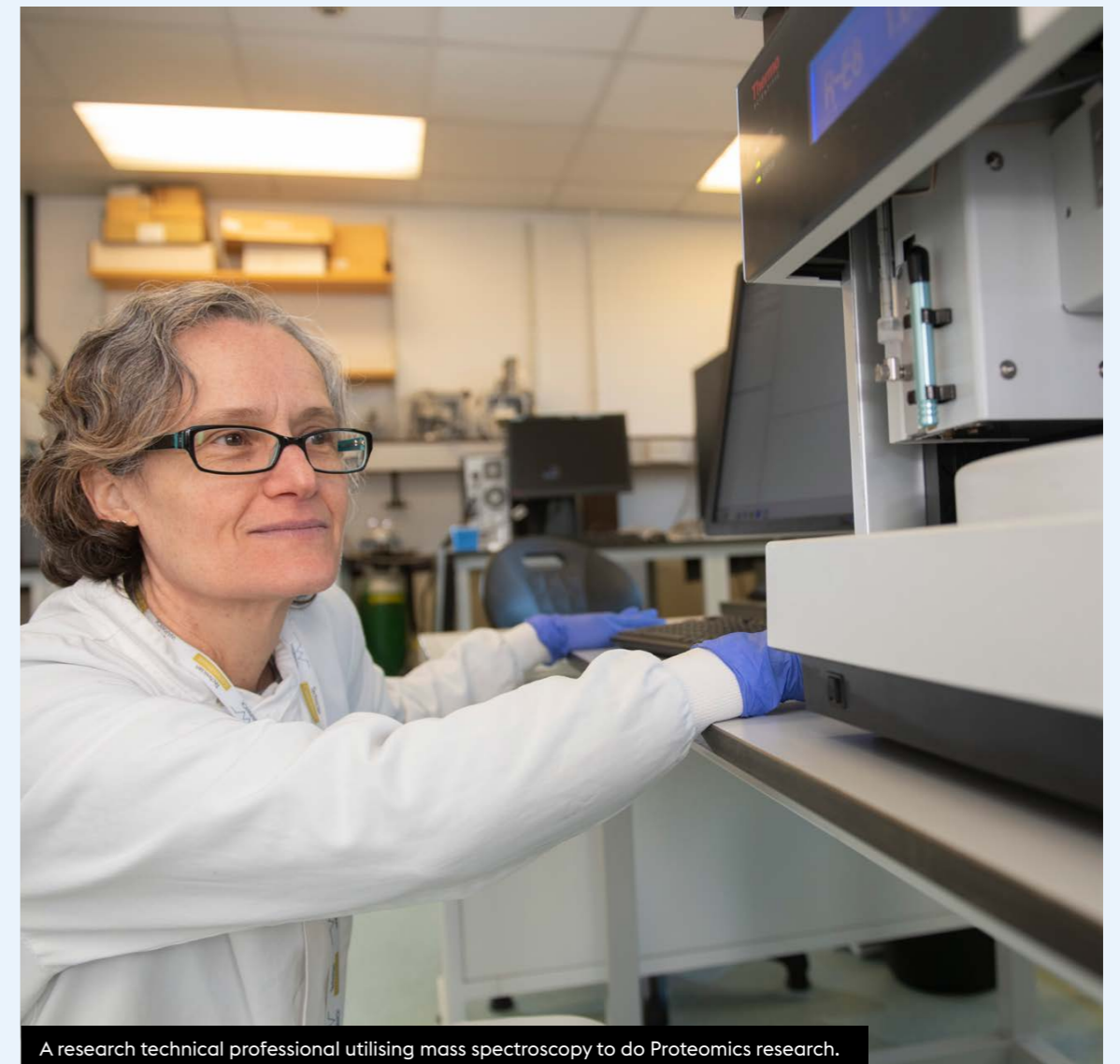
- Location: NIHR Birmingham Biomedical Research Centre, Institute of Translational Medicine, Birmingham, B15 2TH
- Key features: Research focuses on inflammation and the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of its associated long-term illnesses. In partnership with Keele and Aston Universities, and University of Birmingham. Includes the NIHR Birmingham BioResource Centre that hosts a resource of data and samples donated by over 200,000 people.
- Opportunity: Partner with the Centre to and access world class research with a focus on inflammation.
- Contact: BirminghamBRC@uhb.nhs.uk

## BioCity

- Location: Pennyfoot Street, Nottingham, NG1 1GF
- Key features: Provides a home, business support and state-of-the-art lab space for the life science sector. For start-ups and scale-ups that will benefit from joining collaborative CRO cluster. UK's largest bioscience innovation and incubation centre.
- Opportunity: Rent space or locate at BioCity to access flexible lab space and offices with connections to the University of Nottingham and Nottingham Trent University.
- Contact: enquiries@biocitynottingham.com

## West Midlands Regional Genetics Laboratory

- Location: Birmingham Women's Hospital, Mendelsohn Way, Birmingham B15 2TG
- Key features: One of seven Genomics Laboratory Hubs in England and the largest genomics facility in the UK. Serves over 11 million people. Focuses on rare disease and reproductive genomics and cancer genomics.
- Opportunity: Collaborate with the Laboratory and work with industry, patient groups, charities, universities, and other hospitals.
- Contact: wmgmc@nhs.net



A research technical professional utilising mass spectroscopy to do Proteomics research.

