

IT STARTS IN SALFORD: A PLACE WHERE IDEAS ARE FORMED THAT SHAPE THE WORLD

MEET ENERGY HOUSE 2.0'S ARTIST IN RESIDENCE, MISHKA HENNER

FROM THE SMITHS TO BLONDIE: HOW MAXWELL HALL'S LEGACY CONTINUES TO LIVE ON

INTOUNIVERSITY SALFORD CENTRAL GOES FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH



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Welcome to the latest edition of From Salford magazine.



Professor Nic Beech Vice-Chancellor

During my first year in post as Vice-Chancellor at Salford, the level of talent, hard work and commitment across our University community has been so clear to see. This applies not only to our current students and colleagues but is also seen in our far-reaching alumni who carry a piece of Salford with them through their lives and careers

This issue celebrates the giant leaps we are making to address some of the world's most pressing challenges. You'll hear how we are advancing public healthcare through the development of our health building, how we are developing a talent pipeline of world-class alumni like national footballer Azeem Amir and how we are driving economic growth for our city region through innovation, as demonstrated in our It Starts in Salford campaign.

Plus, you'll hear about our new social and economic impact report, For Salford, From Salford, which we are all very proud of. Our unique position at the heart of the community enables us to empower those around us, enriching lives in Salford and far beyond. This report celebrates the significant contributions the University is making at local, regional, national, and international levels. Learn how we're playing a critical role in tackling important issues faced by our communities on our doorstep, and globally, collaborating with others to advance social justice and drive long-term systemic change.

As we continue to enrich lives and build prosperity through our teaching, innovation and civic partnerships, I'd like to thank each and every one of you for your valued support – we really couldn't do what we do without you.

Best wishes,

Nic

Bes

Professor Nic Beech, Vice-Chancellor



2024 IN BRIEF ALL THE BIG HAPPENINGS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF SALFORD

PLANS APPROVED FOR CRESCENT INNOVATION

Plans to bring forward Crescent Innovation, a pivotal element of the wider £2.5bn, 252-acre Crescent Salford masterplan, have been approved by Salford City Council.

The proposals are being brought forward by the Crescent partnership, comprised of the University, Salford City Council, and ECF – a joint venture between Homes England, Legal & General, and Muse

Creating a high-quality innovation ecosystem around the University of Salford, Crescent Innovation will build on existing world-class research and development capabilities, help drive further economic growth in the city and wider region, and facilitate enhanced links between academia, research, and business.

The scheme comprises 933 new homes, 1.7m sq ft of new commercial innovation, academic and research floor space, active ground-floor space, and a new movement hub, along with significant improvements to public spaces.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Nic Beech said: "This is a major milestone in our shared mission to transform Salford into a global hub for innovation and groundbreaking research. Working alongside our Crescent partners, we are committed to advancing our vision of creating world-class facilities that will benefit local residents and businesses. I am thrilled that this significant planning application has been approved and eagerly anticipate seeing our shared vision come to life."

PHYSIO STUDENT REBECCA WENT TO THE OLYMPICS WITH TEAM GB

We're so proud that Physiotherapy student Rebecca McGowan was chosen to represent Team GB at the Olympics in Paris this year as part of the GB Taekwondo team. She very narrowly missed out on a bronze medal against 2023 world champion Nafia Kus.

She's been on an upward course since she first decided she wanted to be better than her neighbour at all sports, when she was six years old and growing up in Scotland. He liked martial arts so she took it up too, and was quickly beating him hands down from a very young age.

Her talent was spotted early on, and she moved to Manchester to train with the national youth team when she was 16. This year has been all about refining and finessing her performance in her run up to the Olympics.

Rebecca, 24, chose to study Physiotherapy at Salford because of its great reputation, and the fact that it is also one of the few part-time courses on offer in the UK.

"My trainers and teachers have been so supportive and flexible here at the University of Salford. I've been able to divide my time between working all out to be the best I can at my sport, at the same time making my grades and doing my study at uni. It's been hard, but amazing too."



Rebecca McGowan pictured right

TECHNICAL SKILLS BUILDING GETS THE GREEN LIGHT

Proposals for a new flagship building for the Greater Manchester Institute of Technology (GMIoT) in Salford are underway.

The GMIoT offers higher-level, real world technical education and training across the construction, engineering, computing, creative media, business and health sciences sectors. Whilst education providers, including the University, are already offering courses via the GMIoT, capital funding is now being invested at Salford to create a new flagship building.

The building will be low carbon and feature a state-of-the-art green roof with photovoltaic panels to generate renewable energy, alongside a green living wall supported by rainwater harvesting. Inside you'll find cutting-edge spaces to support learning, including flexible digital labs, a prototyping workshop and ICT studios.

Importantly, the GMIoT will deliver training and employment opportunities that are co-created with employers and specifically designed for the careers of the future as well as responding to current workforce needs. The GMIoT is an exciting partnership led by the University of Salford with Wigan and Leigh College as the lead FE partner, bringing together several colleges and employers in the city region.



WE SECURE OVER HALF A MILLION POUNDS TO SUPPORT THE DIVERSIFICATION OF DEGREE APPRENTICESHIPS

We have secured £304,390 as part of phase two of a successful bidding competition from the Office of Students (OfS). The funding will increase quality of opportunity for degree apprenticeships, growing capacity and capability within the Higher Education sector to meet present and future skills needs.

In early 2024 Salford secured £223,053 in phase one of the competition, bringing the overall total of funding received to £527443

Successful bids were required to demonstrate how their course provision will enhance equality of opportunity, to ensure that students from every background are able to access and succeed in their chosen career path.

We offer a wide range of apprenticeship programmes across Science, Engineering, Construction, Health and Society. We have also taken the lead role in the recently established GMIoT. The GMIoT is constantly evolving in response to industry demand for skills and, as such, apprenticeships form a key component of the GMIoT's portfolio.

Along with improving equality, this funding will be used to support the sectors' priority high level skill requirements as identified in the Greater Manchester Local Skills Improvement Plan. Paul Ward, Director of International and Regional Development at the University of Salford, said: "To receive over half a million pounds to help us break down barriers to higher education is a real achievement. At Salford we've worked tirelessly to engage underrepresented groups and enable those who have not considered higher education to fulfil their full potential and develop their employability and skills."

STATE-OF-THE-ART ESPORTS LAB OPENS ITS DOORS FOR SALFORD STUDENTS

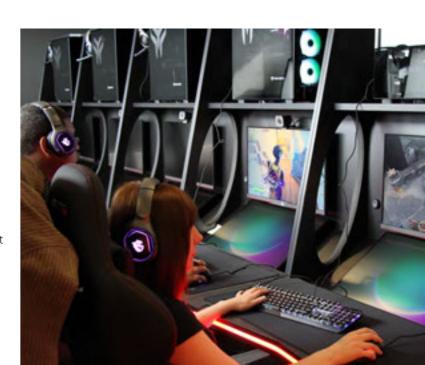
Salford Business School launched a brand new state-of-theart Esports Lab just in time for the new academic year that commenced in September.

The bespoke, industry pioneering Lab provides an immersive environment and has been purpose-built to host the digital requirements of students completing the University and GMIoT Higher National Diploma (HND) Esports Business Management programme.

Equipped with a tournament arena, industry-grade broadcasting equipment, including Blackmagic 4K cameras and television studio mixers, plus an esports suite for teaching, learning and gaming, the Lab is designed to support students looking to pave the way in this rapidly expanding and innovative sector.

lain Earle, Programme Leader for Esports Business Management at Salford Business School, commented: "There's no doubt that esports is a thriving industry. Whilst once seen as a hobby for many, in recent years it's been transformed into one of the biggest entertainment markets on the planet. It's now worth billions, making it not only a viable career route, but an incredibly lucrative one at that.

"Esports is a rapidly growing and ever-evolving sector so, with the latest cutting edge technology integrated into the Lab, we have made a considerable investment to really elevate our student experience in this space, while ensuring access to industry grade equipment. Salford is now home to higher education's leading Esports Lab which will be instrumental in ensuring our students have been fully immersed in the latest technology disrupting the sector as they progress into their graduate careers."



2024 IN BRIEF



PROF DAME JOCELYN BELL BURNELL LECTURE

We celebrated International Women and Girls in Science Day (11 February) with a talk hosted by academic Professor Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell.

Dame Jocelyn is an astrophysicist and astronomer, and is currently a visiting Professor of Physics in Oxford University. She was also one of a small group of female scientists that set up the Athena SWAN charter, a framework that is used across the globe to support and transform gender equality within higher education and research.

In 1967 Dame Jocelyn discovered pulsars, opening up a new branch of astrophysics and revolutionising our understanding of the universe. Her work was recognised by the award of a Nobel Prize to her male thesis supervisor.

Dame Jocelyn has since been recognised for her contribution to astrophysics. She has been awarded the Oppenheimer prize, the Michelson medal, and the Magellanic Premium by learned bodies in the US. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society, and has been President of the Royal Astronomical Society. She was the first female President of the UK's Institute of Physics. She has always been passionate about promoting public appreciation and understanding of science. Dame Jocelyn hopes that her presence as a senior woman in science will encourage more women to consider a career in science.





L to R Chief People Officer Jonathan Winter chaired the panel with Emma Neville, alumna Jane Hallam and Kate Palmer

EMMA NEVILLE LEADS CONVERSATION ON MENOPAUSE AT SALFORD

As part of a University-wide programme of events during Menopause Awareness Month in October, Emma Neville, the founder of online community This Is Me, hosted a seminar for the University community.

