

2021-2023

GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT REVIEW

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WELCOME FROM OUR VICE-CHANCELLOR AND PRESIDENT



I am delighted to present the University of Sussex Global Engagement Review for the period 2021 to 2023.

As you will see, Sussex's reach extends all around the world, and our global engagement includes a wide range of impactful collaborations and partnerships.

This Review showcases how we have been taking forward our values-based internationalisation strategy to create a 'A Better University for a Better World'. Our vision is to make a real difference to people's lives in every region in which we have partnerships.

Sussex has a longstanding tradition of pioneering and impactful student mobility initiatives. The University was recognised as the best-performing university in the UK for supporting student mobility by the *World University Rankings for Innovation (WURI) 2023*. We are particularly proud of how we are bringing international opportunities to our students via cultural immersion initiatives taking place on our own campus.

You will also see how we are responding to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), placing us as the 10th highest-performing institution in the UK for delivering the SDGs in 2023 (*Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2023*). The Review highlights how our research engagements are promoting and delivering tangible benefits to environmental, social and economic sustainability throughout the world.

I would like to thank all our partners, across every continent, for the work we have done over the past two years, and for all that we have achieved together. Sussex looks forward to future collaborations, as we reach out from our base on the south coast of England to be a leading force for progressive change to the benefit of people and planet.

Professor Sasha Roseneil
Vice-Chancellor and President



WHAT SETS US APART

Our commitment to internationalisation is reflected in our engagement with partners around the world. At Sussex we are committed to developing and maintaining relationships with a network of partners who share our commitment to building a better world.

The University of Sussex is a leading research-intensive university. We have a long tradition of experimentation and innovation that has made a real difference to the lives of many students and those who benefit from our research and wider endeavours worldwide.

Our commitment to internationalisation is reflected in our distinct engagement with partners in different regions around the world. In keeping with our aspiration to create a 'Better World', we have been focusing on creating international research collaborations with impact and sustainable teaching partnerships.

Our newly established Centres of Excellence are flagship centres of research, each an exemplar of innovative and world-leading research addressing an area of global importance. These Centres will be important hubs for interdisciplinary and intercultural collaboration to ensure that the research strengths of Sussex continue to make important contributions worldwide.

From advancing quantum computing and artificial intelligence, better understanding genome damaging diseases, and developing initiatives that contribute to global sustainability, to enhancing access to education across the globe, the Centres will enable University of Sussex researchers to address a range of societal challenges.

Our research credentials are reflected in the latest *THE World University Rankings 2024*, which confirm our top 20-status in the UK and top 100-status in the world for research quality. Overall, 89% of Sussex research was categorised as world leading or internationally excellent in the last Research Excellence Framework 2021 (published in 2022), with 93% of our research impact judged to be outstanding or very considerable.

We are ranked 218th in the world in the latest *QS World University Rankings 2024* (published in June 2023), up 22 places from last year, out of 1,500 leading institutions globally. Sussex performed most strongly in the new sustainability category (35th in the world), and our high proportion of international students places us 100th in the world in that category. This is driven by such factors as our dedicated teaching staff, cutting-edge research and multicultural student community.

Research that makes a real difference to humanity is at the core of what makes the University of Sussex such a special institution. Believing that the challenges facing the world only seem impossible until they're done, our researchers and students have been working to bring about positive change in high-stakes areas such as education, mental health, climate change, sustainability, trade and economics, online extremism, corruption and health.

Contributing to our research output, we have two world-leading think tanks on our campus: the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) has helped us to be ranked 1st in the world for Development Studies for seven years in a row (*QS World University Rankings by Subject*); and the University of Sussex Business School Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU) is ranked 8th top science and technology think tank in the world (*Global Go To Think Tank Index Report*, published in 2021).

Our teaching is research informed, with strengths including:

- Development Studies, 1st in the world (*QS World University Rankings by Subject 2023*)
- English Language and Literature, Psychology, Sociology, Social Policy and Administration, and Geography also ranked in the top 100 in the world (*QS World University Rankings by Subject 2023*)
- University of Sussex Business School is 1st in the UK for Annual Research Income 2019-22 (Chartered Association of Business Schools)
- Top 15 in the UK for Business and Economics (*Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2023*).

INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY: BUILDING A BETTER WORLD

Since the launch of our International Strategy in 2019, we have maintained our links with over 300 partners worldwide, working with exceptional colleagues and institutions across Europe, the Americas, Australia, Asia and Africa.

Our partnerships are helping us to harness the skills of our diverse, multinational community to make a positive difference to the world. During this time, we have grown our reputation, as reflected in recent global university rankings:

- 42nd in the world for International outlook in the *Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2024*
- 201st-250th in the *Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2024*
- 218th in the *QS World University Rankings 2024*
- Joint 49th in the world in the *Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2023* for our focus on delivery of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals
- 8th in the *World University Rankings for Innovation (WURI) 2023* for Student Mobility and Openness

Our commitment to sustainability is at the core of Sussex's identity. We're pleased to have received a nomination for the *PIE Awards 2021* in the Sustainability International Impact Category. We performed particularly strongly in the *QS World University Rankings 2024* Sustainability category, scoring 97.2 out of 100 and ranking 35th in the world.

We have been making good progress in seeking to develop sustainable partnerships worldwide, through which we seek to foster global citizenship, promote environmental responsibility, and ensure the accessibility of quality education for students all around the world. We were ranked joint 11th in the world (out of 1,625 institutions) in the Partnerships for the Goals – SDG17 – *THE Impact Rankings 2023* through collaboration with other countries, promotion of best practices and publication of data to achieve the SDGs.

From a modest cohort of 20 transnational education (TNE) students on a Law programme in Qatar, we have expanded our TNE portfolio and anticipate that over 1,500 students will be studying on Sussex programmes in China by 2025. In addition, over 1,000 students are pursuing Sussex qualifications through online and distance learning worldwide. To maintain our ambitious plans to 'Bring the World Home' to our students, Sussex students continue to be globally mobile.

More than one in five (21%) of our students participate in an international experience, and our target is to see 40% of our students participating in an international experience by 2025. In everything we do, we place our students first. Our value-based approach to partnerships has changed the dynamic from transactional to transformative, and we continue to highlight this paradigm shift in this *Global Engagement Review*. Despite the significant challenges we have faced as a sector during the period of the global Covid pandemic, thanks to the close collaborations with our partners, we have collectively found ways to support our students. We look forward, now, with hope, as we continue to build on our achievements and offer further mobility opportunities over the period of our next strategic plan.

SUSSEX IN NUMBERS

19,500+

students from over 150 countries
(latest published 2021-22 figure,
full person equivalent)

30%

overseas students

3,500

staff from over 100 countries

5

Nobel Prize winners

12

Fellows of the British Academy

1ST

in the world for Development Studies,
*QS World University Rankings
by Subject 2023*

**JOINT
49TH**

in the world,
*Times Higher Education (THE)
Impact Rankings 2023*

**JOINT
26TH**

out of 104 UK institutions,
*Times Higher Education (THE) World
University Rankings 2024*

3RD

in the UK for sustainable institutions,
*QS World University Rankings:
Sustainability 2023*

22ND

in the UK, 67th in Europe and 175th
in the world, *US News Best Global
Universities 2022-23*

8TH

in the world, *World University Rankings
for Innovation (WURI) 2023:
Student Mobility and Openness*

89%

of research rated world leading
or internationally excellent,
Research Excellence Framework 2021

INTERVIEW WITH OUR PRO-VICE-CHANCELLOR FOR GLOBAL AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

As the University of Sussex's first Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Global and Civic Engagement, Professor Robin Banerjee is the University's strategic lead on engagement with a diverse range of partners and stakeholders locally, nationally, and internationally. We had a chat with Robin about his new role and his vision for Sussex's global engagement activities.



