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THE UNIVERSITY  
of ADELAIDE



# Adelaide- Nottingham Alliance

A strategic partnership between  
world-leading institutions



# Introducing the Adelaide-Nottingham Alliance

## A strategic partnership between world-leading institutions

The Adelaide-Nottingham Alliance builds on decades of collaboration in research and education between the University of Adelaide and the University of Nottingham. The Alliance sees the long-standing friendship between the two institutions develop into a strategic global partnership, deepening both institutions' commitment to work together to address challenges shared by Australia, United Kingdom, and the world.

Together the two institutions are rising to the challenges of today and collaborating on themes such as climate change, medical breakthroughs, and global food shortages to the benefit of each university's students, staff, and surrounding communities more broadly. Both universities are immensely proud of their collaborative work and look forward to strengthening the partnership and widening their impact.

**“The partnership is a trailblazing model that will positively impact generations to come. The outcomes achieved, through combining our resources in key research and education areas, have demonstrated that we are stronger together and able to be even more ambitious in our efforts to address significant global challenges.”**

**Professor Jessica Gallagher**, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (External Engagement), University of Adelaide, and **Professor Robert Mokaya OBE FRS**, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Global Engagement, University of Nottingham.

## Partnership Highlights



### 29 Joint PhD candidates

Currently enrolled in the Jointly-Conferred PhD



### \$45.7m/£24.7m

Collaborated on 6 externally funded research projects, attracting more than \$45.7m/£24.7m\*



### \$187,000 / £96,000

Alliance seed funding for research and education

\*Competitive research grants in which University of Nottingham and University of Adelaide researchers collaborated, projects starting between January 2022 and December 2023.



# About the University of Adelaide

By every measure, the University of Adelaide—a member of Australia’s prestigious Group of Eight research-intensive universities—stands tall among the world’s leading institutions of learning and innovation.

The clearest indication of this is the consistently high rating by the most respected international ranking bodies: QS World University Rankings, Times Higher Education, and Shanghai Jiao Tong’s Academic Rankings of World Universities (ARWU). All consider the University of Adelaide as one of the top 1% of Universities worldwide and the top university in South Australia.

The University of Adelaide is proud that 100% of its research is rated ‘world-class or above’ by the Australian Research Council’s Excellence in Research Australia program.

The University of Adelaide counts among its distinguished alumni five Nobel Laureates and 116 Rhodes Scholars, including Australia’s first Indigenous recipient, and Australia’s first female prime minister and Supreme Court judge. Many of its staff are internationally recognised leaders in their fields. The University attracts a diverse student body of over 30,200 from more than 110 countries.



# About the University of Nottingham

The University of Nottingham has long been home to the trailblazer and the pioneer, stepping up to the challenges of new frontiers. Bound by spirit, not borders, its campuses in the UK, China and Malaysia share a mission to deliver discoveries and unlock the potential to transform lives.

A member of the UK’s prestigious Russell Group of leading universities, it is placed seventh in the UK for research power (according to analysis by Times Higher Education) with 100% of its research recognised internationally (REF 2021). It has a research portfolio worth £743m and invest to champion world-leading responses to global challenges.

The University is one of the UK’s most successful institutions for innovation, entrepreneurship and partnership with industry, contributing more than £1 billion each year to the national economy.

The University of Nottingham provides exceptional education for 52,000 students, and is proud to have 320,000 alumni in 195 countries. The University is 100 in the world (17 in the UK) in the QS World University Rankings 2024 and has 140 years of heritage and success to be proud of, and to build on.

# Collaboration Themes

Both universities possess world-leading knowledge and expertise in the areas of food, health research, and sustainability. Drawing on these strengths, the Alliance concentrates collaboration efforts through the key themes of **Global Food Systems**, **Intelligent Health**, and **Sustainable Futures**.

Our efforts include strategic initiatives and activities across research, education and mobility programs, which are all aimed at deepening and expanding collaboration. As a result, the Alliance is creating a unique ecosystem from the combined capabilities and infrastructure across our two universities.

Key academics at both institutions have been appointed as Theme Leads to engage colleagues, build relationships with industry and other stakeholders, and identify and respond to opportunities, further deepening the impact of our innovations in these critical areas.