Emma experienced early menopause at 40. She was diagnosed with premature ovarian insufficiency (POI) and decided she wanted to help educate others. Emma is an advocate, philanthropist, mother and person-centred counsellor. Emma's husband, former footballer Gary Neville, is an Honorary Graduate of the University, and we were pleased to welcome her into the Salford community for her own passions.

Emma was joined on a panel by Kate Palmer (Employment Services Director at Peninsula UK), and Salford alumna Jane Hallam, who founded clothing company No Pause. Around 100 alumni, students and staff attended to hear the panel discussing everything from what to ask your GP to what foods work best at this time of life.

"The menopause can affect everything in our lives," said Emma. "Some days you don't know who you are anymore. We must share our knowledge with our daughters and the next generation to help get them ready so they know what to expect and what to do to help themselves."

Colleague Wellbeing Manager Lucy Heffron helped organise the event and said: "We are keen this work is not confined to an awareness month. We want to continue this conversation all year round, raising knowledge and awareness and breaking down the often-associated stigma."

A FOND FAREWELL TO SISTER TERESA FROM THE FAITH CENTRE

Sister Teresa Wild retired in August 2024 from her work as a Chaplain at our Faith Centre after more than 30 years of service to our community. Sister Teresa was a familiar face on campus and has provided supportive guidance and pastoral care for students and staff regardless of their beliefs. Her contribution to our University community and student experience has been invaluable and we wish her all the best in her new life of retirement.

OUR PLANS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELLBEING HUB GET GREEN LIGHT

Plans for our new health building have been approved by Salford City Council, and building work began in late November 2024. The target completion date is Autumn 2026.

The new site will offer a health and wellbeing hub at the heart of the University. It will be the home for some of our most popular healthcare courses - including podiatry, prosthetics and orthotics, and sports rehabilitation.

The new building will also be a focus of the community for public services delivered by our partners with plans now being explored for mother and child health sessions, weight management clinics and other wellbeing forums.

Professor Vicky Halliwell, Interim Dean at the School of Health and Society, said: "Our health building will be one of the gems in the expanding University of Salford estate. Every year we train thousands of students to work in the healthcare sector in both the NHS, social care and beyond. Now our academics, students and researchers will be able to enjoy their time in Salford even more, in our state-of-the-art teaching environment."

The all-electric building will be highly sustainable. It will have an attractive roof space and terraces, as well as a daylight-flooded atrium and extensive indoor planting to enhance the sense of wellbeing and healthy living. Larger spaces will be bookable for community groups.

The site is a key part of the University's multi-million-pound Campus Connectivity Plan, which will benefit staff, students and the local community.

Kier are working with the University on plans for the building, which has been designed by AHR Architects. It will be located behind the Mary Seacole building next to Salford Crescent train station. We will be starting the process of finding a name for the building in the coming months.



FROM SALFORD TO WEMBLEY MEET THE SALFORD ALUMNUS NOW WORKING WITH BELLINGHAM, KANE AND FODEN

Meet Azeem Amir, our accomplished alumnus who has been visually impaired since birth, has 28 caps for England, a TEDx talk, and a thriving business under his belt after making it his mission to make sports more accessible to everyone in society.

Thanks to the support of Launch@ Salford, the University's purpose-built business incubation space designed to support students and graduates through the start-up phase of their business journeys, Azeem launched Learn with ESS and is now a successful entrepreneur advocating for inclusivity in sports.

Never letting his disability be a barrier to success, Azeem says football changed his life. He has since gone on to work with household names such as Harry Kane, Phil Foden, Trent Alexander-Arnold and Jude Bellingham on campaigns to encourage others with a disability or visual impairment into sports.

Azeem studied at the University of Salford for both his undergraduate and postgraduate qualifications, obtaining a BSc (Hons) in Business Management and Sport in 2020, before going on to complete an MA in Digital Business, graduating in 2021. It was during his master's that he was introduced to Launch@ Salford, which helped bring his business to life, taking Learn with ESS from concept stage through to launching it to market.

We recently connected with Azeem to find out more about his journey as an entrepreneur, his time at Salford and what he's been up to since graduating.

Can you tell us a little bit about Learn with ESS?

Learn with ESS focuses on how society offers a helping hand, supporting those with varying abilities, while addressing stigmatised issues surrounding disability.

Through workshops and practical classes that challenge misconceptions, raise awareness and improve accessibility via education, sport and speech-based activities, we have worked with over 200 schools across the UK plus several high-profile organisations, including the likes of Nike, the FA and Manchester United Foundation.

This is a huge achievement for me, as I've built the business from the ground up and we're now helping open the doors to sports for so many people who initially thought playing wasn't an option for them.

I only graduated three years ago and launched the business just three months prior to this – to have already achieved so much in such a short space of time, is even more motivating for me.

How did you initially get into football?

I was educated in a mainstream school although I am visually impaired, and it made it difficult for me to get involved with football or any sports initially.

Then I discovered football designed for the visually impaired, which focuses on listening skills rather than relying on sight. I worked my way up from there, I was scouted and began to represent England four years ago now.



What did Launch@ Salford do for you and how did it help get your business of the ground?

Launch was really where it all started for me. The team supported me both financially and in terms of learning what it takes to run a company. I still pop in now and again to support the new cohorts, delivering talks about the lessons I've learned as an entrepreneur.

Because of the success of the business and the work I've been doing since graduating, I was also asked to return to the University this summer to deliver a speech at Graduation. This was such a surreal moment for me and I really hope my message resonated with others considering starting a business, but who may be facing barriers.

How is the business doing currently?

The business has gone from strength to strength! We have worked with over 15,000 people since our inception. Existing supporters already include some big names in sport and business, and with new partnerships secured with Bolton-based Carrs Pasties, Hilton Hotels and the prison service, all with a view to improving accessibility for everyone, we really are continuing to accomplish great things.

Can you tell us a little bit about the work you've been doing with the likes of Harry Kane and Jude Bellingham?

Yes of course! As we all play for England under the FA, I've been lucky enough to meet some of the biggest names in English football and have worked on campaigns with both Foden and Kane for the FA to showcase how football can positively impact society.

In addition, I've been a brand ambassador for McDonald's alongside Jude Bellingham, as well as a few other famous faces including some YouTubers. We did a campaign to raise awareness of the direct positive impact football and sports can have on young people with different disabilities or a visual impairment.

Where do you see the business in five years' time?

We've got lots of exciting plans on the horizon, namely launching a charitable foundation to help support disabled children to get into sport.

There are so many opportunities for us to really grow Learn with ESS, which we're incredibly excited about, so stay tuned! We fit a lot into the last two-and-a-half years and we're not stopping there.





What's next for you on the football front?

I've played across five tournaments for England, as well as the Great Britain Blind Football Team since 2019, including the Euros 2019 and 2022, the World Grand Prix 2019 and 2023, and the World Games 2023, which has been amazing.

Now, alongside my Team GB teammates, we're working towards the Los Angeles 2028 Paralympic Games which I'm incredibly excited about.

You can learn more about Azeem by watching his Graduation speech (more information on page 20) or on social media:

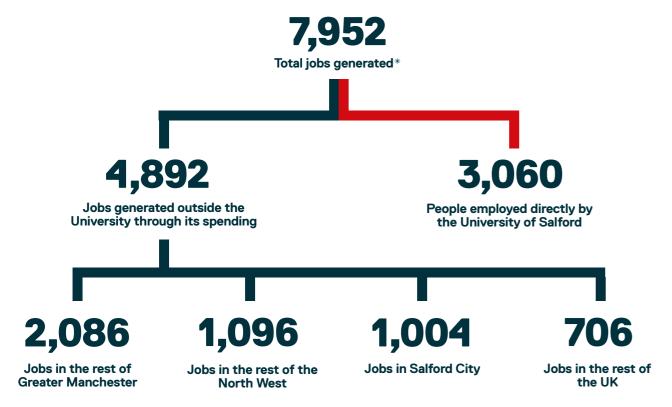
@azeem_amir99



FOR SALFORD, FROM SALFORD **OUR NEWEST SOCIAL** AND ECONOMIC IMPACT REPORT HAS LAUNCHED

We are committed to addressing some of the world's most pressing challenges. Our unique position at the heart of the community enables us to empower those around us, enriching lives in Salford and far beyond.

Our Social and Economic Impact Report, launched in September 2024, celebrates the significant contributions we are making at local, regional, national and international levels.



^{*}This doesn't include jobs created by alumni who have started their own businesses.

Of our students are from low socio-economic backgrounds

Of our students are from widening participation backgrounds

50%

Are first in family to study

24%

Have a disability

49%

Are from the global majority

12%

Are learning part-time

30%

Are mature students

Our combined impact from both University and student expenditure (i.e. students' living and lifestyle expenses)



NORTH WEST

£1,026.2M

Combined output

13,598

Jobs

£533.4M

Combined GVA

UK

£1,103.3M

Combined output

15,009

Jobs

£571.1M

Combined GVA

Over the next 10 years, we will work towards being Salford's hub A note on data: the economic data in our annual report comes from an assessment by Viewforth Consulting taken on our behalf. This report was compiled during the for social justice. We'll connect education providers, businesses, summer of 2024 and the most recently available data was used, which came from charities and youth groups, local authorities, employers and the financial year 2022/23. Other statistics have been taken from a range of sources individuals to come together and work seamlessly for the benefit including the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA), the Destination of Leavers from Higher Education survey (DHLE), UCAS and the National Student Survey (NSS). of our students and city.