## Training

### DTP in Biotechnology and Biological Sciences

- Location: Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Doctoral Training Programme, The University of Nottingham, University Park, Nottingham, NG7 2RD
- Key features: Four-year doctoral training programme that will provide you with world-class training in biotechnology and bioscience.
- Opportunity: Partner with the DTP for industry linked studentships and accessing world class talent.
- Contact: bbdtp@nottingham.ac.uk

### Advanced Interdisciplinary Models DTP

- Location: University of Birmingham
- Key features: Funded by the Medical Research Council through the Universities of Birmingham, Leicester, and Nottingham. Students work with complex data, cell-based models, model organisms, and patients. Industrial partners include AstraZeneca and UCBPharma.
- Opportunity: Partner with the DTP and tap into the next generation of talent, through industrial partnerships or placements.
- Contact: mrc-aim@contacts.bham.ac.uk

### MRC DTP Warwick

- Location: Warwick Medical School, University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL
- Key features: Fully funded MRC DTP in Interdisciplinary Biomedical Research with the three research themes: combating infection, molecular basis of human disease, and precision diagnostics and data analytics.
- Opportunity: Upskill your workforce or access a highly trained talent pipeline.
- Contact: +44 (0) 24 7657 4880

### Midlands Mental Health and Neurosciences DTP

- Location: Across the Midlands
- Key features: Led by the University of Nottingham, in collaboration with University of Birmingham, University of Leicester, and University of Warwick, and our local NHS Trusts in the Midlands. PhD scholars will undertake excellent challenge-led research encompassing MH&N discovery science to translational and applied health research, covering the human lifespan and taking a bio-psycho-social approach, commensurate with the complex presentations, experiences, interventions, and impact of mental ill-health. PhDs are funded by the generous contribution of Wellcome in collaboration with the DTP universities.
- Opportunity: Train staff or access world class researchers and professionals.
- Contact: midlandsmhndtp@nottingham.ac.uk

## Cluster organisations

### Medilink Midlands

- Location: Dryden Enterprise Centre, Dryden St, Nottingham NG1 4FQ
- Key features: Provides specialist support to boost the region's economic output from life sciences by overcoming barriers to growth, working alongside Midlands Engine and other strategic alliances.
- Opportunity: Become a member of the association and receive targeted business support, collaborate with others, develop new products, and share ideas.
- Contact: info@medilinkmidlands.com

### West Midlands Diagnostics Innovation Community

- Location: Cover West Midlands (as multiple locations)
- Key features: Supporting the emerging diagnostics cluster, bringing together regional capabilities. Provides a safe space to innovate and enables members to access and exploit new markets, identify and share risk, access local suppliers, work together, attract funding, and secure investment.
- Opportunity: Become a member for free to access support for the complex challenges involved in diagnostics, and collaborate with other industry leaders.
- Contact: paddie@wmhtc.co.uk

# Health and social care

## Aston University – Aston Institute of Health and Neurodevelopment

The **Aston Institute of Health and Neurodevelopment** puts children at the heart of research. Their vision is unlocking the potential of research to support the health and development of children and young people; answering the questions that matter to children and young people, their families and the services that support them; and developing the next generation of research leaders in children's health and development. Their research establishes new models and understanding of childhood disease, disorder and developmental processes and uses this to inform therapeutic and social interventions. Facilities in the IHN include eating and behaviour labs, neuroimaging facilities, neuropsychology labs, and electrophysiology labs. Partners include the Birmingham's Women's and Children's NHS Foundation Trust and the Deaking University in Melbourne. Current funders for research include Autistica, ESRC, Epilepsy Research UK, Food Standards Agency, Innovate UK, and GW Research.

## An Investible Opportunity in Rehabilitation in Leicester and Leicestershire

From fundamental research to commercialisation, Leicester and Leicestershire have everything to take your technologies from concept to market. The region is home to numerous assets specialising in chronic disease prevention, rehabilitation, regenerative medicine, biomedical imaging, digital health, injury, frailty, digital fabrication, additive manufacturing, human factors and ergonomics. With facilities like the Leicester and Nottingham Biomedical Research Centres and the Centre for Exercise and Rehabilitation Sciences (CERS) at the University of Leicester, the Midlands is the place to be to drive new rehabilitation products and technologies in the international market. It is also home to the Defense Medical Rehabilitation Centre, a new £300 million centre that will soon also house the £110 million National Rehabilitation Centre (NRC) for civilian care. Patients in both centres will benefit from shared expertise, knowledge, and facilities, and being part of the wider Midlands rehabilitation cluster.