Can you tell us a bit about yourself and your journey at the University?

I've been at Sussex for a LONG time! I arrived here as an undergraduate student, and I'm still here more than 30 years later. I had a very international background and completed high school in Japan before coming to Sussex to study psychology. Fast forward a few decades – from PhD to post-doc to lecturer to professor – and I've just completed my tenure as Head of School for the School of Psychology. It's been a really exciting journey, and I'm pleased to say that the spirit of interdisciplinary innovation that attracted me to Sussex is still very much a core part of how we collaborate, both internally and with our partners nationally and internationally.

As our new Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Global and Civic Engagement, how would you describe your role in developing and implementing the Global Engagement strategy?

Our strategy will be all about engagement with partners – people, organisations and communities here in Sussex as well as across the world. Taking up this newly created role is a tremendously energising prospect for me. I will be working with academic and professional services staff at Sussex to ensure we are firmly embedded in local, regional, national and global networks. And that will always take the form of a two-way relationship of learning: on the one hand, sharing the amazing education and research that takes place every day at Sussex with partners in the local area and around the world who can benefit from it; and on the other, learning from the diverse talents, experiences, cultural expertise and knowledge of our partners.

Can you tell us a little about Sussex's new international strategy that will be developed and led by you in your new role?

The development of a new international strategy is a big piece of work that will involve collaboration with many different stakeholders, both here at Sussex and beyond. But I know that when we are dealing with such a big portfolio, one key priority is going to be working out a strategic focus that is rooted in our core institutional values. I want to consolidate and grow our commitment to innovative and inclusive internationalism, and my intention is to use an evidence-based approach to help us grow strategic institutional partnerships that have both breadth and depth, encompassing education, research and societal impact. And as the founder of the unique Sussex Centre for Research on Kindness, I can't possibly answer this question without referring to one of our institutional values in particular – kindness. I do think that this has to be an overarching principle for how we engage with partners around the world.

What is your vision for Sussex's regional focus for its global engagement in the next five years?

Well, I've only just started in the role, so I don't want to pre-judge what the details of that vision will be. Ultimately, it's a vision that I am committed to building in collaboration with our trusted partners around the world. But we know that Sussex has a strong reputation for working with organisations across the globe, and our connections in Europe, Asia, Africa, Australasia, and North and South America will all be important over the coming years. And it's important to recognise that each local context has a different set of characteristics and needs, so our regional work needs to be rooted in a good understanding of these. This commitment to truly understanding the needs of our global partners is a first priority for how I plan to move forward.

To find out more about Robin's research, please visit his profile at <https://profiles.sussex.ac.uk/p22548-robin-banerjee> and the Sussex Centre for Research on Kindness at <https://www.sussex.ac.uk/research/centres/kindness/>



SPOTLIGHT ON SUSTAINABILITY

Building a sustainable planet is the greatest single challenge facing humankind and Sussex puts sustainability right at the heart of everything we do.

SPOTLIGHT ON SUSTAINABILITY

We have devoted ourselves to building a future where Sussex is one of the most sustainable universities in the world. In 2021, as a founding member of the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) Network on Higher Education and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we published our sustainability strategy: *Sustainable Sussex*.

We are at the forefront of research around climate action, biodiversity, sustainable food and the circular economy, and are proud to be ranked 3rd in the UK (*QS Sustainability Rankings 2023*) and in the top 50 universities in the world for impact, assessed against the United Nations' SDGs (*Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2023*).

The examples set out here showcase our academic expertise and international engagements in sustainability over the last three years:

- In spring 2022, Sussex was invited to join the International Universities Climate Alliance, a group of 56 of the world's leading universities tackling climate change. This is, in part, a recognition of the work of the Sussex Sustainability Research Programme (SSRP), a collaboration between the University of Sussex and the Institute of Development Studies, and the University's strong research outputs and real-world policy influence and outreach on sustainability.
- Sustainability – through contributions to the UN SDGs – is now one of the four key areas of focus in our new Knowledge Exchange and Impact Strategy.
- Sussex is part of a consortium of seven UK universities and research institutions helping to create future leaders in sustainable food systems via the Partnership for Sustainable Food Future (PSFF) – Centre for Doctoral Training.

These are just a few initiatives, but there is much, much more to do. Our forthcoming strategic plan will place sustainability at the heart of what we do and we look forward to working on this exciting agenda with our partners over the coming years.

▼ The four high-level objectives that form our Sustainable Sussex sustainable strategy, which can be read here www.sussex.ac.uk/sustainable-sussex

ETHICAL EDUCATORS



CIVIC LEADERS AND PARTNERS



DECARBONISING THE ECONOMY



ENVIRONMENTAL CHAMPIONS





On-campus initiatives

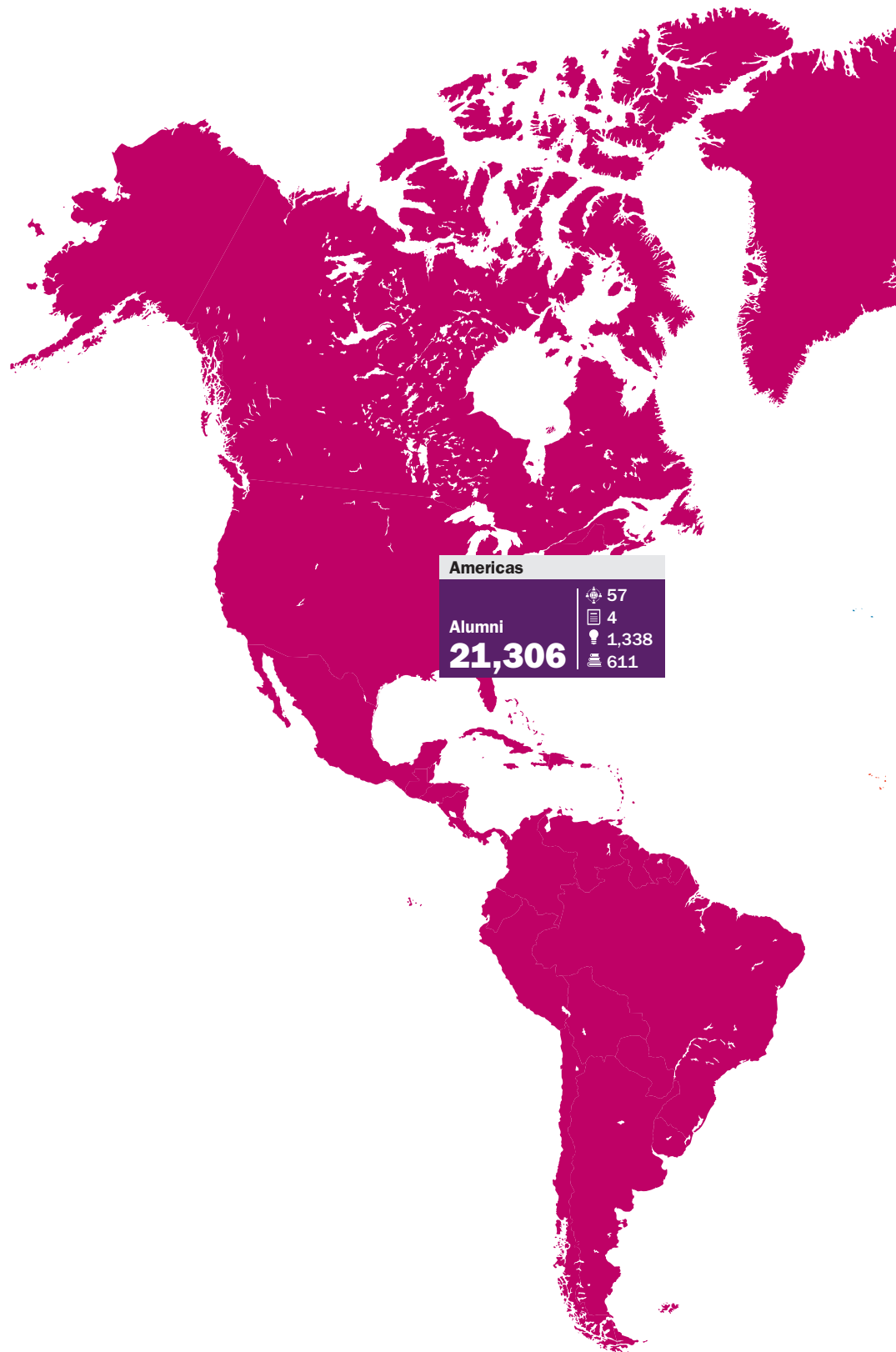
We are committed to using our intellect and imagination to solve real-world issues, including the battle to meet the UN's 17 SDGs. As well facing up to the challenge through our cutting-edge research and global engagement, we embody our commitment through on-campus initiatives.