Read more about how we'll continue to develop and view the full report on our website: salford.ac.uk/corporate-information/ social-and-economic-impact

Numbers can only say so much. Read more about our impact on our community in this magazine:



PROGRAMMES IntoUniversity



Friends of Energy House Labs



Our health and wellbeing hub



Our Centre for Sustainable Innovation



P08 STORIES

Alumni profile: Azeem Amir



Our 2024 Alumni Achievement



Alumni profile: Josh Fletcher

SUCCESSFUL START FOR OUR CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE INNOVATION

Our Centre for Sustainable Innovation (CSI) has helped increase the Business School's revenue by 86%, while supporting the innovation and growth of over 170 businesses across various sectors, including health, education, energy and manufacturing, through the development of multiple new products/services.

The Centre, which only opened its doors publicly in January 2024, has also generated over £1 million in funding to support the delivery of enterprise and innovation workshops and programmes across the Greater Manchester region.

Sara Boswell, Director of the CSI commented: "Despite only opening our doors at the beginning of this year, the CSI is already having a strong impact on driving innovation and fostering an entrepreneurial culture, not only within the University but across the region.

"Our goal is to be a lead player, addressing the global challenges of sustainability and innovation through education, research and action. Our team of experts are already excelling when it comes to contributing to the advancement of sustainability and innovation across Greater Manchester, and we have so much more we want to achieve from right here in the heart of Salford."

Through its three core workstreams of change management, digital transformation and sustainability, the CSI is a catalyst for collaboration, connecting students, faculty, colleagues and alumni with industry and policymakers to drive innovation in an everchanging business landscape.



Offering a range of programmes, services and events, the Centre provides pioneering solutions that address productivity and support sustainability including, but not limited to, helping to adopt new emerging technologies to drive innovation and efficiency, research, idea testing, developing entrepreneurial skillsets and support launching new initiatives, products and services to market.

Sara continued: "From driving the decarbonisation of carbonintensive industries through research, to upskilling on how adopting technologies like AI (artificial intelligence) and AR (augmented reality) can enhance or transform a business, the work we're doing within the Centre is having a direct impact on bolstering innovation across the North West, ultimately strengthening our regional economy.

"The Centre's commitment extends beyond profit, aiming to create significant socio-economic and environmental impact at regional and national levels through a range of strategic priorities. For instance, we know securing funding can be incredibly challenging and that for many smaller businesses prioritising sustainability when you have limited resources and budgets can be tough. But, we're putting tools in place to support on these critical areas to help businesses reach new heights."

The CSI provides a range of services for businesses including: tailored solutions to boost growth, the implementation of methods for successful organisational change, integrating digital solutions and new technologies to drive innovation, providing expert advice on sustainable practices and developing carbon neutrality strategies, plus helping to foster strategic partnerships to amplify opportunities. Beyond this, through the Centre, organisations can access the University's world leading facilities such as Energy House 2.0 and the North of England Robotics Innovation Centre.

To find out more about the CSI, visit: sustainable-innovation.salford.ac.uk

ROBOTS AT WORK SHOWCASING OUR ROBOTICS EXPERTISE TO OUR ALUMNI IN LONDON

We continue to push the boundaries of innovation, as showcased in this year's alumni lecture held at The Royal College of Surgeons, London. This special event, hosted by Vice-Chancellor Professor Nic Beech on Wednesday 21 February 2024, provided a fascinating glimpse into how the University is integrating robotics into key industries through the work of its North of England Robotics Innovation Centre (NERIC).

NERIC, a cutting-edge £16 million all-electric facility, stands as a beacon of our commitment to advancing robotics and automation. During the lecture, the audience was introduced to NERIC's groundbreaking work in two vital sectors: manufacturing and healthcare.

Nikki Ronan, NERIC's Director of Operations, provided insight into how the Centre collaborates with businesses to design, validate, and test bespoke robotic solutions. Nikki emphasised the role of robotics in performing the repetitive and monotonous tasks often shunned by human workers. By taking on these tasks, robots are boosting productivity and supporting business growth in a rapidly evolving technological landscape.

Meanwhile, Professor Wei Yao presented his pioneering research in the healthcare sector, which is paving the way for robots to deliver life-altering surgical procedures. Yao's work is instrumental in relieving pressure on overburdened surgeons and shortening patient waiting lists. With Al and robotics already assisting in surgical procedures, providing precise diagnoses, and enabling remote treatments, Professor Yao posed an intriguing question: Can these technologies further revolutionise healthcare by bringing services out of hospitals and closer to patients' homes?



The lecture provided a taste of the exciting industry collaborations and innovative research taking place at NERIC, leaving many eager for more. Conversations during the event revealed a strong desire among alumni to engage more with the University and our ongoing work.

We look forward to hosting more events that celebrate our role as a leader in technological innovation and industry collaboration, while also bringing our alumni together for reunions, conversations and collaboration.

Keep an eye on our alumni events webpage for the latest event announcements; salford.ac.uk/alumni/alumni-events

The lecture is available for you to view online: salford.ac.uk/2024-london-alumni-lecture



IT STARTS IN SALFORD A PLACE WHERE IDEAS ARE FORMED THAT SHAPE THE WORLD

At the University of Salford, we find solutions to the really hard to solve problems facing the world around us.

With a long history of collaboration with businesses, organisations and policymakers, we work with our partners to improve healthcare, help people with their energy bills, and make the world sound better for everyone.

We explore the root cause of problems, providing new insights to decision makers which ensure that policies are effective and fair. And we support businesses to boost economic development for everyone, as well as using our specialist knowledge to create the workforce of the future.

From our unique position at the heart of the community, we empower those around us to transform the everyday lives of people in Salford and Greater Manchester and beyond.

Here's a snapshot of some of the ways our research impacts moments in your daily life.





1. HELPING YOU SAVE MONEY ON HEATING



2. GREATER INDEPENDENCE FOR PEOPLE WITH PROSTHETIC LIMBS



3. INFLUENCING POLICY CHANGES TO SUPPORT VETERANS TO ACCESS THE BENEFITS SYSTEM



4. SAFER SOUNDS FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLES



5. MAKING BUILDINGS SOUND BETTER, MORE SUSTAINABLE AND ENERGY EFFICIENT





7. IMPROVING ACCESS TO ETHICAL FINANCE



8. IMPROVING FOOTWEAR FOR CHILDREN AND THE STANDING WORKFORCE



9. TACKLING INFECTION CONTROL AND PREVENTION



10. MAKING AI AND THE ONLINE WORLD SAFER AND MORE UNDERSTOOD



11. ENSURING EVERYONE'S
HISTORY, CULTURE
AND EXPERIENCES ARE
RECOGNISED IN EDUCATION



12. ENABLING SUSTAINABILITY IN CITIES THROUGH URBAN FARMING



13. NEW THERAPIES AND GUIDANCE TO SUPPORT PEOPLE EXPERIENCING MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES



14. SUPPORTING BUSINESSES TO ADOPT SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS



15. IMPROVING INJURY REHABILITATION FROM GRASSROOTS TO ELITE



16. USING ROBOTS TO IMPROVE CONSTRUCTION SAFETY



17. SUPPORTING FAMILIES TO TAKE CARE OF PETS

To view our video and find out more about research at Salford, visit

saitord.ac.uk∕researci it-starts-in-salford Our Alumni Achievement Awards celebrate alumni who excel, inspire others and exemplify the values of the University.

This year, we've updated the award categories to align with our University's key focus on innovating to enrich lives, recognising our alumni making a huge impact within and for our local, national and global communities in the areas of social impact and inclusion, creativity and innovation, health and wellbeing and environmental sustainability. We've also extended our awards to

include highly commended recipients alongside our winners so we can recognise (and celebrate!) more of our alumni community's fantastic achievements. Our award winners and highly commended recipients truly represent our Salford values and demonstrate how our alumni community drives positive change in all sectors and across the globe.

ALUMNI EXCELLENCE AWARD: LEADER IN CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION



JOINT WINNER: ADAM DICKINSON BA DESIGN PRACTICE (SPATIAL DESIGN). **CLASS OF 1999**

Adam is a trailblazer in the games industry, cofounding Rezzil in 2017 to revolutionise sports tech with VR and XR solutions that enhance athlete performance and improve concussion recovery for organisations like the Premier League and NBA. His development of EXAR technology for live sports broadcasts highlights his transformative impact and commitment to inspiring future generations.

JOINT WINNERS: MOLLIE BALSHAW AND REBEKAH BALSHAW **BA FINE ART. CLASS OF 2019**

Mollie and Rebekah, co-founders of Short Supply, are pioneers in the North West's visual arts scene, proving that high-quality art can thrive outside London. Through their independent Graduate Art Prize, MADE IT, they've supported over 500 emerging artists and inspired a strong community with nearly 100,000 followers and 15 million video views on social media, inspiring others to build meaningful connections with peers and forge successful careers in the arts



ALUMNI EXCELLENCE AWARD: CHANGEMAKER IN ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY



WINNER: ANDREW REYNOLDS FRICS BSC QUANTITY SURVEYING. **CLASS OF 1996**

Andrew is the UK and European Chief Executive and Global Board Director at Rider Levett Bucknall, where he drives sustainable strategies in the built environment. His leadership on the RICS Standards and Regulation Board and the Construction Leadership Council's Next Generation Delivery group highlights his commitment to innovative solutions for environmental challenges.

HIGHLY COMMENDED: CARL SMETHURST **BA GEOGRAPHY, CLASS OF 1985**

Carl Smethurst is the National Trees for Climate Programme Manager at Cheshire West and Chester Council, leading a partnership that has delivered over 4,000 hectares of new woodlands across England. Funded by Defra's Nature for Climate Fund, his initiative has planted over five million trees, advancing effective solutions for environmental issues and sustainable development since 2020.