## Research Assets

### University based

#### Aston Institute of Health and Neurodevelopment

- Location: Aston University, Birmingham, B4 7ET
- Key features: IHN members conduct studies which impact on the wellbeing of children, young people and society. Our researchers establish new models and understanding of childhood disease, disorder and developmental processes and use these to inform therapeutic and social interventions (e.g. anxiety management in autism, evidence-based nutrition guidance for children, pre-surgical imaging tools to improve prediction of neurosurgery outcomes). Integrated research environment for the study of neurodevelopment in health and disease. Neuroimaging facility (MR, MEG, EEG, TMS); Eating a behaviour labs; Neuropsychology labs and electrophysiology labs.
- Opportunity: Partner with the Centre to access a range of human imaging facilities and world class research.
- Contact: [ihn\\_research@aston.ac.uk](mailto:ihn_research@aston.ac.uk)

#### Calthorpe Medical Quarter

- Location: Calthorpe Estates, 76 Hagley Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B16 8LU
- Key features: Edgbaston Medical Quarter offers the highest concentration of medical assets in the country. Includes 550 medical companies, 180 medical organisations, 80 hospitals and specialist care centres, and 27 training facilities. Specialist care centres include oncology, trauma, mental health, diabetes, addiction and eating disorders.
- Opportunity: Locate in the Quarter to become a part of the extensive medical community conducting life changing research and practice.
- Contact: [enquiry@calthorpe.co.uk](mailto:enquiry@calthorpe.co.uk)

#### Health Services Management Centre

- Location: Park House, 40 Edgbaston Park Road, Birmingham, B15 2RT
- Key features: Centre for research, evaluation, teaching and professional development for health and social care organisations. Research continues set the agenda for policy and practice in the area workforce development, system innovation and improving care services.
- Opportunity: Partner with the Centre to access research and training from world class academics and researchers.
- Contact: +44 (0) 121 414 2260

## Pathways to Healthcare Programme

- Location: Aston University, Birmingham, B4 7ET
- Key features: Eighteen-month programmes designed to be completed alongside A levels and BTEC courses. Develops the next generation of leaders in medicine and healthcare.
- Opportunity: Partner with Aston University and become involved in the training of future healthcare practitioners, accessing the next generation talent pipeline.
- Contact: +44 (0) 121 204 3000

## IMPACT

- Location: Birmingham
- Key features: £15 million UK centre for implementing evidence in adult social care, funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and the Health Foundation. Leadership Team is made up of 13 individuals, led by Professor Jon Glasby at the University of Birmingham, includes academics, people who draw on care and support.
- Opportunity: Access research from the largest adult social care research programme in the UK.
- Contact: e.kennedy@bham.ac.uk

## Primary Care Centre Versus Arthritis

- Location: School of Medicine, David Weatherall building, University Road, Keele University, Staffordshire, ST5 5BG
- Key features: Running since 2008 with specialisms in osteoarthritis and chronic musculoskeletal pain, gout, and polymyalgia rheumatica. Backed by Versus Arthritis, a leading arthritis charity.
- Opportunity: Partner with the Centre to access research into the most common musculoskeletal problems seen in primary care.
- Contact: fmhs.facilities@keele.ac.uk

## Cluster organisations

### Health Innovation East Midlands

- Location: Sir Colin Campbell Building, Room A31, University of Nottingham Innovation Park, Triumph Road. Nottingham, NG7 2TU
- Key features: Bringing together partners from across all sectors involved in health and care including NHS, social care, and public health. Aims to support NHS efficiency, generate economic growth, and empower health and care staff.
- Opportunity: Work with the network and receive support to establish, develop, and grow innovations, and access specialised training.
- Contact: +44 (0) 115 748 4244

### Health Innovation West Midlands

- Location: Faraday Wharf, Innovation Birmingham Campus, Holt Street, Birmingham, B7 4BB
- Key features: Connect health and social care, academic organisations, local authorities, third sector, industry and citizens to spread innovation at pace and scale.
- Opportunity: Become a member of the network and connect with world class researchers and practitioners.
- Contact: admin@wmahsn.org



Aston Institute of Health and Neurodevelopment (IHN) magnetoencephalography (MEG) facilities.