- ▲ (Top)
Biodiversity walk
- ▲ (Middle left)
Forest Food Garden
- ▲ (Middle right)
Love Your Scrub
- ▶
Building bee hotels

SUSSEX AROUND THE WORLD

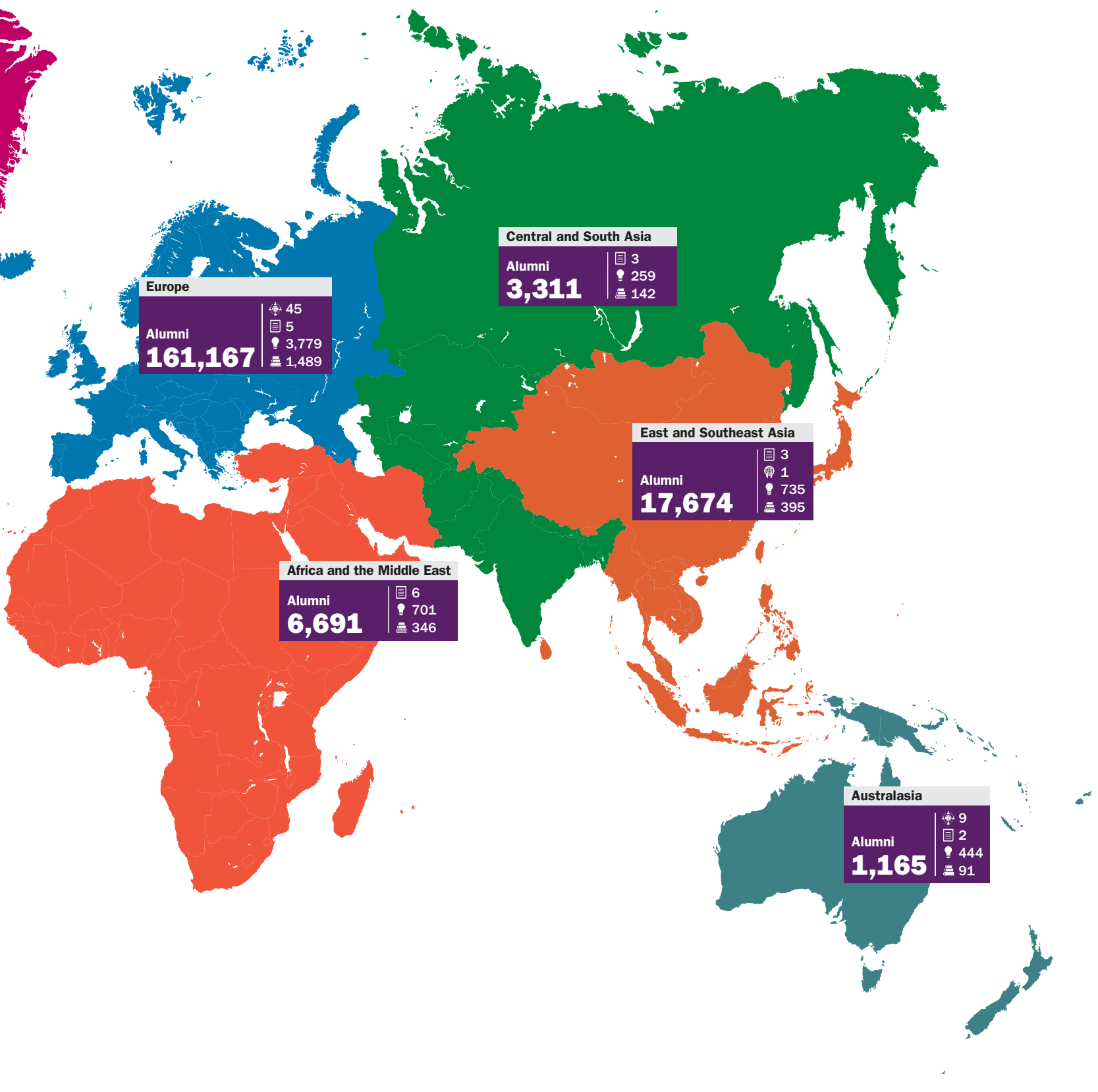
Global collaboration and partnership run through Sussex's DNA and are essential to the character of the University. Over the following pages we explore some of our regional success stories, showcasing the transformative power of our international collaborations, research endeavours and educational initiatives.



Our activity across the world 2021-23

	Student Mobility Partnerships
	Memoranda of Understanding
	Transnational Education Partnerships
	Total number of research outputs with co-authors in region
	Total number of collaborators

SUSSEX AROUND THE WORLD





AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

From Sussex students taking part in Ghanaian summer schools to a knowledge-transfer project in Syria, we are proud of our flourishing engagement in Africa and the Middle East.

Sussex research empowers women in the Democratic Republic of Congo

Dr Lyndsay McLean is a Reader in Anthropology and International Development at Sussex and an international development consultant. Over the last two decades, Lyndsay has applied a range of innovative participatory methods to gather women's and girls' stories and perspectives on gender inequality and violence.

Her pioneering research has not only informed the design of government, donor and NGO initiatives to address gender inequalities and violence but has also contributed to the empowerment of female participants in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Lyndsay and her Congolese colleagues recruited 15 'girl researchers' aged 14-24 in four of the poorest neighbourhoods in DRC. Some were illiterate, some orphans, and some were young unmarried mothers who suffered from exclusion and stigma. What they all shared was an ambition to ensure that the voices of girls and young women are heard, and they were trained to undertake research into what empowerment means for them.

A key part of this real-world research was to identify local terms used by young women to describe other women who are strong or autonomous and those they see as role models. Equipped with mobile phones to record the interviews, and paid for their time, the young researchers went into their communities to learn about girls' and young women's experiences and perspectives on their lives, and to understand their aspirations and what empowerment looks like for them.

"What became apparent was that for the majority of young women, empowerment meant being both economically autonomous and socially integrated," says Lyndsay. The study also revealed the discriminatory gender norms, conflicting values and high expectations placed on young women in Congolese society.

Numerous government and community stakeholders also testified to how the competence shown by the girl researchers changed their views on the capabilities of young women and led them to include them in their research, programming and policy processes.