**Global Food Systems**



**Intelligent Health**



**Sustainable Futures**



# Collaboration Theme - Global Food Systems



**Six external  
grant bid  
submissions  
in 2023**



**Nine Jointly-  
Conferred PhD  
graduates**



**20 Jointly-  
Conferred  
PhD students**



**1 Joint  
Research  
Centre:**

The International  
Flavour Research  
Centre

**University of Adelaide Theme Lead  
Associate Professor Chris Ford,  
School of Agriculture, Food and Wine**

**University of Nottingham  
Theme Lead Professor Ian  
Fisk, School of Biosciences**

The collaborative research efforts of the University of Adelaide and the University of Nottingham in agriculture, food science, advanced technologies and data science, humanities, and social sciences are contributing to securing sustainable, nutritious food supplies in the face of climate change. As the world's population grows, it is more important than ever that we take a multi-disciplinary approach to understanding and developing food production systems.

## Case study: Growing Space Food Expertise

The Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence in Plants for Space (P4S) is an international research consortium building novel solutions for long term space habitation and on Earth sustainability. Led by and located at the University of Adelaide, the mission of P4S is to re-imagine plant design and bioresource production, through the lens of space, to enable off-Earth habitation and provide transformative solutions to improve on-Earth sustainability.

University of Nottingham researchers are working together with University of Adelaide colleagues and other consortium members to create on-demand, zero-waste, high-efficiency plants, and plant products to address grand challenges in sustainability.

**“The best thing about my PhD was collaborating with so many different scientists from around the world. This would be more difficult if it was focused on just one university.”**

**George Warne**, Joint PhD student, space food science

**“We are excited to be part of this global approach to the challenge of producing food that is healthy, delicious, and is part of the solution to a more sustainable approach to feeding future populations.”**

**Professor Ian Fisk**, School of Biosciences, University of Nottingham and **Associate Professor Christopher Ford**, School of Agriculture, Food and Wine, University of Adelaide

# Collaboration Theme - Intelligent Health



**University of Nottingham Theme**  
**Lead Dr Sally Eldeghaidy,**  
**School of Biosciences**

**University of Adelaide Theme**  
**Lead Professor Amanda Page,**  
**School of Biomedicine**

Together, University of Adelaide and University of Nottingham researchers are building transformational biotechnologies and tools. This creates a better understanding of health systems, and inclusive, evidence-informed socio-health policies that will improve health outcomes. Our joint multi-disciplinary, intelligence-informed approach will help make health systems more agile, tailoring care for the needs of individual patients while improving the wellbeing of communities at a national and global scale.

			
<b>Six Jointly-Conferred PhD students</b>	<b>One externally funded project</b>	<b>One joint symposium</b>	<b>One primary care network</b>
formed in 2023/2024	secured in 2023, totalling £1m / \$2m for diabetes research	held in 2023, Adelaide-Nottingham-Nagoya University Diabetes Symposium	developed in 2023: using big data and AI in research to promote Primary Care

## Case Study: Ground-breaking diabetes research

Researchers from the University of Nottingham and the University of Adelaide are employing cutting-edge neuroimaging techniques for the first time to identify how the tongue and digestive tract sense sweet stimuli and integrate this signalling in the brain of people with type 2 diabetes. These findings will inform the development of new personalised dietary and drug treatment strategies for people living with diabetes. This research is funded by Diabetes UK.

**“The opportunity to travel between the two countries allows me not only to expand my research experience but also to explore different cultures and visit many places!”**

**Nishadi Gamage**, Joint PhD student, neuromuscular physiology

**“Precision medicine, sometimes known as personalised medicine, is an innovative approach to tailoring disease prevention and treatment that takes into account differences in people’s genes, environments, and lifestyles. It has a key role to play in preventing many diseases, such as type 2 diabetes, obesity and cancer. Together, we can improve the treatment of disease, worldwide”.**

**Professor Amanda Page**, School of Biomedicine, University of Adelaide and **Dr Sally Eldeghaidy**, School of Biosciences, University of Nottingham

# Collaboration Theme - Sustainable Futures



- 17 new academic connections formed**
- Three Jointly-Conferred PhD students**
- Newest theme in the Alliance**
- One joint international conference**  
on Net Zero Carbon Built Environment in July 2024

**University of Adelaide Theme Lead, Professor Veronica Soebarto, School of Architecture and Civil Engineering**

**University of Nottingham Theme Lead, Associate Professor Eleanor Binner, Department of Chemical and Environmental Engineering**

The world faces complex environmental, social, and economic challenges. By working in partnership to deliver sustainable solutions, the Alliance is helping societies in Australia, England, and beyond.