# Medical technology

## Research Assets

### University based

#### BHP Centre for Regulatory Science and Innovation

- Location: Birmingham QE Hospital, Mendelsohn Way, Birmingham, B15 2WB
- Key features: Supports the development and delivery of novel therapeutics and medical devices. Brings together medicinal science, health policy and management, clinical trial design, medical law and patient-reported outcomes research.
- Opportunity: Work with CRSI and partners across the sector to drive future capabilities, capacity, and opportunities in the area of regulatory innovation with host organisations.
- Contact: e.d.marston@bham.ac.uk

#### Healthcare Technologies Institute

- Location: Aston Webb Boulevard, Selly Oak, Birmingham, B29 6SJ
- Key features: Advancing new technologies and treatments that encourage better tissue healing and rehabilitation tools. Focuses on early detection, tackling antibiotic resistance, and healing without scarring.
- Opportunity: Partner with the Institute to conduct research.
- Contact: e.c.lardner@bham.ac.uk

#### Institute for Digital Healthcare

- Location: WMG, International Manufacturing Centre, University of Warwick, Coventry, CV4 7L
- Key features: Improving people's health and wellbeing using innovative digital technologies. Model identifies relevant theories, selects appropriate technologies and develops new solutions where necessary. Includes researchers, practitioners, and industry professionals across a range of relevant sectors.
- Opportunity: Partner with the IDH to collaborate on research and the implementation of digital solutions for the public.
- Contact: idh@warwick.ac.uk

#### Medical Devices Training and Evaluation Centre (MD-TEC)

- Location: Institute of Translational Medicine (ITM), 3rd Floor, Heritage Building, Mindelsohn Way, Birmingham, B15 2TH
- Key features: provide guidance and expertise on: intellectual property, concept development, design of experiments, usability (user) studies and human factors engineering, clinical trials, funding opportunities, certification (CE mark) and quality implementation.
- Opportunity: MD-TEC can help you take your product from bench to market.
- Contact: +44 121 371 8540

## Medical Technologies Innovation Facility

The MTIF is a dual site research and development facility available to industry and academic institutions to support and accelerate the development of innovative medical technologies. The development centre is part of the Boots Enterprise Zone, in Nottingham. The MTIF team consists of commercial and technical professionals based in MTIF facilities, working with seasoned academics and strategic partners. It provides laboratories, clean rooms, specialist equipment and a dedicated team of experts to support the innovation process. New product development is accelerated for innovative medical technologies by bringing together technical expertise with regulatory know-how, a network of clinical trial facilities, and access to both government and private funding. The MTIF team can help develop IP or capitalise on MTIF's IP through strategic partnerships and tactical support.

### An Investible Opportunity in Data driven health innovation in Greater Birmingham and Solihull

Demand for data-driven health and care technologies is increasing, with innovations like artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning radically improving early intervention and the creation of tailored therapies. Companies based in the Midlands can access opportunities to develop diagnostics solutions, digital health innovations and satisfy the need for life-changing devices from a location with excellent access to data, including a large number of data sets and one of the largest clinical trials portfolios in Europe, giving the information needed to develop diagnostic solutions, digital technologies and applications and devices. The region is home to world-class research centres with cross-sectional focus on data-driven healthcare and technologies. You'll have access to leading research centres in health innovation and regulatory science as well as Centres for Doctoral Training. Key nearby institutions include the Aston Institute of Health and Neurodevelopment (IHN), the Birmingham Health Innovation Campus (BHIC), the Birmingham Health Partners (BHP) Centre for Regulatory Science and Innovation, the Healthcare Technologies Institute, and the Institute of Digital Healthcare (IDH).

## Medical Technologies Innovation Facility

- Location: Clifton Campus, Nottingham Trent University, Clifton Ln, Clifton, Nottingham, NG11 8NS
- Key features: Dual-site facility, producing next generation of medical devices and technologies. Includes laboratories, clean-rooms, specialist equipment. Second facility is dedicated to development, clinical production and commercialisation of new medical technologies.
- Opportunity: Base in the Facility to collaborate with academics and partners taking innovations from bench to bedside.
- Contact: enquiries@ntu.ac.uk

## Training

### CDT in Regenerative Medicine

- Location: University of Nottingham, Keele University and Loughborough University
- Key features: Equips graduate researchers with the tools and skills needed to translate the potential of cell or tissue-based therapies.
- Opportunity: Partner with the Centre and access world class graduates and provide feedback for further use.
- Contact: +44 (0) 115 951 5151

## Warwick Centre for Ultrafast Spectroscopy

- Location: Department of Chemistry, University of Warwick, Gibbet Hill, Coventry, CV4 7AL
- Key features: State-of-the-art femtosecond laser facility, comprising of four beamlines with experiments ranging from the ultraviolet to the terahertz regime, and a range of complementary spectroscopic methods. Built with EPSRC funding as part of a research technology platform.
- Opportunity: Collaborate with researchers at the university and access any of the Centre's experiments.
- Contact: v.stavros@warwick.ac.uk

## Cluster organisations and other research collaboration opportunities

### Birmingham Health Partners

- Location: Birmingham
- Key features: Strategic alliance between seven clinical and academic organisations who collaborate to bring healthcare innovations through to clinical application. Sharing the common goal of achieving health and economic impact through the purposeful use of knowledge and expertise.
- Opportunity: Become an industry partner and collaborate with organisations of all size, from global corporates through to SMEs and startups.
- Contact: g.liu.1@bham.ac.uk