This important project's success lies in the valuable real-world data gathered, its influence on policies and programmes, and also how it empowered the young marginalised researchers. It gave them the skills, confidence and opportunities to set up their own businesses, to continue with education and to become role models and mentors within their families and communities.

"So many young women in DRC are written-off and not seen as capable of contributing to their societies. The power of these participatory research methods lies not just in producing data that you cannot produce by other methods, but in the direct positive effect they can have on those taking part."

Dr Lyndsay McLean

Podcast shares sustainable agricultural knowledge in Syrian conflict zone



Led by the Sussex Sustainability Research Programme (SSRP), the Agricultural Voices Syria podcast is a project created to help transfer knowledge from Syrian agricultural experts to farmers in northwest Syria.

▲ **Agricultural Voices Syria podcast host, Eng. Zuhier Agha**

◀ **Geopolitics and International Affairs MA student Ziyanda Djudia, a Mandela Scholar, pictured in the 50th year of the scheme at Sussex (read her interview on page 14)**

"The main goal of the project is to promote sustainable agriculture in Syria through podcasting, knowledge exchange and mobilising researchers, practitioners and decision-makers in Syria and abroad," explains Dr Mirela Barbu, a Senior Lecturer in Supply Chain Management at the University of Sussex Business School and the principal investigator on the project.

"The project is quite a bold, ground-breaking experiment in conflict zone communications," adds Martin Spinelli, Professor in Podcasting and Creative Media in the School of Media, Arts and Humanities, and the project's podcast lead. "So often we find in conflict zones the traditional media – radio and TV stations – are the first things to be targeted by military attacks. However, the ubiquity of the smartphone, even in the developing world, and good mobile phone coverage means that podcasting is a real opportunity to reinvent communications in these kinds of situations."

The podcast is an example of Sussex researchers using imaginative approaches to solve real world problems faced by people living in areas affected by war. Sussex researchers and academics from Syrian Academic Expertise for Sustainable Development were awarded the Interdisciplinary Research prize for the innovative podcast series at the Real Impact 2021 awards.

The team aims to create a template for future work that can be used not just by people interested in food security but also for humanitarian efforts in conflict and post-conflict zones around the world.

The podcast episodes were recorded in Arabic and are available to listen from Anchor or Castbox, via the mobile phone app. Transcripts in English for the first 15 episodes are available on the Agricultural Voices Syria website at agricultural-voices.sussex.ac.uk

Contributing to Seychelles' first hate crime bill

In early 2022, Mark Walters, Professor of Criminal Law and Criminology in the School of Law, Politics and Sociology, was invited by Seychelles' Attorney General to present draft legislation to help introduce a groundbreaking Hate Crime Bill in Seychelles.

Collaborating with the international human rights charity, Human Dignity Trust and other bodies, Mark's work led to the inclusion of the Bill in the President's State of the Nation address on 22 February 2022.

Mark reflected on the notable achievement, "Being asked to draft legislation that is directly informed by almost two decades of research is by far a career highlight for me. I have been the victim of a hate crime more times than I care to remember, so using my research to improve the lives of those affected by hate and prejudice is just as – if not more – important to me than enhancing scholarly understanding of the harm hate crimes cause."



▲ Professor Mark Walters (left) visits the office of Seychelles Chief Justice Ronny Govinden (second from right)

To draft the Bill, Mark analysed global hate crime laws to understand both their merits and drawbacks. His meticulous study aimed to recommend suitable models, considering each jurisdiction's unique historical, social, and cultural context. These insights are included in Mark's book, *Criminalising Hate: Law as Social Justice Liberation*, which makes Mark's relevant research findings available to others working in the area of global justice.

Upon approval, the Hate Crime Bill 2022 will position Seychelles among the few African nations adopting legislation against prejudice-based crimes. Mark elaborated, "There are over 190 legal jurisdictions around the world that now have some form of hate crime laws, but there are many countries that continue to resist these, or that even criminalise certain characteristics. I am honoured to be playing a small part in addressing these injustices and am grateful to Human Dignity Trust for supporting this important work, and to the governments that have requested our input."

50 years of the Mandela scholarship

Sussex was the first British university to offer Mandela Scholarships. In a pioneering effort to counter the injustice of apartheid and raise the profile of Mandela's struggle for freedom, students at Sussex founded the Scholarship in 1973. Following his release from Prison in 1990, Mandela wrote to the Scholarship Fund stating: "the power of education extends beyond the development of skills we need for economic success. It can contribute to nation-building and reconciliation." In the 50th year of the scheme, our latest Mandela Scholar reflects on what the scholarship has meant to her.

"I'm really proud to be the University's Mandela Scholar in the 50th year since the scheme started" says Ziyanda Dlodla, who is currently studying for a Geopolitics and International Affairs MA.

"Here I am, a Black woman from South Africa, studying in the UK! This wouldn't have been possible without the sacrifices made by our leaders – like Nelson Mandela – to make sure that we enjoy the privileges that we have today. He is my inspiration and I'd love to resemble him in any way.

"I applied for the scholarship after working as an intern at the United Nations in South Africa. I'd studied politics and international relations as an undergraduate. I'm passionate about African politics and can see myself working for the African Union or in embassies in the EU, so my supervisor at the UN encouraged me to pursue a Masters and she put me in touch with a Sussex graduate.

"Initially, I couldn't see myself studying abroad. I'm from a small, rural town (Ulundi) and most of the people I grew up with hadn't gone on to university – the girls tend to get pregnant and stay at home to raise their kids. Although I knew education

was the way out for me, I knew that I couldn't afford to study abroad. When I heard about the Mandela Scholarship, and spoke to the previous recipient, I realised I should apply.

"I now see the advantage in studying in the UK for my Masters. When you're studying in South Africa, you're reading academic papers from our perspective – the Global South. But now I'm learning about other perspectives from the Global North, which has helped in looking at the world in a multifaceted manner.

"I'm also in touch with other Mandela scholars who have studied at Sussex – including the first-ever scholar, Mr John Gaetsewe Jnr. It's a supportive, tight-knit alumni community and it's wonderful to hear about the many great things they go on to achieve."

Nigerian alumnus named Outstanding Young Person for educating children



▲ Gideon Olanrewaju, Sussex alumnus and founder of Aid for Rural Education Access Initiative (AREAi)

Gideon Olanrewaju came to Sussex as a Chevening Scholar to pursue his passion for child empowerment and humanitarianism, studying a Masters in International Education and Development.

Owing to the impact he has made in Nigeria by putting his learning into practice as an educational development practitioner, the Junior Chamber International (JCI) named him as one of Ten Outstanding Young Persons of the World in 2021.

Gideon is the founder of the Aid for Rural Education Access Initiative (AREAi), a non-profit organisation providing technical and structural support to under-resourced schools, helping some of the most marginalised children. Through AREAi, Gideon has facilitated access to education for over 25,000 beneficiaries across 43 communities in 16 states in Nigeria.

Sussex students graduate with the inspiration and tools to turn their ideas into reality and make a difference in the world. As Gideon said, “Being at Sussex gave me a sense of clarity on my future career direction. I have succeeded in many different settings since Sussex due to the strong leadership and communication skills I acquired during my Masters degree.”

Sussex students gain valuable insights at Ghana summer schools

In June 2022, a group of 15 Sussex students took part in the University of Ghana’s innovative summer programme, ‘Ghana to the World’. One of the extensive range of study abroad opportunities available to Sussex students globally, it was made possible with funding from the Turing Scheme and the Sussex-Ghana Strategic Fund.

The Sussex students spent four weeks studying on the University of Ghana’s campus and were supported throughout by Dr Cyrelene Amoah-Boampong and her team in the Department of History. They attended lectures on a range of topics related to public health, gender and development, the transatlantic slave trade, performing arts and Ghanaian language and culture.

