



Working together for business  
and the community

North West  
Universities

# Facts & figures



Working together for business  
and the community

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## Universities in the North West

The North West has a rich and diverse HE sector with universities making a significant economic, social and cultural contribution to the region. This contribution is made directly as major businesses and employers, and indirectly, through their interactions with business and the community. Activities include enterprise, innovation and commercialisation, collaborative research and knowledge transfer to business, and the provision of higher level skills, both through the supply of graduates and by working with employers to up skill the existing workforce.

North West Universities Association (NWUA) represents the fourteen universities in the North West:



## Economic Impact of North West Universities

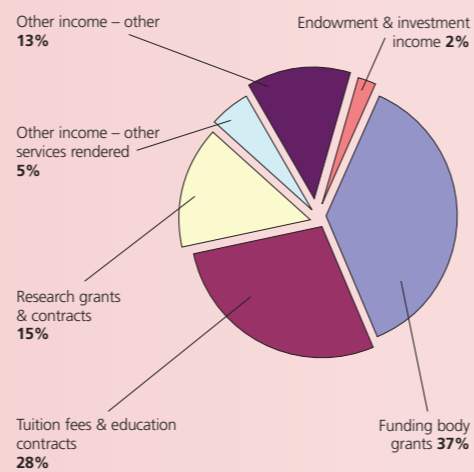
(Source: Figures from HESA Resources 2007/08 and HESA Student Record 2007/08 using the Economic Impact Study model available from Universities UK/University of Strathclyde.)

North West universities make a significant contribution to the economy as businesses in their own right, at both regional and national level. In 2007/08 North West universities:

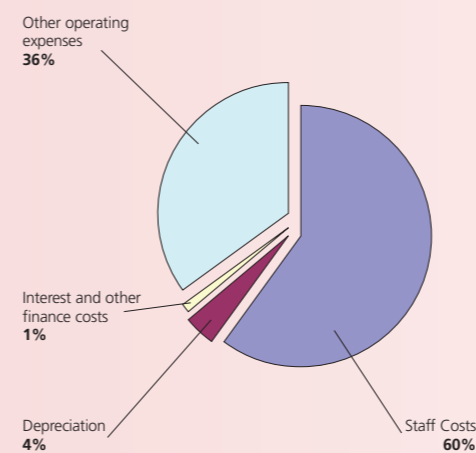
- Had a total combined income of over **£2bn**
- Contributed approximately **£3.5bn** in GVA to the regional economy in 2007
- Produced almost £400m export earnings
- Employed over 36,000 staff, contributing directly and indirectly to the employment of over 70,000 FTE in the UK, with over 50,000 of these in the North West

### Income & Expenditure 2007/08

Total Income: £2,229 million



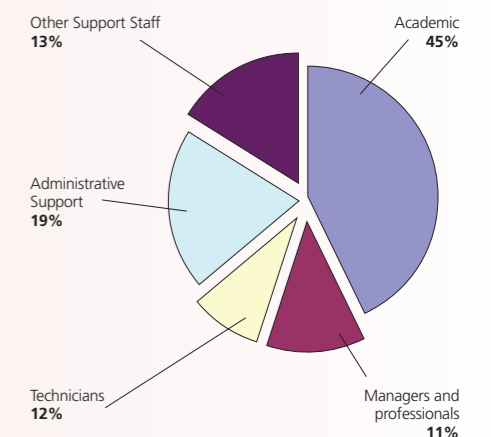
Total Expenditure: £2,217 million



(Source: HESA Resources 2007/08)

Direct Employment North West universities are major employers in the region, employing a total of 36,715 people.

Distribution of Staff in North West Universities, percentage of FTEs



(Source: HESA Resources 2007/08 (excluding the Open University))

### NWUA

The NWUA aims to foster collaboration between its fourteen members and regional partners for the benefit of Higher Education and the North West region. NWUA has two key objectives:

- To provide a means whereby member institutions may co-ordinate their regional activities and identify opportunities for collaborative action so as to maximise their contribution to the social, economic and cultural life of the North West of England and develop partnerships with business, industry and public bodies accordingly.
- To facilitate effective joint activities or collaborations within the region with members and/or non-members, as agreed by the member institutions.