Collaboration under the Sustainable Futures theme explores planetary health and biodiversity restoration, sustainable production and consumption through clean technologies, resilient, healthy, and sustainable communities, buildings, and infrastructures, and sustainable governance and decision-making.

## Case study: First International Conference on Net Zero Carbon Built Environment

University of Nottingham lead researcher in the sustainable built environment, Professor Yupeng (Jack) Wu, Department of Architecture and Built Environment, and University of Adelaide Theme Lead, Professor Veronica Soebarto, are organising the first international conference on Net Zero Carbon Built Environment at the University of Nottingham in July 2024.

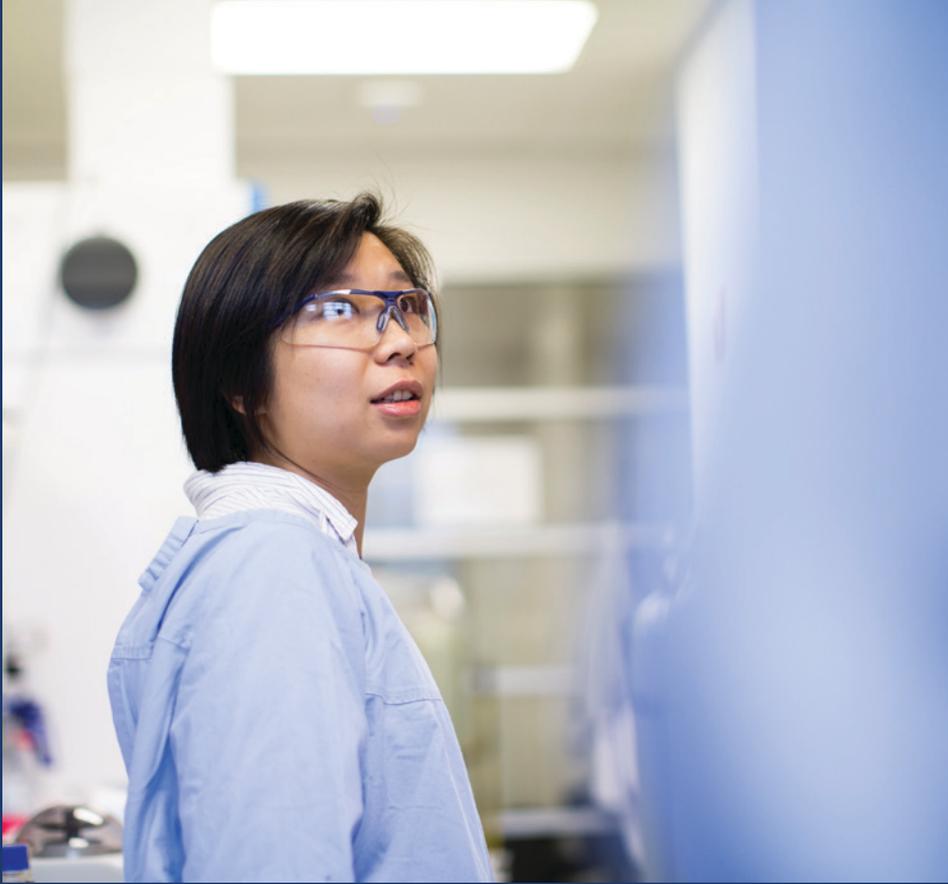
Topics covered at the conference include advances in renewable energy technology, energy storage and integration in the built environment, low carbon communities, health and wellbeing, innovative building design and

**“The program offers the opportunity to experience working and living in two countries, and the opportunity to have my research capability recognised by two prestigious educational institutions.”**

**Nguyen Quang Tu Le**, Joint PhD student, chemical engineering

**“The urgency to address climate change and achieve global sustainability goals has never been greater. Together, we can fuel the advancement towards a carbon-neutral and greener future.”**

**Professor Veronica Soebarto**, School of Architecture and Civil Engineering, University of Adelaide, and **Associate Professor Eleanor Binner**, Department of Chemical and Environmental Engineering, University of Nottingham



**“By joining the program, our students will have access to the research strengths of two globally leading research-intensive universities”**

**Professor Robert Mokaya OBE FRS**, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Global Engagement, University of Nottingham and **Professor Jessica Gallagher**, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (External Engagement), University of Adelaide

# Accelerating research

## Joint PhD program

The Jointly-Conferred PhD Program (Joint PhD) is open to prospective PhD candidates across all faculties at the University of Adelaide and the University of Nottingham, providing students with an opportunity to experience the research strengths of two globally leading research-intensive universities. Through the Alliance, we have mechanisms to support researchers and students, exponentially amplifying our impact.