ALUMNI EXCELLENCE AWARD: DRIVER OF SOCIAL IMPACT AND INCLUSION



WINNER: NADINE TRAVERS BSC SOCIAL POLICY, CLASS OF 2021

Driven by her own childhood experience of being removed from mainstream education and being labelled a 'disruptive' child, Nadine founded ST4ND, a charity supporting disadvantaged children through alternative education, mentoring and counselling that encourages socially isolated children and young people to make and sustain friendships with their peers. Nadine also contributes to shaping national policies on poverty as a trustee for the Poverty Truth Network and is an active member of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation's Grassroots Poverty Action Group.

HIGHLY COMMENDED: SAARAH ALI BSC DIGITAL BUSINESS, CLASS OF 2021

Saarah Ali is a digital business and sports marketing professional at RL Commercial (the commercial arm of the Rugby Football League), where she uses social media to engage new audiences with rugby league as well as breaking barriers within the company to improve diversity and promote inclusivity in sport and media. Saraah continually encourages and engages South Asian women in sport. Starting netball at 12, she now coaches young girls and hosts games for Muslim women aged 30+ as a social outlet and an opportunity to get back into sport.



ALUMNI EXCELLENCE AWARD: CHAMPION IN HEALTH AND WELLBEING



WINNER: LUKE BROWN BSC SPORTS REHABILITATION. **CLASS OF 2009**

Luke Brown is a community leader and therapist who founded Lowton Community Hub, transforming it into a model for integrated healthcare services, including mental health support and fitness classes. With over 15 years in musculoskeletal medicine, his initiatives have significantly improved public health and inspired similar projects across the region.

HIGHLY COMMENDED: KIMBERLY PRESTON-BOND **MASTER OF BUSINESS**



Kimberly is the founder and CEO of Visit from the Stork, a family support charity that focuses on supporting those in crisis, including survivors of domestic violence. Her work has significantly improved public health and support systems for vulnerable families and has supported more than 2,000 families in Salford, Manchester and Bury.



HIGHLY COMMENDED: BEN ANDREWS BSC EXERCISE, PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND HEALTH, **CLASS OF 2015**

Ben is the Founder and Managing Director of Beyond Empower, a community interest company with a focus on making activity, health and life generally more accessible and inclusive for disabled people in Greater Manchester through NHS and local authority contracts. His advocacy for inclusivity has earned national recognition and is significantly impacting public health practices. Ben also won an Alumni Rising Star Award in 2019.

ALUMNI RISING STAR AWARD



SALFORD BUSINESS SCHOOL WINNER: QAZEEM FANIRAN MSC DIGITAL BUSINESS, **CLASS OF 2020**

Qazeem is a digital technology specialist and co-founder of the Nigerian startup Vysend, where he promotes sustainability by recycling old phones and empowering over 5,000 young people, especially girls, through the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) Nigeria. Now leading digital transformation initiatives in the NHS in the North West of England, he shows strong potential for further positive impact in technology and healthcare.



SCHOOL OF SCIENCE, ENGINEERING AND ENVIRONMENT WINNER: EMMA WHITE **BA GEOGRAPHY, CLASS OF 2022**

MSC SUSTAINABILITY, CLASS OF 2023 Emma is an inspiring advocate for sustainability and inclusion in the University community, founding the Salford Swap Shop to donate hundreds of unwanted clothes and raising over £150 for the British Hedgehog Association during her final year. With five years of volunteer experience, she established the University's first Disability Society, promoting equity and driving lasting change in higher education.



Josh is a People & Culture Business Partner at PZ Cussons, leading talent, learning and the company's diversity, equity and inclusion strategies. Josh volunteers his time and expertise to engage with current Salford students and foster the next generation of talent. He also advises the Board of Directors for Think For The Future, a social enterprise supporting schools with intervention programmes.



SCHOOL OF HEALTH AND SOCIETY **WINNER: NADINE TRAVERS BSC SOCIAL POLICY, CLASS OF 2021**

A dual-winner in this year's awards, Nadine is also awarded the Rising Star award for her dedication to safeguarding vulnerable young people and devotion to charity work. Nadine formed ST4ND, her youth organisation, just one year after graduating and now supports over 300 disadvantaged children and young people. Her commitment to supporting marginalised groups is having a positive ripple effect across the community.



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SCHOOL OF ARTS, MEDIA AND CREATIVE TECHNOLOGY WINNER: NOOR AL-NASER MA TERRORISM AND SECURITY, CLASS OF 2022

Noor is an accomplished Iraqi national with over eight years of experience at the United Nations, where she managed explosive hazards clearance projects in post-ISIS Iraq as an Operations Analyst for UNMAS. Noor has broken gendered stereotypes in her sector and continues to be an advocate for the next generation, volunteering to advise current Salford students about careers in this field. After graduating as a Chevening Scholar, she now serves as a Senior Officer for Programme Management at the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism in Doha, Qatar.



MA DIGITAL VIDEO PRODUCTION AND MARKETING, CLASS OF 2022

Hauwa is a multi-award-winning digital technology mentor and Chief Digital Officer at Kugali, a visual story telling brand that generates comics, graphic novels, augmented reality (AR) and animation to create engaging experiences. Hauwa was named as one of the Top 100 Women in UK Tech 2024. With over a decade of experience, she mentors young girls and non-binary individuals across 14 countries, advancing gender equity in tech while supporting nonprofits like FareShare during the cost-of-living crisis.



ALUMNI VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



WINNER: PAUL HUTCHINGS BSC BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT STUDIES, CLASS OF 2008

Paul has volunteered with the University for over a decade, promoting placements, apprenticeships and graduate schemes while delivering guest lectures to inspire students. As Deputy Chief Finance Officer at Salford City Council, he focuses on raising aspirations and improving career prospects, particularly for students from disadvantaged backgrounds.



Consultant at BJSS Limited with a background in Psychology. He actively volunteers by offering career advice and facilitating collaborations between his company and the MSc Media Psychology programme. His involvement has helped inspire students and build stronger connections between industry and academia.



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HIGHLY COMMENDED: DAVID UTLEY BSC PSYCHOLOGY, CLASS OF 2013

David, a Senior User Researcher at the Home Office, has supported MSc Media Psychology students by mentoring and guiding their UX projects, helping them meet industry standards. His warm, approachable nature and honest insights inspire students to persevere, raising their confidence and aspirations through alumni and careers events.

MSC MEDIA PSYCHOLOGY, 2018 David, a Senior User Researcher at the Home

ALUMNI LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



AWARD WINNER: BARONESS KEELEY OF WORSLEY
BA POLITICS AND CONTEMPORARY HISTORY,
CLASS OF 1994

Barbara Keeley made history as the first female MP for Worsley, serving five terms and holding multiple Ministerial roles including Shadow Cabinet Minister for Social Care and Mental Health.

With a career spanning community regeneration, IT and politics, she was appointed to the House of Lords in 2024 to mark a lifetime of distinguished contributions.



Scan the QR code or visit the URL below to read the full stories of our award winners and highly commended recipients: salfor .ac.uk/alumni/alumni-achievement-awards

ART INSPIRED BY ENERGY HOUSE 2.0 ON DISPLAY

The University of Salford Art Collection is currently hosting two 18-month artist residencies at Energy House 2.0, the unique, world-leading energy performance facility at the University of Salford Energy House Labs. Work made by Mishka Henner during the first part of his residency is currently on display at the Open Eye Gallery in Liverpool until 31 March 2025.

Selected from an open call in 2022, Mishka is working alongside leading scientists, specialists, researchers, industry partners, and the broader University community, considering 'the different ways we can see energy, and how climate catastrophe haunts our present condition.' He has been in post since early 2023, and has been inspired by both the new state-of-the-art research facilities, and the groundbreaking research at the University of Salford.

The Energy House 2.0 residency programme is delivered in partnership with Open Eye Gallery in Liverpool and Castlefield Gallery in Manchester, and is generously supported by Friends of Energy House Labs. Both Mishka and Emily Speed, who began her journey with Salford in summer 2023, were selected from open calls for the 18-month residencies in response to Energy House 2.0's research. Known for her work examining the relationship between the body and architecture, Emily's practice considers how a person is shaped by the buildings they have occupied and how a person occupies their own psychological space.

Mishka Henner said: "Energy House 2.0 is a unique monument to human ingenuity in the face of climate catastrophe. It's been incredible to work with Richard Fitton and the team at Energy House, and explore the other amazing facilities across the university, from the makers space, to fashion, and the acoustics department. The University has really become a test ground for my work, allowing me to explore new aspects of my practice and develop as an artist in new directions."

Mishka has tapped into some of the core ideas at the heart of the world-leading research at Energy House 2.0.

Rowan Pritchard
Project Co-ordinator with the
University of Salford Art Collection

Rowan Pritchard, Project Co-ordinator with the University of Salford Art Collection, said: "Over the course of the residency so far, it has been a privilege to see how Mishka's work has shaped in response to the research at Energy House 2.0 and the facilities available at the University. From the large fabric prints on display currently at Open Eye Gallery, to the striking performance work he developed for Sounds From The Other City in May, Mishka has tapped into some of the core ideas at the heart of the world-leading research at Energy House 2.0."

Following the residencies there will be a showcase of the work produced by both artists at Castlefield Gallery. In addition, work will be acquired by the University of Salford Art Collection as a legacy of the project.