## Students

North West universities attracted a total of 241,465 full and part-time students in 2007/08. This makes up 10% of all students at UK universities.

### Mode and level of study of students

Full-time			Part-time		
Undergraduate	Postgraduate	Total	Undergraduate	Postgraduate	Total
144,200	22,475	166,675	46,455	27,345	73,800

International students constitute 12.5% of the total North West student population. The majority of international students (72%) are from non-EU countries.

In 2007/08 74,395 students obtained qualifications from North West universities, representing 11% of the UK total. In 2007/08 70% of graduates going into employment were retained in the region, which is second only to London (71%).

(Source: HESA Student Record 2007/08 and HESA Destinations Record 2007/08 (excluding the Open University))

## Engagement with Business & Employers

North West universities have a successful track record of working with business to exploit their research, knowledge and skills for the benefit of the economy.

Individual universities engage with business in a number of ways including through collaborative and contract research, consultancy contracts, making available university facilities and equipment, and the provision of continuing professional and educational programmes; in 2007/08 this generated £266m income\*

In addition, universities undertake a broad range of initiatives aimed at driving innovation, through both the provision of higher level skills and by facilitating knowledge transfer.

As an illustration of the types of activities undertaken by North West universities in support of business and the economy, two collective studies are presented below; one focusing on skills and workforce development (Higher Level Skills Partnership) and the second on knowledge transfer and innovation (North West European Structural Funds).

(\*Source: HE-BCI Survey 2007/08)

## Higher Level Skills Partnership

The North West Higher Level Skills Partnership (NW HLSP) is funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) as part of their employer engagement activity and the North West Regional Development Agency (NWDA) as part of their higher level skills workforce development activity. The NW HLSP is led by NWUA, as the representative body of fourteen North West Higher Education Institutions (HEIs).

To date 54 projects have been funded across the region with more being approved by the end of 2009. These projects involve 11 universities, more than 15 FE Colleges and over 350 employers working together to develop

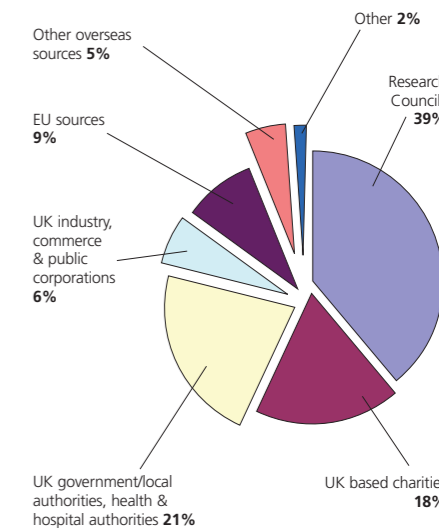
new provision, from Foundation Degree to Masters level including CPD and bite-sized chunks of learning. At the current time 22 of these projects have reached delivery stage and there are approximately 1000 learners on this demand led provision to date, with employers' having contributed to both the development stages and the delivery stages. This successful activity reflects the strong partnerships in the region between HE providers, NWDA, SSCs, BLNW, LSC and others who are working together to meet the needs of the NW workforce. More information available at [www.nwua.ac.uk/HLSP/default.aspx](http://www.nwua.ac.uk/HLSP/default.aspx)

## Research

- In 2007/08 North West universities secured £471m research income, including over £328m from research grants and contracts, 39% of which was from Research Councils
- In the same year North West universities had 480 invention disclosures, representing 13% of the UK total
- North West universities filed 97 patent applications in 2007/08, with 24 patents granted, bringing the cumulative patent portfolio to 337

(Source: HESA Resources 2007/08 (excluding the Open University) and HE-BCI Survey 2007/08)

Source of Research Grants & Contracts



## Economic Downturn

Universities across the region are offering support to those affected by the economic downturn by providing training and IAG to individuals affected by redundancy and new graduates unable to find work, by helping businesses ride out the recession through knowledge transfer and skills development, and by providing the region with the research capabilities required to support the economic recovery.