Alongside their studies, the students also took part in volunteering projects. Jade, a second year Psychology student volunteered with a Social Impact Project called ‘Fafali’ (‘There is peace’ in the Ewe language), which supports marginalised groups and underserved children with their education. Jade continued to work with Fafali after returning home.

Sending students to the summer school in Ghana is one of the latest projects to be funded by the Strategic Fund, which has been designed to cultivate research and teaching and learning collaboration between institutions. We were delighted to send more students to participate in the University of Ghana summer programme in 2023 to continue this collaboration.

“This was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that I will forever be grateful for. I learnt so much both academically and culturally, meeting some of the most wonderful people along the way in a beautiful country.”

A Sussex student on their experience of the University of Ghana summer programme



CENTRAL AND SOUTH ASIA

Sussex works with prestigious partner institutions across Central and South Asia. Our researchers are collaborating to help improve sustainability in India, while we have also opened new permanent offices in the region to support students.

SUSSEX PROFESSOR WINS FINANCIAL TIMES AWARD FOR COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH WITH INDIAN PARTNERS

Fiona Marshall, University of Sussex Business School Professor of Environment and Development, was honoured with the prestigious Financial Times Responsible Business Education Award 2022.



Fiona is a renowned expert in sustainable waste management. Collaborating with Pritpal Randhawa (Ambedkar University Delhi), Pravin Kumar Kushwaha and Pranav Desai (Jawaharlal Nehru University), Fiona and the team focused upon sustainable urban waste management and the reduction of environmental health risks in Indian cities. The award recognised how their project addresses social challenges with evidence of impact.

India's rapid urbanisation has led to increased waste generation, creating a pressing need for sustainable waste management policies and practices. With a population of over 1.3 billion and urbanisation rates on the rise, India's cities face significant challenges in handling waste effectively while minimising its environmental impact.

Through addressing these challenges, Fiona's team collaborated with organisations such as India's Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change and used their findings to inform and shape the Municipal Solid Waste rules. This has changed the way waste is dealt with across major cities in India.

The team of researchers also formed crucial partnerships with NGOs and waste-pickers to facilitate unprecedented partnerships across the formal and informal sectors. As well as helping to reduce pollution, this also provided security of livelihood for informal waste-pickers.

Andrew Jack, the *Financial Times'* Global Education Editor, said: "The Financial Times Responsible Business Education Awards recognise outstanding work by researchers, teachers and alumni of business schools making an impact around sustainability and social purpose."

▲ Sussex Professor Fiona Marshall, FT Responsible Business Education award winner 2022

▲ Sussex is helping to change the way waste is dealt with across major cities in India

◀ Students from across our international student community joining in the Hindu festival of Holi on campus

Tri-party MOU signed to boost teaching and research capacity in Kazakhstan

Sussex's activity in this region extends into Kazakhstan, with a new partnership established to help increase high-quality research capacity in the country.

In February 2023, Dr Gulmira Qanay, the Rector at Kazakh National Women's Teacher Training University (KNWTTU) and her colleagues spent the day with the School of Education and Social Work to discuss possible areas of collaboration and support Sussex might provide to their teachers and students. The day was a great success and ended with the signing of a tri-party Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Sussex, KNWTTU and the Bolashak Scholarship.

Kazakhstan has been experiencing a shortage of PhD students. Under this MOU, the Bolashak Scholarship will fund postgraduates to complete a one-year Masters programme at the School of Education and Social Work at Sussex, before returning to Kazakhstan to study for their PhD at KNWTTU.

Following their successful visit, a group of 15 KNWTTU academics arrived at Sussex in July 2023 for a five-day Continuing Professional Development course titled 'Exploring and Establishing Approaches to Pedagogic Research in International Teacher Education.'

It has been a delight to work with KNWTTU and support their initiative of boosting teaching capacity in Kazakhstan and we look forward to deepening our relationship in the coming years.



▲ Radhika Arora, from Sussex's Delhi office, receiving the Global Academic Excellence award conferred upon our Vice-Chancellor Professor Sasha Roseneil

Deepening connections with Amity University

Amity University is a leading private higher-education provider in India with more than 100,000 students studying on its 250 programmes across 10 universities and 150 institutions. In June 2021, Sussex entered into an agreement that formalises existing entry requirements for Amity University graduates to join Masters courses at Sussex.

In February 2023, our Vice-Chancellor, Sasha Roseneil, took part in a panel discussion at the annual International Business Horizon (INBUSH) conference, organised by our partners at Amity University in Delhi, India.

Sasha participated online alongside representatives from other UK universities to discuss the 'Impact of New Education Policy 2020 and Free Trade Agreement:

Indo-UK Bilateral Relations.' As part of her opening remarks to the panel, Sasha talked about her own research on friendship in relation to both Amity's name as an institution, and the spirit of friendly co-operation with which Sussex will be approaching the opportunities created by the Indian Government's National Education Policy 2020.

There are three key areas in which the goals of the new policy are particularly well aligned with the University of Sussex ethos:

- interdisciplinarity, which is a foundational part of our identity as an institution
- an equitable and mutually beneficial approach to partnerships
- ensuring that employability and entrepreneurship are embedded in the curriculum.

During the event, Amity also conferred their Global Academic Excellence award upon Sasha, which was received on her behalf by Radhika Arora from Sussex's Delhi office.

New permanent office in India shows Sussex's commitment to growing regional ties

A new International Office set up in Delhi, India now provides support for Indian students and our partners in the region. It also demonstrates our commitment to the Central and South Asia region, which has a growing population of dynamic young people seeking overseas education.

Our permanent base has also resulted in a record intake of students from India. A total of 495 new students from India enrolled in September 2022, continuing the

upward trajectory from 266 new students in September 2021, which itself was a 254% increase on 2020. This also saw Sussex surpass pre-pandemic student enrolments from India.

As the number of students coming to the UK from India continues to grow, having staff based in India will help young people find out about living and studying in the UK, and specifically welcoming them to Sussex.

SUSSEX DEVELOPS JOINT MODULE WITH INDIAN PARTNERS TO OFFER INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION EXPERIENCE

An exciting collaboration between Sussex and four prominent Indian partner institutions has led to the development of a learning experience benefitting students of both countries.

Funded by the British Council's Going Global Partnerships collaborative grant, Sussex faculty from the School of Education and Social Work worked closely with our partners to develop a transnational module called 'Policy and Practice Issues in International Education and Development'. The module explores a diverse range of contemporary perspectives associated with educational policy in development contexts.

This module is now part of Masters programmes at the five partner universities – the University of Sussex, Dr BR Ambedkar University in Agra, Jamia Millia Islamia in Delhi, the Tata Institute of Social Sciences in Mumbai, and the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration. The innovative module is jointly taught by staff across the universities and continents, allowing faculty members, research scholars and students involved to have a fully international education experience.

Students have given positive feedback on the value of their interaction with diverse faculties, joint seminars, joint teaching and the decolonised framing of this module. Abrita Kuthumi, International Education and Development MA at Sussex said: "I often hear the buzz phrases 'decolonising the curriculum' and 'social justice in education'. However, it was in this classroom space that I had the opportunity to dissect and analyse these ideas. I decided to enrol in the module because it was unique; I have never had a class before where the exchange of ideas between teachers from the UK and India was so balanced."

Aabha Rawat was a PhD student at Dr BR Ambedkar University in 2021. Reflecting on his experience of this joint module, he said: "looking at teacher education, policies and practices globally provides us a much richer lens to understand phenomena, concepts, policies and practices locally. The course helped me look beyond the boundaries of 'good' or 'bad' practices. Instead, it asks us to engage with policy analysis more deeply and in a much more nuanced manner."

