

**The University of Leicester** (Listeni/'lɛstə/ LES-tər) is a public research university based in Leicester, England. The main campus is south of the city centre, adjacent to Victoria Park.

The university established itself as a research-led university and was previously ranking among the top 20 universities in the United Kingdom.[6] It was awarded University of the Year by The Times in 2008. As of 2016/17 the university is nationally ranked 25th in the The Sunday Times Good University Guide, 32nd in the The Complete University Guide and 47th in the The Guardian. It is ranked as one of the top 200 universities in the world by the Times in 2017.

The university is most famous for the invention of genetic fingerprinting and contributing to the discovery and identification of the remains of King Richard III.[7]





**Is the emblem of the University  
of Leicester**

## Campus

The David Wilson Library

The Percy Gee building, home of the Students' Union

The main campus is a mile south of the city centre, adjacent to Victoria Park and Wyggeston and Queen Elizabeth I College.

The central building, now known as the Fielding Johnson Building and housing the University's administration offices and Faculty of Law, dates from 1837 and was formerly the Leicestershire and Rutland Lunatic Asylum. Opposite the Fielding Johnson Building are the Astley Clarke Building, home to the School of Economics, and the University Sports Centre.

The Ken Edwards building, built in 1995, lies adjacent to the Fielding Johnson Building and is home to the School of Management.

Built in 1957, the Percy Gee building is home to Leicester University's Students' Union. The David Wilson Library was opened by Queen Elizabeth II on 4 December 2008, following an extensive refurbishment with a budget of £32 million.[9]

The university campus is home to several notable examples of Brutalist architecture, including the Grade II listed Engineering Building and the Charles Wilson Building. Another prominent building on campus is the 18-storey Attenborough Tower, home to the College of Social Sciences.







**The brutalist Charles Wilson Building by  
Denys Lasdun**



University of Leicester seen from Victoria Park -  
Left to right: the Engineering Building, the  
Attenborough tower, the Charles Wilson building





The university was founded as Leicestershire and Rutland University College in 1921. The site for the university was donated by a local textile manufacturer, Thomas Fielding Johnson, in order to create a living memorial for those who lost their lives in First World War. This is reflected in the University's motto *Ut Vitam Habeant* –"so that they may have life".

Students were first admitted to the college in 1921. In 1927, after it became University College, Leicester, students sat the examinations for external degrees of the University of London. Two years later it merged with the Vaughan Working Men's College, which had been providing adult education in Leicester since 1862.[8] In 1957 the University College was granted its Royal Charter, and has since then had the status of a university with the right to award its own degrees. Leicester University won the first ever series of University Challenge, in 1963



University of  
**Leicester**



**This is the dining room**





**The Percy Gee building, home of the Students' Union**



The Bennett building, Physics and Astronomy building, the Chemistry building and the Adrian Building lie beyond the Charles Wilson Building. Across University Road lies the Maurice Shock and Hodgkin buildings, home to Leicester's Medical School.

Further along University Road and on Salisbury Road and Regents Road are the Department of Education and the Fraser Noble building.

On Lancaster Road there is the Attenborough Arts Centre, the University's arts centre



UniOfLeicesterCrest.svg

Motto

Ut Vitam Habeant

So that they may have life

Type

Public

Established

1957 - gained University Status by Royal Charter

1921 - Leicestershire and Rutland University College

Endowment

£13.1 million (2015)[1]

Chancellor

Lord Grocott

Vice-Chancellor

Paul Boyle[2]

Visitor

The Queen[3]

Academic staff

2,030[4]

Administrative staff

2,495[4]

Students

17,825 (2015/16)[5]

Undergraduates

11,505 (2015/16)[5]

Postgraduates

6,315 (2015/16)[5]

Location

Leicester, England, UK

Campus

Urban parkland

## Notable architecture[edit]

The skyline of Leicester University is punctuated by three distinctive, towering, buildings from the 1960s: the Department of Engineering, the Attenborough tower and the Charles Wilson building.

The University's Engineering Building was the first major building by British architect James Stirling. It comprises workshops and laboratories at ground level, and a tower containing offices and lecture theatres. It was completed in 1963 and is notable for the way in which its external form reflects its internal functions.[citation needed] The very compact campus contains a wide range of twentieth century architecture, though the oldest building is the Fielding Johnson building. The Attenborough Tower is undergoing extensive renovation.

Leicester's halls of residence are noteworthy: many of the halls (nearly all located in Oadby) date from the early 1900s and were the homes of Leicester's wealthy industrialists.





**The Engineering Building, designed by James Stirling, James Gowan and Frank Newby**

## Development[edit]

In recent years the University has disposed of some of its poorer quality property in order to invest in new facilities, and is currently undergoing a £300+ million redevelopment.[citation needed] The new John Foster Hall of Residence opened in October 2006. The David Wilson Library, twice the size of the previous University Library, opened on 1 April 2008 and a new biomedical research building (the Henry Wellcome Building) has already been constructed. A complete revamp of the Percy Gee Student Union building (originally opened by Queen Elizabeth II on 9 May 1958[10]) was completed in September 2010. Nixon Court was extended and refurbished in 2011



**The Physics and Astronomy building, part of a larger complex by Leslie Martin**

## **Organisation[edit]**

The University's academic schools and departments, having been previously organised into five faculties, were re-organised into four colleges in 2009, each headed by a Pro-Vice Chancellor[11] In August 2015 the colleges were further restructured[12] with the merging of Social Sciences and Arts, Humanities and Law to give the following structure:[13]

College of Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities

College of Medicine, Biological Sciences and Psychology

College of Science & Engineering

The colleges are supported by the Corporate Services





**The Fielding Johnson Building (built 1837)**



Welcome