In the North West, nine universities have been successful in securing funding from the £27.6 million national **HEFCE Economic Challenge Investment Fund**. Together, the projects bring nearly £3 million into the region to deliver short-term support between April 2009 and September 2010. Projects include summer schools, graduate placements, employability skills workshops, CPD modules, start-up support and enterprise training. Collectively they are expected to deliver support to over 6500 individuals and 300 businesses.

North West universities will be developing short course continuing professional development (CPD) for those at risk of redundancy, those who have been made redundant or new graduates unable to find work through the **Higher Level Skills Partnership Redundancy Response Fund**. The development fund totals £350,000 and new provision will be developed throughout 2010 and is expected to be available by January 2011.

## Universities and the Cultural Life of the Region

North West universities provide a wide range of cultural offerings, many of which are open to the local and regional community; these include public lectures, performing art events, access to museums and galleries, and exhibitions.

During 2007/08 over one million people accessed the cultural offerings of North West universities, with over half of this access free of charge.

(Source: HE-BCI Survey 2007/08)

## EUROPEAN

### North West European Structural Funds

North West universities have a successful track record in delivering European Structural funded projects, both through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) to aid businesses and the European Social Fund (ESF) to support individuals. These funds have been carefully used to augment HE interactions with business and, in particular, those focused on facilitating knowledge transfer and innovation, stimulating and supporting enterprise and entrepreneurship and in developing the skills of the regions workforce. In the period 2007/8 ERDF and ESF funding accounted for 49%\* of the regeneration and development income of North West Universities.

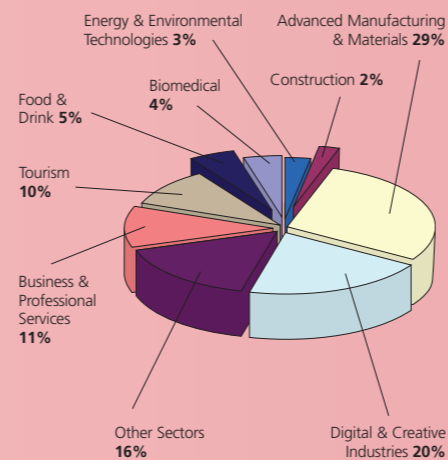
The scale and impact of this activity has been significant; for example in the 2000-2006 programme, North West Universities were allocated over £138m ERDF and ESF funding; with match-funding this represented an HE sector investment of approximately £228m. This activity has produced significant and real economic benefits to regional businesses, the regional economy and its population, including:

(\*Source: HE-BCI Survey 2007/08)



- Assistance to over 13,600 SMEs
- The introduction of more than 4,300 new products and processes
- Directly created more than 11,700 jobs and safeguarded another 14,000
- Increased sales/turnover in SMEs by over £1.036bn

Illustration of the Sectorial Diversity of the SMEs Assisted within the NW Objective 2 Area (Knowledge-Based & Regional Action Plans) as at 31st December 2008



### Higher Level Skills for Sports Volunteering and Coaching in the North West

North West universities make a significant contribution to both the social and community agendas through volunteering as well as providing a valuable social capital resource of volunteers to respond to major events around 2012 and its legacy within the region.

North West regional co-operation in sport between HE and FE is evident in the work of BUCS (British Universities and Colleges Sport). BUCS works regionally to improve the recognition of the role which HE/FE plays in sport development in the UK. NWUA, in conjunction with BUCS, are working to develop a programme of delivery in the region that will create an innovative Higher Education volunteering pathway. (Information on BUCS can be found at [www.bucs.org.uk](http://www.bucs.org.uk)).

### 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games

North West universities provide a range of world class facilities in relation to sport, recreation and physical activity. A number of regional facilities included in the 2012 Pre-Games Training Camps Directory are either owned in part or whole by universities and contribute significantly to the regional offer of suitable world class facilities to host 2012 pre games training camps.