The module also has implications for reforms in teacher education. The experience gleaned from the partnership will inform the design of other courses with Sussex's partnering universities, including quality assurance, compliance with global and national standards, and relevant pedagogic and assessment tools for blended learning. Importantly, making the module available as an online (MOOC) course will open access to students who would otherwise not have the opportunities to do so.

“I have never had a class before where the exchange of ideas between teachers from the UK and India was so balanced.”

Abrita Kuthumi, International Education and Development MA



EAST AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

Sussex has over 60 partnership arrangements in East and Southeast Asia. Our partnerships are a mix of collaborations ranging from those that support student mobility in both directions, to partnerships that are more grounded in teaching or have led to research collaboration

CELEBRATING STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENTS AT SUSSEX ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE INSTITUTE IN CHINA

The University of Sussex and Zhejiang Gongshang University (ZJSU) established a joint institute in China in 2020. The Sussex Artificial Intelligence Institute specialises in robotics and artificial intelligence and this unique partnership achieved a significant milestone in 2023.



In summer 2023 we celebrated the programme's first Graduation ceremonies for the first two cohorts of MSc students. Impressively, 63% of the 2020 graduating cohort achieved the highest distinction classification, underscoring the high academic standards of the collaboration.

Furthermore, two MSc graduates were awarded the prestigious Chinese Government Scholarship from the China Scholarship Council (CSC) to pursue their PhD degrees at Sussex.

Additionally, 10 more students received joint sponsorship from the Sussex School of Engineering and Informatics and Zhejiang Gongshang University to pursue their PhD studies at Sussex.

▲ Students celebrate successfully completing their MSc programmes at the Sussex Artificial Intelligence Institute, Zhejiang Gongshang University

◀ Students from one of the University of Sussex Students' Union affiliated societies performing during One World Week on campus

Online Chinese Language and Culture course delivered for Sussex students

In late December 2022, 101 Sussex students took part in an engaging 10-day online Chinese language and culture course, 'Picturesque and Dynamic Zhejiang'. This course, offered by the Foreign Language School at Zhejiang Gongshang University (ZJSU), blended basic Chinese-language instruction with the opportunity to learn about Chinese culture.

The course, funded by the Center for Language Education and Cooperation of China (CLEC), gave students the chance to learn about topics as diverse as martial arts and Chinese poetry. There were also virtual tours of Zhejiang province's beautiful countryside. The initiative is a result of the strategic partnership between Sussex and ZJSU. Initially planned to accommodate 60 students, the registration number exceeded expectations, with 101 Sussex students from various levels and subject areas signing up within a week.



The success of this programme aligns with the objective set out in the International Strategy to provide a global experience to 40% of our undergraduates by 2025.

▲ Sussex students attending an online session of the Chinese Language and Culture course delivered by ZJSU

Inspiring the next generation of scientists in the Philippines

A Sussex academic has developed an outreach programme that aims to inspire university students in science and technology and to consider a career in scientific research.

Dr Kate Shaw is an experimental particle physicist at Sussex, whose research is focused on the top quark – the heaviest known fundamental particle. Kate also co-created Physics Without Frontiers (PWF) with the aim of organising education and training such as university courses, working closely with local volunteer scientists to tailor activities to a country's needs.

Since 2021, PWF has delivered a series of 'Physics Meetup' programmes at universities in the Philippines. Physics Meetup has grown to give members of the public from all over the Philippines the chance to learn from prominent physicists, including the Nobel Laureate in Physics Donna Strickland and Breakthrough Prize Laureate Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell.

The Meetups have seen over 6,600 participants on Zoom sessions and over 87,000 reached on Facebook live-stream. This is a huge achievement in the Philippines, where physics learning is not generally emphasised, especially in rural schools.

“The accessibility of this meetup is a dream come true with a crisis going on. It's warming to think that there is an organisation that hasn't given up hope in order to throw inspiration to people and mould them to become the next scientist that would contribute effort to the advancement of humanity. I thank all who are involved”

▲ A physics student from Mindanao in the Philippines

SOUTH KOREAN STUDENTS GIVEN BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF SUSTAINABILITY DURING SUSSEX VISIT

In summer 2023, the University of Sussex Business School joined local businesses and Brighton and Hove City Council to welcome students from Seoul National University (SNU) for immersive training in sustainability and innovation.



SNU students and faculty were taught by faculty from the Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU) within the University of Sussex Business School. The programme included visits to and presentations by the sustainable energy provider, Rampion Offshore Wind Farm.

SNU students gained valuable knowledge about the latest cutting-edge research and practice, including in eco-innovation and sustainable energy systems.

Dr Youngha Chang, Programme Co-Convenor and Assistant Professor of Innovation Management at Sussex, said:

“SPRU is known as the founding hub of innovation studies. Most of our teaching content is based on our academic research, relevant professional expertise, and practical insight. Sustainability and innovation policies have already been developed because of our research and we are making an impact by training the next generation.”

Dr Adrian Ely, Programme Co-Convenor and Co-Director of Policy and Executive Education at Sussex said: “At the end of the programme, students took home a rounded understanding of sustainability.”



▲ A murmuration of starlings swooping in front of the Rampion Wind farm off the Sussex coast

▲ Students and faculty from the University of Sussex Business School and Seoul National University

EUROPE

We have many enduring partnerships with European universities, with student mobility opportunities across the region, as well as innovative new partnerships that provide valuable opportunities for Sussex and our partners' staff to engage with like-minded researchers, teachers and professional services counterparts.



Launch of Sussex European Partnership Development Fellowship



▲ Sussex's Global Engagement team meeting with one of Sussex's EPDF partners, Charles University, in Prague

In response to the UK's changing relationship with the European Union, Sussex has initiated the Sussex European Partnership Development Fellowships (EPDF) to further our collaborations with leading European partners and help us work in partnership towards our Sussex

2025 vision. Partner institutions who have undertaken collaboration under this scheme are diverse and include the University of Bologna, Charles University in Prague, Aarhus University, Humboldt University and KU Leuven.

Sussex's EPDF programme supports valuable opportunities for Sussex staff to engage with likeminded researchers, teachers and professional services staff from our partner institutions across Europe. It promotes collaborations that have the potential to deliver active, high quality, mutually beneficial links that help to deliver our Sussex 2025 Strategy.

Since the launch of this scheme in 2022, there have been a number of exchanges with EPDF partners. Sussex also hosted a workshop on our campus titled 'Network: Immanence and Transcendence in Ethnographies', in partnership with

research fellows from Aarhus University, Humboldt University and KU Leuven. We were delighted to welcome two groups of visitors from the University of Warsaw in May 2023. The visit resulted in the development of a joint Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) programme which will be launched in the 2023-24 academic year.

Sussex's European Partnership Development Fellowships are designed to build strong alliances with European partners and work together to enhance the student experience by supporting global literacy and internationalism on campus and beyond. The strategy also underpins the development of mutually beneficial teaching partnerships, and our ambition to increase the number and quality of international research collaborations and co-authorships to tackle global challenges.

Creation of a hub of expertise on global inclusive trade policy

In 2022 our new Centre for Inclusive Trade Policy (CITP) was launched – the first centre dedicated to trade policy to be funded by the Economics and Social Research Council (ESRC). The Centre is the brainchild of the University of Sussex team behind the UK Trade Policy Observatory, with Professor L Alan Winters and Professor Michael Gasioriek as co-directors.