### Midlands Innovation Health

- Location: Midlands
- Key features: Coordinates and combines 7 Midlands Innovation universities to deliver improved health and regional growth. Represents a critical mass of regional health-related research and innovation activity, a platform for delivering disruptive interventions, 'Team Science', an ability to rapidly coordinate potential synergies and delivery of joint innovation, a partnership forum promoting Midlands innovation in research, policy and practice.
- Opportunity: Partner with Midlands Innovation Health and tap into the university and regional networks.
- Contact: alex.archibald@midlandsinnovation.org.uk



# Materials

## National Biofilm Innovation Centre

The **National Biofilm Innovation Centre** exists to create a fusion of world class interdisciplinary research and industry partnerships to deliver breakthrough science and technologies to control and exploit biofilms by providing a mechanism for industrial partners to explore their unmet needs with the researchers. It is jointly funded by the BBSRC, Innovate UK, and the Hartree Centre. Biofilms have an impact in the biggest challenges facing the world today, from antimicrobial resistance and food safety to water security and have significant economic, social, and environmental impacts. The Centre is part of a partnership that has more than 60 Research Institutions and support from more than 100 companies.

## Research Assets

### University based

#### Doctoral Training Centre in Biofilms Innovation, Technology and Engineering

- Location: The University of Nottingham, CBS building, Nottingham, NG7 2RD
- Key features: Integrated pipeline of interdisciplinary training, involving a partnership between the universities of Southampton, Liverpool, Nottingham and Edinburgh. UK's first graduate training centre to address the skills and knowledge gap in the biofilm field.
- Opportunity: Access future leaders in biofilms and start ups working in the sector.
- Contact: nbic@biofilms.ac.uk

#### Dynamic Nuclear Polarization Magic-Angle Spinning Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Facility

- Location: Nottingham DNP MAS NMR Facility, Sir Peter Mansfield Magnetic Resonance Centre, University Park, Nottingham, NG7 2RD
- Key features: Joint project between the School of Physics and Astronomy, the School of Chemistry and the School of Life Sciences. Features include AVANCE NEO 600MHz WB Console, 1.3mm triple resonance DNP DVT Probe, MASSII Pneumatic Unit, and exhaust N2 gas recycling module.
- Opportunity: Apply for instrument time for feasibility studies or full research projects.
- Contact: spmmrc@nottingham.ac.uk

#### National Biofilm Innovation Centre

- Location: The University of Nottingham, CBS building, Nottingham, NG7 2RD
- Key features: Aim to establish a network of research and innovation capacity catalysing collaboration with industry in the study of biofilms, to achieve breakthrough innovation. Focuses include mechanisms of biofilm formation, antimicrobial target discovery and biofilms for remediation of pollutants and generation bioenergy.
- Opportunity: Collaborate on research and innovation, and access funding and grants.
- Contact: nbic@nottingham.ac.uk

#### Advanced Textiles Research Group

- Location: Dryden St, Nottingham, NG1 4EY
- Key features: Research includes work on electronically-active yarns, flexural composites, advanced knitting technology, advanced weaving technology. Joint project of the School of Physics and Astronomy, the School of Chemistry, and the School of Life Sciences. First facility of its kind in the UK.
- Opportunity: Apply for instrument time either for feasibility studies or full research projects.
- Contact: +44 (0) 115 848 6518

# Sport

## National Centre for Sport and Exercise Medicine East Midlands

The NCSEM-EM aims to apply world-class expertise to policies and practice that will benefit the health and wellbeing of the nation from everyday people at risk of ill health through to elite athletes. Evidence shows that sport, exercise, and physical activity are effective in the prevention, treatment and management of disease and can enhance mental health and wellbeing, reducing the risk of mental illnesses such as depression, dementia, and Alzheimer's. The NCSEM-EM will build on this evidence in four key research areas which will be translated into teaching and training through our educational programmes and the clinical services we offer. The NCSEM-EM is one of three hubs forming the National Centre for Sport and Exercise Medicine, along with London and Sheffield. The East Midlands hub is a partnership between the University of Leicester, Loughborough University, University of Nottingham, University Hospital of Leicester NHS Trust, and Nottingham University Hospital NHS Trust.