Image courtesy: Mishka Henner



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MEET THE ALUMNI SPEAKERS WHO INSPIRED AT SUMMER GRADUATION

This year's Summer Graduation ceremonies introduced a new and exciting feature: speeches from alumni.

We invited 12 recent graduates to share their journeys and insights from their university lives and beyond, covering lessons in resilience, embracing non-linear career paths and the importance of seizing opportunities and trusting oneself.

Their stories ranged from prison placements and public inquiries to founding charities, rescuing cats, and exploring art and friendship, all reflecting how their time at Salford shaped who they are today.

Our alumni speakers

Abiola Ogunsami is a graduate development manager at Muse and ambassador for Regeneration Brainery and Future of Greater Manchester, helping to educate and inspire younger generations wanting to get a start within the property industry.

Amanda Kirkpatrick juggled her studies as a single mother with two young children and studied through difficult circumstances. She is now a podiatrist at an NHS Foundation Trust.

Azeem Amir plays blind football professionally for the England and Great Britain blind football team and is the founder and project lead at Learn with ESS, an organisation that tackles disability awareness

Gail Hadfield-Grainger is director of her own legal consultancy firm, GHG Legal, and is a police station representative, coming into higher education as a mature student following tragic circumstances.

Maudlyn Akosua Awuku is an advocate for women and youth empowerment and, after leaving Salford, founded Anijie Global Foundation, an organisation committed to inspiring, educating and celebrating future leaders.

Melissa Ahmed is the co-founder and managing director of Techwuman, an engineering consultancy company specialising in design engineering for the physical security of critical national infrastructure.

Mia Charnock serves as a design engineer at MGF, a market leader in the design, manufacture and provision of modular and bespoke excavation support systems.

Nathan Ball serves as a firefighter for the London fire brigade and in 2023 received a commendation for his actions and bravery.

Patrick He is an experienced and passionate graphic designer, who currently serves as a middleweight designer for Manchester based creative agency, Epigram Communications & Design.



Peninah Wampamba





Mia Charnock

Ahiola ∩auneami

Peninah Wampamba is a paediatric nurse and co-founder of Just Between Us Girls, a community organisation that works with black and minority ethnic women providing opportunities and support to create healthy communities.

Rhys Blanchard is a PR consultant at world-renowned PR firm, Weber Shandwick, where he helps to lead high-impact public relations campaigns and drive strategic communication initiatives.

Sevim Yildiz is a freelance natural history researcher and has helped to create inspiring documentaries, making complex wildlife concepts accessible to global audiences.

A huge thank you to our alumni for inspiring and advising our new graduates!

Read all about our alumni speakers and watch their inspirational speeches on our Graduate Voice blog: blogs.salford.ac.uk/graduate-voice/alumni-speakers-2024

THERAPIST JOSH IS NOW ON THE BESTSELLER LIST WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM SALFORD



Josh Fletcher, 35, studied Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) at the University of Salford and is now a highly regarded therapist and author. His book *And How Does That Make You Feel?* is a top seller on Amazon, and has been praised in media including The Guardian, The Times and Sky News.

Josh originally trained to be a therapist before studying CBT at Salford. We asked Josh what he remembers most about his time at Salford.

"I really enjoyed the course and meeting people—in fact I met friends for life. They've gone on to do really well. I loved the campus. It's a great location and the tutors are fantastic—it's just a great place to go and to learn and I love coming back."

Reflecting on the success of his latest book, he says that it doesn't seem real. The book is unique in that it shares the thought processes a therapist might have when counselling patients, giving an insight into the moral dilemmas and sometimes turbulent emotions they may be feeling.

"The book seems to have caught the public's imagination. I still have to pinch myself to be honest. I do need to sit down and realise how well it's doing. I've had some great feedback, from

everyone including people who have been to therapy, some who have never been, and my fellow therapists, which means a great deal to me."

With typical insight and honesty, Josh added: "I'm a very driven, often self-critical person who keeps trying to push myself and the advice I give to others I probably need to give myself first!"

He praised the teaching at Salford, and says he still uses many techniques today: "I loved practising doing my formulation. There are different types of therapists out there. Every time I work with a client we always work together and formulate what the issue is. It's a technique I've never stopped. I'm so grateful for all that Salford taught me."

You can learn more about Josh's approach (and yourself!) by following him on social media: @anxietyjosh

MEET OUR NEW HONORARY GRADUATES

In July we celebrated a very special time in our annual calendar, Summer Graduation. A jampacked week of 13 ceremonies saw thousands of our students cross the stage at The Lowry Theatre, dressed in their cap and gowns.

We also acknowledged the outstanding contributions of four special honorary graduates, all leaders in their field.



Jen Blackwell, co-founder of the multi award winning dance charity DanceSyndrome, was named a Doctor of Arts for her work inspiring people of all abilities to dance.

Jen, who has Down's syndrome, set up DanceSyndrome in 2009 with the help of her family. Since then, thousands of lives have been transformed through her work.

In an emotional acceptance speech, she said: "Thank you for recognising what's possible for anyone, even those of us with learning disabilities. Everyone, with the right support, can Dream. Believe and Achieve."

Jen already has strong links with our university, which offers the UK's oldest integrated Learning Disabilities and Social Work

As well as multiple TV appearances including on Channel 4's Steph's Packed Lunch and the BBC's Children In Need, Jen and DanceSyndrome have performed at the Lowry and at Edinburgh Fringe.

In 2023, Jen was accepted as a Fellow of the Royal Society of the Arts and recognised for her services to Disabled People with a British Empire Medal (BEM).

An alumna of Salford's prestigious BA Popular Music and Recording programme, award-winning singer and musician Caroline Redman Lusher was named a Doctor of Arts.

Caroline is the Creator and Creative Director of Rock Choir, the world's largest contemporary choir where more than 33,000 members are inspired each week by unique vocal arrangements of feel-good pop songs. The ethos of inclusivity, accessibility and fun means the choir acts as a unique platform for friendship, communication and wellbeing.

She is also a professional recording artist featuring on albums that have sold over a million copies in the UK, gaining four goldand platinum-certified sales awards, as well as numerous other notable industry awards.

Caroline opened both the 2018 and 2019 BBC Proms in the Park performances as lead vocalist, accompanied by the BBC Concert Orchestra and the 80-strong Rock Choir Vocal Group.

Caroline said: "I am extremely lucky to have enjoyed a career in the arts; to be creative every day, work with music and use it to make an impact on the lives and wellbeing of the British public."



Businessman and philanthropist John Galloway was awarded an honorary degree after creating a charity to help people with disabilities get behind the wheel of a car.

Thanks to John's Speed of Sight charity, thousands of people have been able to experience driving, despite being blind, having limbs missing or another disability which means they are not allowed to drive.

John's journey began when he joined forces with Mike Newman, who is blind, to help him achieve his personal quest of setting a blind land-speed record. Together, they achieved seven world records in cars, planes, powerboats, and racing trucks.

John has been recognised as an Honorary Fellow of the University for his achievements and contribution to the community. In 2012, John co-founded Speed of Sight, dedicating himself full-time to the charity's mission.

John said: "People who have been told they will never be able to drive due to their disability, when they get behind a wheel their reactions are priceless. Many are lost for words, punch the air or cry with joy after they've driven round our tracks for the first time."





Founder and former chair of technology company ANS Group, Scott Fletcher MBE, received an honorary degree for his outstanding contribution to business and commitment to supporting his community.

Scott began his career here in Salford with his first job on the Salford University Business Park before launching ANS Group from his bedroom aged 22. The company was sold to private equity in 2021 for over £200 million. Scott is also the Chairman of Godel Technologies.

He has always been passionate about promoting and providing apprenticeships, supporting young people to embark on successful careers and tackling the UK's tech skills gap. Scott was awarded a Doctor of Business Administration honoris causa.

Scott said: "To be awarded an honorary degree in the city I started my career is incredibly humbling. Salford has come a long way, the city is flourishing and it's great to have been a part of this journey."

Serving on the Greater Manchester Local Enterprise Partnership board, Scott helped drive investment and growth in the region. His philanthropic efforts include significant charitable contributions and hands-on support for local causes.

In 2014, Scott was awarded an MBE for his services to business and the community.

HIT PODCAST RETURNS WITH STAR-PACKED **SEASON 2 FOR MORE SALFORD ALUMNI STORIES**

Talking Salford, our hit podcast celebrating the achievements and amazing personal stories of our alumni, returned to feeds this year with a star-packed second season.

Our first season of Talking Salford ran from June to October 2023, receiving thousands of listens and watches across podcasting platforms and on YouTube. Clips of episodes received over a quarter of a million impressions on social media. The success culminated in a nomination for Best Student or Alumni Engagement Initiative at the 2024 Heist Awards, which celebrate excellence and innovation in education marketing.

The core production team - which still consists of both University staff and current students - returned with ambitious plans for Season 2 and an exciting array of guests alongside several themed specials.

Season 2 kicked off in January 2024 with Alumni Achievement Award winners Jeanette Gamble and Vicky Hawkesworth. Jeanette, who is based in New York, is a Managing Director at Morgan Stanley, a board director on Girls Who Code and a Salford Business School Honorary International Industry Fellow. Vicky is a presenter and DJ for BBC Radio 1, who made history as one of the co-presenters on the first daytime show produced by the national radio station at Salford.

Jeanette came into our MediaCity studios for her recording during a visit to Salford in November 2023 and wowed us with a very personal but insightful discussion around her journey from Enniskillen, Northern Ireland in the 1990s to the boardroom of Morgan Stanley in New York.