The innovative centre is a partnership with Queen's University Belfast, the University of Nottingham, the University of Strathclyde, Cardiff University and the University of Cambridge. Other partners in CITP include the European University Institute (EUI), the leading institute in Europe dedicated to social sciences and humanities.

The Centre has a mission to address challenges and opportunities associated with global trade by promoting inclusive and sustainable policies. Driven by a vision of ensuring that trade policies are designed to benefit all stakeholders, particularly marginalised and vulnerable groups, the Centre focuses on inclusivity. It recognises the importance of addressing the disparities and imbalances that often arise from conventional trade policies.

Bringing together researchers from all four UK nations and several overseas universities has created the UK's first interdisciplinary research centre in international trade. Scholars are drawn from the fields of economics, law, business management, politics and international relations. In addition to this, there is a commitment to hear the voices of all parts of UK society.

The Centre was conceived to play an instrumental part in shaping the future of trade policy and fostering inclusive economic development. As part of this work, a regular webinar series has been increasing knowledge since the Centre launched. Topics covered have included 'UK-EU: Whither next or Wither Next' where trade experts assessed the state of play on UK-EU economic relations and considered the realistic options going forward.

Professor Winters, Centre Co-director and Professor of Economics at the University of Sussex Business School, said: "International trade is of huge importance in the British economy, and now for the first time in 50 years the UK has to design its own trade policies. The Centre for Inclusive Trade Policy was established by scholars from all over the country to provide independent analysis and evidence-based expertise on trade and trade policy, in order to help create a policy that is inclusive both in its formulation and its outcomes across UK society."



▲ L Alan Winters
Michael Gasioriek

▲ Sussex student George Hancox, History BA, on his year abroad studying at the University of Oslo, Norway

When war broke out in the Ukraine, Sussex stepped up in a number of different ways to help people in need, ranging from partnerships to free training. Here are some examples of Sussex's work in Ukraine in recent years.

Strengthening resilience: Sussex twins with university in Ukraine

In August 2022 we formed a collaborative partnership with the Oles Honchar Dnipro National University (OHDNU) in Ukraine. This strategic alignment seeks to bolster the support for students and academics who have been adversely affected by the ongoing conflict in Ukraine.

Sussex's initiative is a part of a broader effort supported by UUK that includes 71 other UK universities, with the aim of countering the potential 'brain drain' resulting from the conflict. The collaboration seeks to ensure that OHDNU not only remains resilient but emerges stronger in the post-conflict era. The initiative, spearheaded by the Cormack Consultancy Group in conjunction with Universities UK International, marks a five-year commitment to our Ukrainian counterpart.

A spirit of international cooperation and knowledge sharing is at the heart of the initiative. Students and scholars from OHDNU have been given access to a wide range of resources, ranging from online courses and teaching materials to the digital collections of Sussex's online library. Discussions also took place to integrate displaced Ukrainian academics into research initiatives spearheaded by Sussex.

Reflecting on the significance of this partnership, our Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sasha Roseneil, remarked at the time: "Over the last six months, we have seen from afar that the people of Ukraine have faced unimaginable devastation and suffering. This agreement with Oles Honchar Dnipro National University will bring our two institutions together to support academics and encourage learning, both now and into the future."

The commitment was formalised with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on the Falmer campus via an online ceremony attended by the leaders of both institutions. Rector of OHDNU, Professor Sergiy Okovytyy, conveyed his optimism for the partnership, stating, "During these challenging times, higher education in Ukraine is being seriously affected. We believe that this partnership will be incredibly valuable and will bring us substantial progress and best practices in research and educational fields. I am grateful to the University of Sussex and Cormack Consultancy Group for the efforts and initiatives aimed at supporting our University."



► [Sussex Vice-Chancellor Professor Sasha Roseneil on a call with OHDNU's Rector Professor Sergiy Okovytyy to sign the Memorandum of Understanding twinning our universities](#)

Sussex professor gives specialist training to Ukrainian diplomats

John Drury, Professor in Social Psychology at Sussex, has provided pro bono specialist communications training for Ukrainian diplomats since war broke out in February 2022. John has supplied an online training module relating to crowd psychology to ComSkills Ukraine, a dedicated video e-learning cloud service, supported by the British Embassy in Kyiv and the Diplomatic Academy of Ukraine.

John explains that the module – which consists of a recorded lecture, summary document and further reading guide – aims to help the diplomats “understand the most basic crowd psychology processes [to] dispel some myths and help with communication. I wanted to help because there is a lot of incorrect and dangerous psychology out there that could have a major detrimental impact on people already suffering enough right now.

John was able to provide a training module based on the latest crowd psychology research. “Too often, guides and training are based on outdated and poorly evidenced psychology, which can lead to significant problems,” he explains. “For example, the idea that authorities shouldn’t tell the public about an emergency in case it leads to panic in fact leads to less effective evacuation. And using disproportionate force on a crowd tends to escalate conflict rather than quell it. These are serious scenarios that could very possibly occur within the country’s current war status, and need to be handled appropriately’.

The hope is that this free training will help the Ukrainian people by upskilling their Government communicators in a way that could ultimately be used at a national level.



▲ Wheat crops can now be better protected, thanks to the work of Sussex and Ukrainian researchers

Sussex mathematicians aim to safeguard organic farming in Ukraine

Two Sussex mathematicians have worked with counterparts in the Ukraine to try and tackle one of the most urgent challenges facing the world today – how to feed our growing global population. Dr Konstantin Blyuss and Dr Yuliya Kyrychko from the School of Mathematics and Physical Sciences worked alongside biologists at the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine to design a chemical-free way to curtail the crop-killing activity of parasitic worms.

Konstanin and Yuliya’s work helped develop natural biostimulants (a chemical-free and organic-friendly alternative to pesticides) and increased crop yields by up to 60%. The mathematical modelling explains how RNA interference works in plants and shows the most effective way to apply biostimulants to keep crops safe from nematodes.

The insights from the models have been used by Ukrainian biotech companies to develop natural and organic biostimulants (some of which have been certified for organic farming) and are now used by some of the largest organic farming companies in Ukraine.

“The models we developed have translated into something that will positively contribute towards addressing a major global challenge.”

Dr Yuliya Kyrychko, Reader in Mathematics



THE AMERICAS

We have a range of partnerships across the Americas. Around 20 current exchange programmes include prestigious institutions across North, Central and South America.

SUSSEX HELPS AMAZONIAN COMMUNITY TOWARDS OFFICIAL TERRITORIAL RECOGNITION

After a decade of struggle, the Amawaka community of Alto Esperanza (High Hope) in Peru, achieved the first step in gaining official recognition of their territorial rights on 20 September 2022. The outcome was a result of a Sussex research project, ‘The Making of an Integrated Landscape of Conservation’, that is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC).



Led by Dr Evan Killick, Reader in Anthropology and International Development at Sussex, the project is based at our School of Global Studies and the Sussex Sustainability Research Programme (SSRP). Dr Chris Hewlett led activities in Peru, along with Marly Rojas Rios and Edgar Monsin, the head of the local indigenous federation, FIARIM.

▲ **Edgar Monsin with representatives of Upper Amazon Conservancy, the Ministries of Agriculture and Culture and SERNANP in 2021**

▲ **The Inuya River**

▲ **Sussex alumna Dr Elizabeth Churchill, Director of UX at Google, giving a talk at a Sussex alumni event at the Poster House in New York**

To help the Amawaka community secure the territory and the forests around them and protect their livelihoods from the threats they face, such as timber concessions and drug trafficking activities, our research team worked with representatives of SERNANP (Peru’s National Parks Service) and the Ministries of Agriculture and Culture as well as the NGO Upper Amazon Conservancy and Indigenous organisations. Their work led to the submission of an official application supported by evidence and documents for territorial recognition from the Peruvian government. The team also supported the people of Alto Esperanza through the necessary bureaucratic processes.