Key results include:

- The Jointly-Conferred PhD opportunity is open to prospective PhD candidates across all faculties.
- 10 Students have completed the Joint PhD program.
- Up to 18 Jointly-Conferred PhD scholarships are available each year (nine per institution).

## Co-publications: thinking globally

We are rapidly growing the number of co-publications by University of Adelaide and University of Nottingham researchers, which evidences the reach and reputation of our partnership.

Partnerships with the University of Nottingham Ningbo China and the University of Nottingham Malaysia provide further opportunities for co-discovery and co-publication, and for developing a global mindset among our students and staff.

Key statistics:

- 42 research co-publications between the universities of Adelaide and Nottingham in 2023.<sup>1</sup>
- 172 co-publications since 2020.
- In 2020, 5.7% of our co-publications were in the top 1% (based on citations by category, year and document type); by 2023, UoA-UoN collaborative outputs in the top 1% had increased by 117% to 12.2% of all documents.<sup>2</sup>

1. SciVal, extracted 20240412.

2. InCites, extracted 20240507.

# Key initiatives

## Partnership Seed Fund

Our Partnership Seed Fund program supports a core aim of the Adelaide-Nottingham Alliance, to encourage and develop high-quality research and education collaborations between the two universities.

The Research Seed Fund was launched in April 2023. Researchers from both universities were invited to submit proposals for collaborations that align with one of the Alliance's strategic themes: Global Food Systems, Intelligent Health, or Sustainable Futures.

The Education Seed Fund was launched in August 2023 to encourage and support collaboration in education, training, and mobility.

## Research Seed Fund

\$160,000/ £82,595 funding for eight projects

The first round of the Partnership Research Seed Fund in April 2023 attracted 25 applications. Each institution received applications across all three research themes.

## Education Seed Fund

\$26,718/ £13,792 for four projects

The first round of the Partnership Education Seed Fund for Education in August 2023 received seven applications - four from the University of Adelaide and three from the University of Nottingham.

## Professional staff exchange program

The professional staff exchange program provides an opportunity for staff to engage with both universities and share knowledge. The inaugural professional staff exchange program was launched in August 2023, with a focus on the Alliance's marketing and communications needs.

Sally Trinh, Senior Marketing Coordinator, University of Adelaide, and Rob Ounsworth, Research Communications Manager, University of Nottingham, participated in the program's inaugural exchange, meeting counterparts in Nottingham and Adelaide

respectively, including marketing, global partnerships, and mobility colleagues, as well as researchers and students.

## Student exchange program

The student exchange program provides opportunities for student mobility, highlighting the support available and providing students and supervisors with easily accessible information. We also encourage students to share insights and experiences of travel, study, and life abroad and in the longer term build a welcoming and supportive global community of Adelaide-Nottingham researchers, students, staff, and alumni.

Since its inception, seven students from the University of Adelaide have studied at the University of Nottingham under the student exchange program, with six students from the Faculty of Arts, Business, Law, and Economics and one in the Faculty of Sciences, Engineering, and Technology. Additionally, one student from the University of Nottingham's Faculty of Science has studied at the University of Adelaide.



**“My exchange helped us form a closer relationship with Nottingham’s marketing team, with a focus on raising the profile of the Alliance, its joint PhD program, opportunities and support for new research collaborations, and student mobility between the two institutions.”**

**Sally Trinh**, Senior Marketing Coordinator, University of Adelaide.

# Future-proofing our partnership

Thinking globally, we will move beyond Australia and the United Kingdom as we bring in more global partners to work with us on projects with impact. Our first partners in the Alliance are the University of Nottingham's campuses in China and Malaysia. As these future partnerships develop, the Adelaide-Nottingham Alliance will continue to:

- Increase the volume and recognition of research co-publications.
- Secure more externally funded grants.
- Grow numbers of staff and students engaged with the Alliance.

## How you can get involved

Join us as we develop the next generation of students and researchers with a truly global mindset, increase the impact of our partnership at local, regional, and national levels, and build further opportunities for wider international collaborations.

Exclusive opportunities currently exist for organisations and individuals to partner with us and change the global research landscape. For a greater understanding of how you can become a part of the Alliance, please contact the Global Engagement teams at either institution. Details overleaf.



## Contact details

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