She told us: "I definitely did not think that I could get into the University. You know, I really did not have a lot of confidence, even when I would get the best grades in school, there was something inside of me that didn't feel I was good enough.

"I remember the envelope came, and I don't know why but I just needed to be at this university. I had applied to others, but there was something about Salford and the degree that just made me really excited. I put all my eggs in that basket!"



Jeanette Gamble (top), Vicky Hawkesworth (bottom)





Vicky came into our brand new podcast and audio recording studio on the campus for her own interview and shared the inspiring story of how she went from a BA Television and Radio Production graduate in 2017 to taking the hotseat of the legendary presenter Scott Mills at the station less than five years later.

She told the podcast: "I didn't know Scott [and Chris Stark] were leaving until the whole world knew they were. And I had people texting me like 'You're gonna get it, it's going to be you' and I was like, 'It's absolutely not going to be me.' You don't go from doing a bit of cover every now and then to daytime.

"I got a text message from Aled [BBC Radio 1 producer] the next day who said he was putting feelers out to everyone and asked me if I would be interested in a show. At this point, I very much wasn't backing myself.

"I then got a text later asking me to come to MediaCity the next day and I was then told that they wanted to give me and Dean [McCullogh, co-presenter] the show. I was given a bit of a moment to take it in. He then told me it would be in Salford. So I went, 'Hang on, I'm getting a massively coveted slot on Radio 1 and I get to stay at home!' I was quite speechless."

This season saw the production team record episodes outside of the studio for the first time on location, with a Women In STEM Day special recorded with Professor Chloe James in our Science, Engineering and Environment Building and another special for International Women's Day recorded in the Students' Union bar, Atmosphere.

Also featuring in Season 2 are award-winning professional singer and Rock Choir founder Caroline Redman Lusher, Wonka and Paddington editor Mark Everson, five recent graduates from each of our four schools in a Graduation special and many more.

You can watch all episodes of Talking Salford on the official University of Salford YouTube channel or listen to it on Acast or wherever you get your podcasts.

Find all our Talking Salford episodes and links to listen or watch on our website:

salford.ac.uk/talking-salford-podcast



I remember the envelope came, and I don't know why but I just needed to be at this university. I had applied to others, but there was something about Salford and the degree that just made me really excited. I put all my eggs in that basket!

Managing Director at Morgan Stanley



INTOUNIVERSITY SALFORD CENTRAL GOES FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

IntoUniversity is a UK-based charity that provides educational support to young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. The organisation focuses on helping students from underrepresented communities gain access to higher education by offering academic mentoring, after-school programmes, and university application guidance.

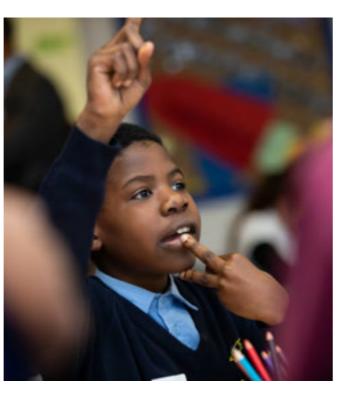
In the 2023/24 academic year, IntoUniversity Salford Central continued it's partnership with the University of Salford and University of Manchester and welcomed over 1,400 young people aged 7 to 18. That takes the total amount of young people supported since the centre's opening to nearly 1,800. From tailored curriculum workshops for primary students to futurereadiness projects for secondary students, the centre provides structured academic support and invaluable resources.

There have been so many positive outcomes from the centre's opening to the present. 68% of Salford Central's young people supported in 2023-24 have progressed into higher education, compared to a local average of 20%. 78% of the students on the Primary FOCUS programme reported they knew more about university following the programme. 70% of students across all programmes reported improved teamwork and 65% said they're more likely to go to university.

"The second year of IntoUniversity Salford Central has been fantastic and our engagement with the local community has grown," said April Paa, the Centre's leader. "We have maintained great partnerships with six local Primary schools, three Secondary schools and two colleges. We have many students and families who continue to access our Academic Support and Mentoring programmes. Last year, we covered topics such as Performing Arts, Engineering and Paleontology to students ranging between Year 3 to Year 6. We also took trips to the Imperial War Museum, National Football Museum and Salford Museum and Art Gallery. We look forward to continuing to support students in the coming years."

Thank you to our generous supporters who have helped fund the centre:

- / BNY Mellon
- / Cisco
- / HgCapital
- / Morson Group
- / Peninsula
- / Richard Donner
- / Rolls-Royce SMR







We have been delighted with the response from the local community since opening. We have partnered with six local primary schools and two sixth form colleges to deliver our full FOCUS programme. It has been wonderful for the team to build relationships with so many young people in the area.

Rishi Jindal Former Centre leader







Our supporters have had the opportunity to volunteer at the centre, offering not only financial support but also their time, which is truly valuable to the students. This hands-on involvement allows them to see first-hand how their contributions have positively impacted the local community.

A colleague from Peninsula shared: "I recently participated in one of the IntoUniversity Careers in FOCUS events as a guest speaker, giving students insight into our business. As we provide HR and Health and Safety support to our clients, the session focused on employment law and HR, helping students understand people processes in the workplace. The aim was to improve their communication and critical thinking skills. I found the session extremely rewarding both personally and professionally, as the students were engaged and motivated to participate. We collaborated with the IntoUniversity coordinators to design content and activities that matched the tone of the day and had significant creative control over these elements. It also allowed us to showcase our business to the students, hopefully equipping them with key skills for the workplace and further studies. I highly recommend anyone considering getting involved with these programmes to do so!"

To stay informed about latest Centre news, contact the Philanthropy team at supporters@salford.ac.uk

2024 FUNDRAISING HIGHLIGHTS CELEBRATING MILESTONES AND OPPORTUNITIES

As we reflect on a wonderful year, it's clear that the generosity of our community has helped drive exciting progress and new opportunities. These standout achievements showcase the impact philanthropy has had on the University of Salford.

Friends of Energy House 2.0 hits £500K milestone

This year, we proudly reached a major milestone with the Friends of Energy House 2.0 initiative, securing £500,000 in funding. This philanthropic effort supports the dissemination of world-leading research from Energy House Labs to the public, with a focus on community engagement and education initiatives. We were also thrilled to be finalists in multiple categories and highly commended recipients for the Research with Impact category in the 2024 Green Gown Awards, which recognise sustainability excellence in higher education. With new plans for Energy House Labs on the horizon, we look forward to unveiling the next phase of this transformative project in early 2025.



Haworth Charitable Trust Life Drawing Exhibition

In 2024, the Haworth Charitable Trust Life Drawing Exhibition saw its largest turnout yet, moving to a new home at New Adelphi. This annual event celebrates the incredible talent of students who participated in the 20-week life drawing classes and specialist masterclasses made possible by the Trust. The exhibition provided a platform for students to showcase their artistic work, with a particular emphasis on enhancing observational skills. The move to New Adelphi was a great success, increasing participation and further integrating the arts into campus life.

Salford Racing triumphs at Silverstone

The Salford Racing team achieved their best-ever result at the Formula Student competition at Silverstone, placing Salford 8th out of 56 teams – a significant leap from their 46th position last year. Sponsored by Morson Projects, the team excelled in both design and performance, culminating in a stellar finish in the endurance race. Their success is a testament to the support from Morson Projects and the dedication of students like Mustafa Youssef, who also secured an MSc Motorsport Scholarship through the Lewis Hamilton-founded Mission 44 initiative.

AJ Bell Mark Gardner Award for Journalism

Earlier this year, the AJ Bell Mark Gardner Award for Journalism was launched to honour aspiring journalists. The first recipient, BA Broadcast Journalism student Mia, impressed with her exceptional writing skills, securing publication in Shares magazine. Her lecturer, Paul Duckworth, praised the partnership with AJ Bell, highlighting the award's role in helping students transition from academic excellence to professional achievement. With a new three-year agreement signed, we look forward to many more students benefitting from this fantastic initiative.





Salford Advantage Fund: supporting student projects

This year, the Salford Advantage Fund enabled several impactful student-focused projects. Notable among them was STEM Future Leaders, which helped students gain critical skills for leadership roles in the STEM industries. Another project, Business Career Connect, provided students with opportunities to bridge the gap between academia and professional networks, ensuring they are well-prepared for their future careers. These initiatives, alongside many others funded through the Salford Advantage Fund, continue to empower students to achieve.

Is Anybody Listening? 'Our Time, Our Place'

As our National Lottery Heritage Fund-supported project, Is Anybody Listening? 'Our Time, Our Place', has drawn to a close we reflect on some surprising and lasting impacts. It's helped shift the way people think about socially engaged photography, sparking interest from the British Journal of Photography and even inspiring plans for a similar symposium at the Williamson Art Gallery. Connections between different venues and communities grew stronger too, with young people collaborating and showcasing their work at events like the Northern Eye Festival and exhibitions at Ellesmere Port. On top of that, the project opened up new opportunities for participants. Three mentees secured Arts Council England funding to keep developing their work, and young people in Little Hulton were gifted cameras to continue their photography journey. Some even worked the skills they gained into their Duke of Edinburgh Award activities. Looking ahead, there's a new display of Craig Easton's work being planned at the University of Salford, making sure the project continues to make an impact.