## Research Assets

### University based

#### National Centre for Sport and Exercise Medicine East Midlands

- Location: National Centre for Sport and Exercise Medicine, Loughborough University, Epinal Way, Loughborough, LE11 3TU
- Key features: Aims to apply world-class expertise to policies and practice that will benefit the health and wellbeing of the nation, bringing together the capabilities of the partner universities and NHS trusts.
- Opportunity: Partner with the Centre to inform future government policy, access state-of-the-art diagnostics facilities, and receive expertise and services.
- Contact [ncsem-em@lboro.ac.uk](mailto:ncsem-em@lboro.ac.uk)

#### Sports Development Centre

- Location: Sir John Beckwith Centre for Sport, Loughborough University, University Rd, Loughborough, LE11 3TU
- Key features: Clear focus on student experience, supporting sport at every level through world leading coaching. The heart of sport at Loughborough, host to many of the highest performing athletes and teams in the country. Was the official preparation camp for Team GB ahead of the 2012 Olympics. Highest ranked university in the world for sport subjects.
- Opportunity: Work with the Centre and gain access to Loughborough's world leading sports expertise.
- Contact: +44 (0) 1509 226250

#### Sport, Exercise, and Rehabilitation Sciences Facility

- Location: University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT
- Key features: £16.4 million custom built Sport, Exercise and Rehabilitation Sciences facility, one of the largest in the UK. Includes teaching and research laboratories for physiology, biochemistry, psychophysiology, biomechanics, sport psychology, motor skills, immunology, muscle mechanics and the neurophysiology of movement.
- Opportunity: Access world class talent and cutting edge research based on experimentation in purpose built labs.
- Contact: +44 (0) 121 414 9286

#### Sport Park

- Location: Pavilion 4, Loughborough University Science and Enterprise Park, Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE11 3QF
- Key features: Energy efficient base for mission-driven and innovative sports organisations, offers opportunities for businesses of all size to collaborate with each other, with seamless access to Loughborough University. Expanding community of NGBs, sports organisations, and service and product innovators.
- Opportunity: Locate at the Park for tailored accommodation for scaling up, a satellite base, or HQ with access to the world leading sport cluster.
- Contact: [lusep@lboro.ac.uk](mailto:lusep@lboro.ac.uk)

**Work  
with us**



# Our universities

## Location

From the Midlands, 90% of the UK's population and businesses are less than a four-hour drive away; 45% of heavy rail freight and 33% of heavy road freight comes from, goes to, or passes through the Midlands and, with the advent of HS2, London will be less than an hour away. By air, the Midlands is home to two international airports – Paris is just a 90 minute flight away – with access to the seaports of the Humber. The Midlands are home to 11 million people, 15% of the UK's GVA, and the only inland freeport. This is critical to dispersing the output of the Midlands and accessing the potential markets of not only the wider UK, but Europe and international buyers. The region is constantly growing with new development sites and spaces for bespoke builds, including labs, test spaces, and offices.

## Joint research and knowledge exchange

The Midlands universities all have dedicated teams ready to assist with knowledge exchange and set up joint research teams between their world-leading academics and investors. These partnerships have in the past led to some of the critical innovations driving both current and future life science innovation.

Midlands ICURe is one example of the support available. Designed for research teams from all UK universities with commercially-promising ideas with potential funding of up to £30k, ICURe is a highly successful 3 month customer discovery programme followed by a 3 month commercialisation accelerator designed using lean start-up methodology and funded by Innovate UK.

# Directory of contacts across the Midlands

## University offices

Each university has a team of experts who can provide advice on all aspects of research and development, including locating on a science park, joint research and knowledge exchange, commercialisation and equity investment, and accessing a skilled talent and innovation pool.

University	Business engagement and Technology Transfer	Careers service
Aston University	rke@aston.ac.uk	employerteam@aston.ac.uk
University of Birmingham	info@enterprise.bham.ac.uk	recruiters@contacts.bham.ac.uk
Coventry University	ei@coventry.ac.uk	talentteam@coventry.ac.uk
Cranfield University	business@cranfield.ac.uk	cranfieldcareers@cranfield.ac.uk
De Montfort University	businessservices@dmu.ac.uk	employerliaison@dmu.ac.uk
University of Derby	businessgateway@derby.ac.uk	employerteam@derby.ac.uk
Harper Adams University	reception@harper-adams.ac.uk	careers@harper-adams.ac.uk
Keele University	gateway@keele.ac.uk	gateway@keele.ac.uk
University of Leicester	redenterprise@le.ac.uk	employer.services@le.ac.uk
University of Lincoln	enterprise@lincoln.ac.uk	careers@lincoln.ac.uk
Loughborough University	innovation@mailbox.lboro.ac.uk	employer.services@lboro.ac.uk
University of Nottingham	workwithus@nottingham.ac.uk	recruiterservices@nottingham.ac.uk
Nottingham Trent University	workingwithyou@ntu.ac.uk	talent@ntu.ac.uk
University of Warwick	ventures@warwick.ac.uk	employerconnect@warwick.ac.uk
University of Wolverhampton	engage@wlv.ac.uk	theworkplace@wlv.ac.uk
University of Worcester	researchforbusiness@wor.ac.uk	careers@worc.ac.uk

# Science Park Contacts

The Midlands is home to a thriving network of science parks, which offer businesses access to a skilled workforce, cutting-edge research facilities, and a supportive ecosystem. If you're looking to grow your business, a science park in the Midlands is the perfect place to do it.

