

# Generating growth and opportunity in London

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# Research and development

Universities' research activities attract investment, make world-leading discoveries, generate knowledge, and create and nurture new, innovative businesses and jobs across the UK.

Universities support existing businesses of all types by using their facilities and expertise to drive local collaboration. They also encourage private sector investment into research and development by developing collaborative relationships with businesses.

In 2021–22, higher education providers across England provided the use of facilities to companies **29,190 times**, including, for example, a wind tunnel and a digital media suite.

The research universities conduct in partnership with business, the NHS, charities and other organisations is diverse in discipline and scope. University research is responsible for major scientific and medical breakthroughs, but also plays a major role in our day-to-day lives.

## Case study: Air pollution research at Queen Mary University of London

Researchers at Queen Mary University of London (QMUL) have played a pivotal role in making London's air healthier.

Air pollution is responsible for approximately 40,000 premature adult deaths in the UK each year. In addition, research has linked air pollution to a range of serious long-term conditions, such as dementia, heart disease and cancer.

The team at QMUL showed that increased exposure to nitrogen oxides and particulate matter in London was linked to reduced lung function. It found that falls in air pollution due to the London Low Emission Zone weren't enough to reverse the harm. Their research influenced the introduction of the London Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) and the decline of diesel vehicle sales.

## Building pride in place and local communities

The UK's creative industries are one of the economic success stories of the past decade, growing at four times the rate of the UK economy as a whole between 2010–19. They bring

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