New partnership with Tutor Trust

We've launched a partnership with the award-winning charity Tutor Trust to transform lives through tutoring. The partnership will focus on training and paying our students to tutor local young people in Maths and English, particularly Year 6 students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Over 400 young people will benefit. The pilot, which runs over the 2024/25 academic year, will explore a 'Lead Tutor' model, engage with local charities and offer tutoring at a much lower cost to schools. IntoUniversity is also being explored in this first year to ensure we have a connected and coordinated offer to local young people to improve outcomes and attainment. The project is fully funded by philanthropic donations, with future plans to scale, offer academic credit and improve data collection.

Summer Graduation 2024

This Summer, we celebrated our graduating scholars, watching them cross the stage and honouring their achievements. The celebratory reception is a highlight of the year and a wonderful opportunity to recognise both our scholars and donors, allowing us to share in their joy and pride. These donors have supported our scholars throughout their academic journey, offering not only financial assistance but also opportunities for networking and mentoring. Amaar, a recipient of the Gerry Mason Engineering Scholarship, expressed his gratitude: "It was an awesome opportunity and incredible spending time with Ged [Mason], CEO of Morson International, having a one-on-one conversation with him and hearing all the advice he gave me." We look forward to seeing what our scholars will accomplish post-graduation and wish them the very best in their next chanter

Through these highlights, we celebrate the remarkable achievements made possible by the generosity of our supporters. As we look to the future, we remain committed to nurturing the next generation of talent and innovation and we invite you to join us in continuing this journey.

CELEBRATING THE IMPACT OF DONOR-FUNDED SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES

Our donor-funded scholarships and bursaries are vital to our mission of empowering students from diverse backgrounds to excel academically. Thanks to the incredible generosity of our donors — including alumni, charitable trusts and foundations, and corporate partners — we are proud to have awarded nearly 50 scholarships for this academic year, helping students at every stage of their education, from undergraduate through to PhD level.

Our scholarships support students who might otherwise face barriers to accessing higher education. From the First-Generation Scholarship Programme (Plug Into Salford), which helps students who are the first in their family to attend university, to bursaries for students leaving care, and awards for those from underrepresented backgrounds, these scholarships represent not just financial support, but also a vote of confidence in our students' potential to succeed.

In fact, more than 50% of our students are the first in their family to attend university, and 60% come from low socio-economic backgrounds. Many of our scholarship recipients originate from Greater Manchester, with 47% of our student body coming from the local area, and a further 18% coming from the North West. This highlights our strong connection to the region and our commitment to promoting social mobility within our communities.

Donor spotlight: Morson Group

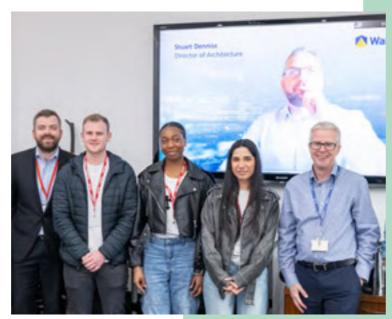
One of our standout supporters, Morson Group, continues to champion the next generation of STEM talent through the Gerry Mason Scholarship. Since 2016, their support has provided life-changing opportunities to over 50 students, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds. Ged Mason, CEO of Morson Group, said: "Our partnership with Salford is making a real difference. We are proud to help shape the future by supporting talented students and continuing my father's legacy."

Supporting a diverse student body

Our scholarship offerings extend beyond financial assistance to provide students with opportunities for academic and personal growth. For many recipients, a scholarship can mean the difference between merely attending university and thriving. Whether it's funding to cover course materials, allowing time to participate in extracurricular activities, or providing stability in challenging circumstances, the impact of these scholarships is profound.

As one recent scholar shared: "Thank you to my donor for enabling both personal and creative growth. This support has allowed me to explore ideas that I thought wouldn't be possible without the funding."

The diversity of our scholarship recipients is a testament to our University-wide commitment to widening participation, with 80% of our student body coming from widening participation backgrounds. These scholarships help break down barriers and open doors for recipients. They empower students to pursue their academic and professional goals, contributing to the University of Salford's mission towards social justice and inclusivity.



Students at the Morson offices



Morson Group

Thank you to our donors

We are incredibly grateful to the growing community of scholarship donors, whose generosity has helped us allocate nearly 50 scholarships for the 2024 academic year. Your support is truly life-changing for our students and, together, we are shaping the future for individuals who will go on to make a difference in their fields of study and their communities.

If you would like to learn more about how you can support the next generation of Salford students, we would love to hear from you! Please contact:

Nic Whyley – Senior Philanthropy Manger

N.Whyley@salford.ac.uk

Hannah Whitehurst – Philanthropy Manager, Major Gifts

H.C.Whitehurst@salford.ac.uk

Thank you to our supporters:

/ The late Ann Scully

/ The Aziz Foundation

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/ Morson Group

/ The Roysia Foundation

/ RSK Group

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UNIVERSITY ART COLLECTION MARKS TEN YEARS OF GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

The University of Salford Art Collection is marking the tenth anniversary of our Graduate Scholarship Programme with a special exhibition of the scholars' work as part of a celebration of the scheme.

Established in 2014, the Programme has supported 50 alumni from the School of Arts, Media and Creative Technology, to develop their careers through a bespoke 12-month package of support.

This one-of-a-kind package includes studio space, coaching, mentoring, research trips, professional development sessions, a bursary for materials or travel and more.

Over the last ten years, the Programme has developed and helped produce outstanding emerging talents from the University whilst helping to build Salford's wider local arts ecology. The programme's artists have gained new commissions, residencies, exhibitions and set up their own businesses.

This year's special celebration sees work from the graduates highlighted within a collection on display in the New Adelphi Exhibition Gallery until Friday 10 January 2025. This work will be a small selection that have been gifted to the University's permanent Art Collection and have been selected to showcase the breadth of creative practices from across the BA and MA courses at Salford.

Lindsay Taylor, Curator of the University of Salford Art Collection, said: "In 2014, when establishing the Graduate Scholarship Programme, my hope was that it would be a vehicle for ensuring our graduates were successful in their field, whilst embedding the University within the creative and cultural ecologies of Salford, and Greater Manchester.

"For this to happen it had to be in partnership with Castlefield Gallery, the leading artist development organisation in the North West, and it is a pleasure to share our 10 year anniversary with their 40 years! It was also vital to work in collaboration with our valued studio partners, which are at the heart of the city's creative and cultural life.

"All the scholars have taken their individual creative paths, whether as artists, photographers and creatives, curators, academics, entrepreneurs and are impacting on the world in their own ways. They are the future leaders of creativity and culture in this country and beyond, and I am proud to have supported them at the start of their journeys."

The Programme has been well supported over its ten years by the Art Collection's lead partner Castlefield Gallery as well as current partners Islington Mill, Paradise Work, Hotbed Press and Wallace Seymour.

Helen Wewiora, Director of Castlefield Gallery, said: "It is a great joy to mark ten years of Salford scholars with our much-valued partner the University of Salford Art Collection, also delivering the scheme in collaboration with such a dynamic group of studio partners in the city.

"We are immensely proud of all the University of Salford graduates we have worked with. Castlefield Gallery is excited to welcome such a promising group of graduates [who commenced] their programme with us in September 2024.

"Here's to another ten years of the Programme, an unrivalled scheme designed to support artists and creatives of the future."

"

Here's to another ten years of the Programme, an unrivalled scheme designed to support artists and creatives of the future.

GRADUATES OF THE LAST 10 YEARS





Lizzie King, BA Visual Arts 2014/15

Lizzie uses analogue and digital printmaking and photography to explore the 'narratives of our human-centered universe.' Lizzie has had work exhibited all over the UK, internationally and is currently undertaking her master's in Contemporary Fine Art at Salford. This work was commissioned for the city-wide project, Rediscovering Salford.

'Belonging' by Lizzie King, 2021

Joshua Turner, BA Photography 2018/19

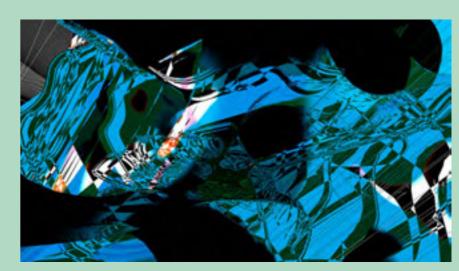
Josh is a photographic artist exploring narratives of symbiosis between the landscape and the individual. Joe has exhibited in galleries across the UK, has had his writing published online and in print and is currently a Photographic Technical Demonstrator at the University. This work 'A Seat in the Shade' is part of a larger body of work produced during the Venice Biennale 2019.

'A Seat in the Shade' by Joshua Turner, 2020

Joe Beedles, BA Creative Music Technology 2015/16

Joe's audiovisual work combines music and digital video with generative technologies to create abstracted works that explore time, memory and the 'threshold between the real and the simulated.' Joe's current focus is on generative systems for live performances, providing audiences with compelling and immersive audio-reactive imagery. This work explores the idea of 'compressed memory' and considers how recollections can blur and distort over time.

'Memory Compression' by Joe Beedles, 2017



FROM THE SMITHS TO BLONDIE: HOW MAXWELL HALL'S LEGACY CONTINUES TO LIVE ON

Live music returned to Maxwell Hall in May for the first time in 10 years, during the Sounds of the Other City music festival. Now used for graduation ceremonies and career fairs, Maxwell Hall was once a live music venue, with infamous acts such as The Smiths, Blondie and Paul McCartney gracing the stage and enrapturing audiences from the 1960s to 2000s. To celebrate, we asked the University community to delve into their memories and treasure troves and contribute to a new digital archive that preserves and honours its legacy and the legendary acts that played on campus.

We were astounded to hear from hundreds of alumni who were keen to share their memories and cherished items. We received posters, ticket stubs, memorabilia and even unique anecdotes – some of which we recorded and you can listen to in the archive.