University	Science or Technology Park
Birmingham Health Innovation Campus	hello.scitech@bruntwood.co.uk
Birmingham Innovation Quarter, Birmingham	hello.scitech@bruntwood.co.uk
Birmingham Science Park Aston, Birmingham	info@astonsciencepark.co.uk
Birmingham Research Park, Birmingham	brpl@bham.ac.uk
Charnwood Campus Science, Innovation, and Technology Park	lucy.alexander@charnwoodcampus.com
Coventry University Technology Park, Coventry	+44 (0) 2476236000
Cranfield University Technology Park, Bedfordshire	joshua.parello@kirkbydiamond.co.uk
INFINITY Park, Derby	ssalloway@salloway.com
Keele University Science and Innovation Park, Staffordshire	gateway@keele.ac.uk
Lincoln Science and Innovation Park	enquiry@lincolnsiencepark.co.uk
Loughborough University Science and Enterprise Park	lusep@lboro.ac.uk
Nottingham Science Park	regeneration@nottinghamcity.gov.uk
Skylon Park, Herefordshire	info@skylonpark.co.uk
Space Park, Leicester	enquiries@space-park.co.uk
The Innovation Centre, Leicester	innovationcentre@dmu.ac.uk
University of Derby Science Park	+44 (0) 1332 742 800
University of Nottingham Innovation Park, Nottingham	reception@unip.nottingham.ac.uk
University of Warwick Science Park, Coventry	more-info@uwsp.co.uk
University of Wolverhampton Science Park, Wolverhampton	joinus@wolverhamptonsp.co.uk



Aston Institute of Health and Neurodevelopment building.

# Investment support across the Midlands

The [West Midlands Growth Company](#) offers investors support to find the right networks, receive advice on locations, secure sector specific market research, identify funding support, and generate publicity. The West Midlands Growth Company has a number of sector specialists to offer bespoke support to help you achieve your goals. As a single point of contact, they can put together a team from recruitment agencies, universities, public agencies, and property agents to assist companies investing in or moving to the West Midlands. For international companies, there are fully funded market entry support packages on offer through the West Midlands Global Growth Programme. Packages can cover market entry, commercial space and business accelerator support. You can get in touch at [invest@wmgrowth.com](mailto:invest@wmgrowth.com), or by calling +44 (0) 121 202 5022.

A new £107 million support service has also just been launched by the West Midlands Combined Authority. Business Growth West Midlands provides business advice and funding to businesses looking to expand. Contact them online or by calling +44 345 646 1352.

The UK Government is committed to supporting investors that are seeking to expand into the Midlands. [Officials from the Department Business and Trade](#) can assist with contacts, identifying funding sources, sourcing opportunities, and to navigate the investment environment. DBT provides advice directly to investors about the business environment in the UK, including tax, access to finance, banking, research and development (R&D), visas and skills. Department for Business and Trade (DBT) specialists provide international trade and investment support to businesses seeking to locate in the East Midlands. They can be reached on +44 (0) 20 4566 5302. Other relevant government contacts include the Science and Innovation Network (SIN) hosted at UK embassies, and the Department for Science, Innovation, and Technology (DSIT), which works to build the UK's capabilities in these areas.

## Place focused inward investment support

Inward investment is supported by dedicated organisations in other parts of the Midlands, as detailed below.

- **[Destination Chesterfield](#)**  
+44 (0) 1246 207207
- **[Invest Coventry and Warwickshire](#)**  
[contact@investcw.co.uk](mailto:contact@investcw.co.uk)
- **[Marketing Derby](#)**  
[invest@marketingderby.co.uk](mailto:invest@marketingderby.co.uk)
- **[Invest in Leicester](#)**  
[enquiries@investinleicester.com](mailto:enquiries@investinleicester.com)
- **[Invest in Nottingham](#)**  
[enquiries@investinnottingham.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@investinnottingham.co.uk)
- **[Invest Telford](#)**  
[Invest@telford.gov.uk](mailto:Invest@telford.gov.uk)
- **[Invest Shropshire](#)**  
[invest@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:invest@shropshire.gov.uk)
- **[Invest Stoke-on-Trent](#)**  
[enquiries@investstoke.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@investstoke.co.uk)
- **[Invest Staffordshire](#)**  
[hello@wearestaffordshire.co.uk](mailto:hello@wearestaffordshire.co.uk)
- **[Invest in West Midlands](#)**  
[invest@wmgrowth.com](mailto:invest@wmgrowth.com)
- **[Invest Wolverhampton](#)**  
[invest@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:invest@wolverhampton.gov.uk)
- **[Invest in Worcestershire](#)**  
+44 (0) 1905 677888
- **[Team Lincolnshire](#)**  
[investment@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:investment@lincolnshire.gov.uk)

# UK Investment Support

The UK's ability to develop new ideas is one of our great strengths, from the jet engine and the bagless vacuum cleaner to MRI scanners and the world wide web. The UK's talent pool, funding and incentives and business infrastructure all help create an environment of business innovation. Our commitment to world-leading research and development will help your business reach its full potential. We are one of the most innovative countries in the world - ranked in the top 5 countries in the Global Innovation Index 2019. For companies such as Ford, Pfizer, Eli Lilly, Nokia and Eisai, the UK's business environment is the natural choice for investment in innovation.