Left: Photograph taken by June Buchan of Blondie's Debbie Harry 'wearing' the gig poster at Maxwell Hall on 3 March 1978; Above: Ticket from Pulp's gig at The Pav in 1992.

Clockwise from the top left of opposite page: Photograph taken by Jim Mooney of U2 during their concert at Maxwell Hall on 3 October 1981; Four photographs of The Smiths in concert taken by Nick Barber; Photograph of The Hollies at Christmas Ball on 15 December 1965.



Maxwell Hall: A brief history

Maxwell Hall was officially opened alongside the Maxwell building by Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh on 21 May 1961. The Hollies and The Who were two of the first acts to perform, bringing the sounds of the 60s to Salford. In the 1970s, Black Sabbath, Paul McCartney, The Kinks, Motörhead and The Jam performed. Blondie's gig in 1978 was immortalised by a photo of Debbie Harry 'wearing' the gig poster.

In the 1980s, Madchester officially arrived when New Order delivered an epic hometown gig in 1985, with Happy Mondays supporting. This was followed by The Smiths, a concert listed by Q Magazine as one of the 100 best concerts ever, and which guitarist and Honorary Graduate of the University Johnny Marr recalled: "The PA had to be tied down because the floor was bouncing up so high that the stage was practically falling to pieces."

Concerts became more sporadic due to venue safety, although cult bands James and The Fall still managed to bring their magic to campus in the 90s. The Pav, a club and music venue at Castle Irwell Student Village, started to see more action, with Pulp performing in 1992. The Charlatans played the Hall's last official touring gigs on 19 and 20 December 2004.









Highlights from the archive

These are just a small number of items that were submitted and are now featured in the archive. You can browse the full archive and relive the glory days of Maxwell Hall on the Library's website: salford.ac.uk/library/archives-and-special-collections/maxwell-hall-archive

ALUMNI VOLUNTEERING: YOUR IMPACT IN NUMBERS

Alumni volunteering is a vital aspect of our community as our volunteers help build a bridge between the past, present and future at Salford. You're making a huge difference by sharing your time and your talent with our next generation of graduates.

Thank you to all our alumni volunteers from the past year! You have:

Changed lives by providing reassurance and valuable insight to students.

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Helped shape the future of our university with your expertise.

Strengthened our connections with industry.





Demonstrated the real impact that our university has on people and the world.

In the 2023/24 academic year:

375

known acts of individual volunteering

186

bespoke volunteering opportunities organised by our Alumni Engagement team

345

active volunteers

4,798 graduates and

12,000 guests inspired by

alumni speakers at Summer Graduation ceremonies

Interested in becoming a volunteer?

Volunteering offers you a chance to give back and share your valuable experience – whether professional or personal – as well as connect with fellow alumni, current students and University staff members.

You can play a significant role in shaping the future of our students and our university through a variety of volunteering opportunities including events, testimonials, advice, panels, advisory boards, speaking opportunities and more.

Find out more about making a difference to our community through volunteering at salford.ac.uk/alumni/alumni-volunteering

CELEBRATING OUR 40-YEAR PARTNERSHIP WITH TOLEDO

UNIVERSITY

2024 marked 40 years of our international exchange partnership with Toledo University in Ohio, USA. Alumni and students came together on our Peel Park campus to celebrate the milestone anniversary, reminisce, catch up and share memories and experiences of the programme. Toledo University also held their own reunion on campus in Ohio.

The relationship began in 1984 with four of our Chemistry students making their way over to Toledo. The partnership has grown over the past 40 years and seen 556 students from both Salford and Toledo crossing the Atlantic in one direction or another, spanning multiple areas of study in science, geography and business-related courses.

Professor Sam Grogan, former Pro-Vice Chancellor Education and Student Experience, welcomed attendees at our reunion and highlighted the value of international partnerships, especially at a time of worldwide uncertainty. Toledo University's Associate Professor Brian Ashburner, Director of the Salford partnership, expressed how proud he is of the lifechanging impact the partnership has had.

The partnership is a testament to the transformative power of international connections on broadening students' minds and perspectives during their education.



Salford representatives at Toledo's reunion event (L-R: John Willsher, Sean Cush and Peter Norris (1984-85 – our original cohort), Jacob Davinson and Oskar Czembor (2023-24)



The very first exchange

REUNITED ON CAMPUS AFTER 50 YEARS

Two groups of alumni reunited on campus this year to celebrate the 50th anniversary of their graduation.

The groups travelled from across the country to reunite and reminisce about their times at Salford - and even share a drink in the Students' Union for the first time in half a century.

A group of Environmental Science graduates, many of whom are now working in senior roles in the public sector, shared memories of their times together and the beginnings of their lifelong friendships. The group took a tour of our new Science, Engineering and Environment building as part of their visit, and saw the learning facilities available for current students.

Tim Pagan said: "The campus is a lot bigger now with many more students. Ten times the size of our campus in 1973. It was great to see so many young people enjoying their university education. The new buildings are impressive and there has clearly been a lot of investment in the campus."

In July, a group of Chemistry graduates also celebrated their 50th anniversary by reuniting on campus. They spoke fondly of university life and toured the University's landmark MediaCity campus and the North of England Robotics Innovation Centre to learn about the University's more recent endeavours.

We are always delighted to welcome reunion groups back to campus and learn about the lifelong connections and cherished memories our alumni hold for their time at university.

Find out more about arranging a campus tour or reunion on our website: salford.ac.uk/alumni/reunions-and-campus-visits





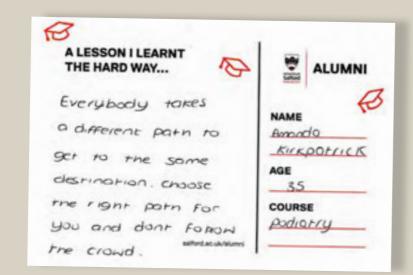
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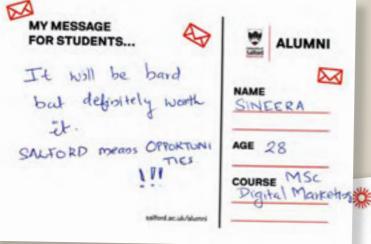
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ALUMNI WISDOM, MEMORIES, HOPES AND DREAMS

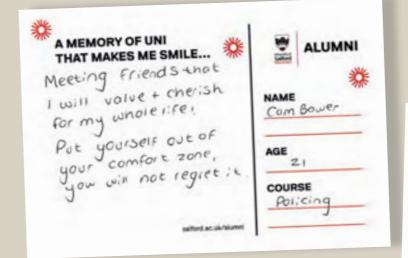
OUR NEW ALUMNI SHARE THEIR ADVICE WITH STUDENTS

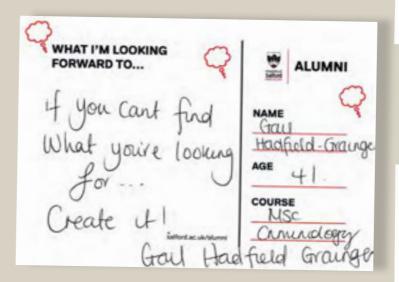
We introduced a new activity at 2024 Summer Graduation, asking our brand-new alumni to share their memories, advice, lessons, dreams and messages of support with students. We've shared some of our favourites here.

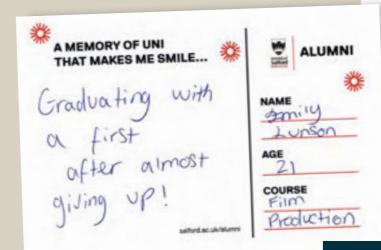


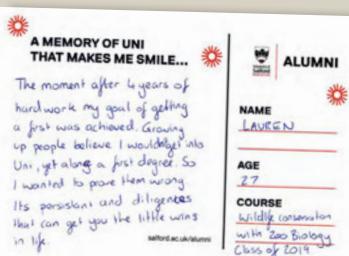


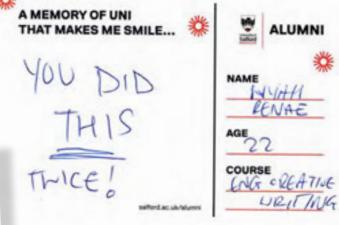














Keep an eye out for postcards at future alumni events or share messages of support with students via our online form, which can be accessed directly via the QR code or found on our website:

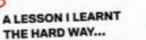


















DISCOVER YOUR EXCLUSIVE **ALUMNI BENEFITS**

We continue to offer a range of exclusive benefits and services for our alumni.

Career advice and support

Our Careers team can help you progress in your career, start your own business or if you are still looking for that perfect first role. We offer lifelong support and a wide range of resources, services and opportunities, from job listings and CV writing workshops to employability events and careers fairs.

Continue your studies at Salford

We offer a 20% loyalty discount on most of our postgraduate programmes if you would like to continue your education by studying for a master's degree or PhD. Many of our courses offer flexible and part-time study options, with multiple intakes throughout the year.

Discover all the benefits and services available at

Join the community on From Salford

From Salford is an exclusive online alumni hub where you can connect with fellow Salford graduates and broaden your professional network. On From Salford you can find a career mentor, join a local group, promote your business and access online academic journals. Join at fromsalfor

Stay connected

Make sure to keep your contact details up to date so we can share news, events and opportunities with you, including volunteering opportunities to help our current students.

This edition of From Salford was printed in December 2024.

/salfordalumni

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Philanthropy, Alumni and Supporter Engagement Team

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