## Government help for your business

The UK government's innovation agency, [Innovate UK](#), helps businesses develop new ideas and turn them into a commercial success.

It can help you:

- access funding
- connect with researchers and other collaborators
- find potential customers

## Financial incentives to innovate in the UK

The UK offers generous financial support and tax incentives for innovation in the UK.

These include:

- [UK Research and Innovation \(UKRI\)](#) funding through our Research Councils and Innovate UK
- research-led tax incentives such as Patent Box, R&D Tax Relief and R&D Expenditure Credit

## World-class talent

In the UK you'll have access to world-class academic and research talent. You'll also be able to take advantage of a good supply of highly skilled employees. Our many innovation initiatives include our [Grand Challenges](#). These bring together the best minds in science and business to explore opportunities from 21st century global trends.

## Regulation to protect your ideas

The UK has a world class intellectual property regime. This protects the names, ideas, products, designs and written word of businesses.

Find out about [UK intellectual property laws](#) after the UK's exit from the EU on the [great.gov.uk](#) website.

## Infrastructure that supports innovation

Nationally, the UK invests £6 billion each year in research councils and universities. The UK's network of Catapult Centres help emerging technologies become commercially viable. A range of 'business clusters' up and down the country offers specialist expertise. These include:

- advanced engineering and medical technologies in the Northern Powerhouse
- the UK's answer to Silicon Valley in the Cambridge, Milton Keynes and Oxford corridor
- a thriving life sciences research and renewables scene in Edinburgh

## High Potential Opportunities

[The UK Department for Business and Trade](#) identified multiple High Potential Opportunities for investment in the Midlands. The HPOs are supported by the UK government to make them more accessible to foreign investors. To find the full list of HPOs available in the Midlands and how the government can support your business taking advantage of them, contact DBT by calling +44 (0) 20 4551 0011, or using one of the services listed on the next page.

## Freeports

The UK Freeports are areas where the normal customs do not apply. At Freeports, imports can enter with a simplified customs documentation and without tariffs. Business operating in the designated zone around the Freeports can manufacture using the imports and export the finished products through the Freeports, all without facing the regular tariffs. The East Midlands Freeport is the only UK Freeport connected to an airport rather than a traditional sea port, and presents a unique opportunity for companies who manufacture and re export. To find out more and how your company can benefit from the East Midlands Freeport, get in contact with the team at [info@emfreeport.com](mailto:info@emfreeport.com).

## Investment Zones

The UK government has designated both the East Midlands and the West Midlands as investment zones, a new policy announced in 2023. The zones will receive £80 million support from the government over the next five years for tax incentives and resource spending. Examples of policies include business rates relief, stamp duty relief, capital allowances, and lower employer National Insurance contributions. To find out more, get in contact with one of the investment specialists listed above.

## General investment support

- The [Global Entrepreneur Programme](#) provides support for overseas high growth business looking to move to the UK.
- The [Venture Capital Unit](#) connects UK registered growth businesses and start-ups with investors and funders.
- The [UK Investment Support Directory](#) provides connections between overseas businesses wanting to set up in or expand to the UK and those from the private sector in the UK who can assist, whether that be in legal concerns, marketing, HR, or other needs.

## Export Support Service

- The [Export Support Service](#) helps those based in the UK looking to export abroad.
- The [UK Export Finance](#) team can help with funding and insurance for UK exports. m can help with funding and insurance for UK exports.
- The East Midlands Freeport team can help you take advantage of the tax incentives and freeport benefits. Reach them at [info@emfreeport.com](mailto:info@emfreeport.com).







**GREAT**  
BRITAIN & NORTHERN IRELAND

**Department for Business and Trade**

We support growth by backing businesses in the UK and globally, promoting investment and championing free trade.

**Disclaimer**

Whereas every effort has been made to ensure that the information in this document is accurate, the Department for Business and Trade and the Contributors do not accept liability for any errors, omissions or misleading statements, and no warranty is given or responsibility accepted as to the standing of any individual, firm, company or other organisation mentioned.

**© Crown copyright 2023**

This publication is licensed under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0 except where otherwise stated. To view this licence, visit [nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3](https://nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3)

Where we have identified any third party copyright information you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

**Published by  
Department for Business and Trade**

**October 2023**



UK Government