The Peruvian Government’s Ministry of Culture recognition means that, in time, a school will be built and teachers provided and health-care provision should improve, while community members’ rights to use the resources of the forest will be protected.

This marks the first time a group that is still in the official stage of ‘Initial Contact’ has achieved this status and has thus set an important precedent for other groups, particularly those still living in isolation in the surrounding area. While this is just the first step in the official process that is likely to take at least two years, it emphasises the importance and power of collaborative research that seeks to address the complex issues that Indigenous Peoples face in South America.

Building world-class partnerships in Mexico

Sussex and the Institute of Development Studies signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) in March 2022. The tripartite partnership is helping bring together some of the most influential minds in globalisation, public policy, innovation, sustainability, human rights, education and climate change, delivering research that will influence policy makers around the world.

Together with UNAM – one of the most prestigious universities in the Americas – we have also established a student exchange agreement, a summer programme for UNAM students at Sussex, and opportunities for collaborative online international learning (COIL). We will develop new opportunities for faculty engagement including guest lectures, as well as pursuing new avenues for research.

Carlos Maldonado, alumnus of Sussex, IDS and UNAM is delighted to see his alma maters joining forces: “The social character and academic rigour of both universities, provided me with the interdisciplinary tools, career development and personal growth that shaped the professional that I am today. I am sure that by working together, Sussex, IDS and UNAM will produce highly qualified professionals with a social perspective who will play a pivotal role in future solutions to many of the great problems facing us in the 21st century”.



▲ Some of the first cohort of Sussex students at the UNAM Summer School in Taxco

BA Liberal Arts student Gina Lloyd was among the first cohort of Sussex students to attend a Summer School at UNAM. Reflecting on her experience, Gina says: “Everyone who worked at CEPE (UNAM’s international teaching centre) was so lovely and welcoming, which eased my nerves straight away and made me feel at home. We learnt so much every day about Mexican culture, each other and ourselves.”

We were also delighted to welcome UNAM students to our International Junior Research Programme in summer 2022. Then in early 2023, the Global Engagement team at Sussex facilitated and supported a COIL programme in business strategy simulation. Forming

part of the International Business Strategy Module at Sussex, the six-week programme brought together 80 UNAM and 176 Sussex students. Students gained global perspectives on international business concepts as well as developing their professional skills and strategic decision-making.

“UNAM, Sussex and IDS have a wonderful potential for collaboration based on our shared values towards making the world a better place.”

Professor Ana Elena González-Treviño, Director of the Centre for Mexican Studies, UNAM-UK

Vice-Chancellor engages with partners and alumni in the Americas



▲ Adrienne Drell, Chair and President of the Friends of the University of Sussex, with Vice-Chancellor Sasha Roseneil at an alumni event in New York

During her first year in post, Sussex Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sasha Roseneil, has been conducting a series of visits to engage with global partners and alumni. In May 2023, Sasha went to Mexico where she visited UNAM and its UNESCO World Heritage Campus, before going on to attend the US Friends of Sussex board meeting, and hosting a reception for US alumni at the Poster Museum in New York.

Sasha attended a Sussex alumni event in Mexico attended by over 80 Mexican alumni and by members of Chevening Mexico. The US alumni reception was attended by past, present and future Sussex students, as well as agents, partners and friends. During the event, guests were introduced to Sussex alumna Dr Elizabeth Churchill, who is Director of User Experience at Google.

Elizabeth has had an incredible career in the technology industry since graduating from Sussex. When she first attended Sussex, Elizabeth wanted to study French. A few years later, she graduated with an undergraduate degree in Experimental Psychology and a Masters degree in Knowledge-Based Systems. She told attendees about how Sussex’s challenging interdisciplinarity had trained her to ask the most difficult and apposite questions, shaping her research in cognitive science, human-computer interaction, and psychology, and her career in the hi-tech industry.

INTERNATIONAL SUSSEX AT HOME

As well as making a difference through our global engagement overseas, Sussex is proud of the international experience and community we foster on our campus. In 2021, we were named best in the world for student diversity in Study Portals Global Satisfaction Awards, the only global university recognition programme from the student perspective.

International students visit Sussex again for eight-week research scheme

Sussex's Global Engagement team and Doctoral School have been running the International Junior Research Associate (IJRA) programme since 2014. The scheme supports academically gifted undergraduates from close institutional partners to undertake supervised research during the summer while broadening the faculty connections at those institutions. In this way, we hope to develop future research leaders by encouraging talented and ambitious undergraduates at partner universities to consider a career in research.

With international travel resuming after the pandemic, we were delighted to be able to welcome twelve students from our partners to our beautiful campus in summer 2023. Students came from the United States

of America, India, Vietnam, Thailand, and Mexico to participate in the scheme where they were given the opportunity to work with a supervisor at Sussex for eight weeks on a research project related to their degree subject. Subject areas included engineering and informatics, sustainability, psychology and life sciences.

Speaking about their experience, one of the students said: "I am leaving with knowledge and skills in new research methodologies and I feel that my avenues in higher education have broadened as I have been given the opportunity to have my work included in a published paper and have developed friendships without borders." Another student, from the University of Chicago, commented: "I've made friends with inspiring people, and I've met a lot of the kindest, too. It's been a truly memorable experience."

The IJRA students celebrated their achievements at an IJRA showcase event where their journey culminated in an afternoon of reflecting upon what they had discovered through the course of their research. The occasion allowed them to thank their mentors and share with their fellow Associates their field of expertise. The event was a celebration of the human value of international education and partnerships.

Programmes on campus enhance students' intercultural experiences

One World Week at Sussex is a programme of events run collaboratively by the University of Sussex and the University of Sussex Students' Union. Held in March every year, it is a celebration of the diversity of cultures in our community. In 2023, our Global Programmes team participated in One World Week as part of their ongoing efforts in promoting internationalisation at home (IAH) on campus.

IAH is an innovative approach that seeks to create a globally engaged and culturally diverse environment for all students, regardless of their physical mobility. It goes beyond traditional study abroad

programmes and aims to integrate international perspectives, intercultural experiences, and global awareness into the fabric of our university.

At one of the One World Week events, information stands were set up allowing individuals to learn about IAH and extending invitations to upcoming events, such as the new Global Citizen Café. This event allowed guests to share food together, play games and have discussions about different schools of thought in IAH. After the event, focus groups were organised to gain in-depth insights from students to understand their perspectives. The valuable input gathered from these sessions is informing the Global Programmes team's future initiatives to ensure that they align their efforts with the needs of our student community.

From these projects and events, we have learnt that students have a strong desire for more programmes and modules that can help develop their intercultural skills within their degree studies. Emphasising a sense of community within our events is a top priority, creating spaces where students can connect, learn about new viewpoints, cultures, and gain cultural awareness.

Work is also underway to develop a dedicated web resource for IAH, which will serve as a central hub for information and upcoming events. Looking ahead, we are committed to expanding our reach and impact.

We are proud of the accomplishments that we have achieved over the past three years and are delighted with the impact that has been made through our international partnerships.

As we embark on a new chapter of global engagement, the University of Sussex is committed to forging dynamic partnerships across the world. Our vision is clear: to cultivate international collaborations that transcend boundaries and catalyse meaningful impact on a global scale, supporting progress for people and planet.

We have built a legacy of challenging convention and recognise the inherent power of collaboration in driving positive change across borders. Looking ahead, we see a horizon teeming with opportunities to expand intercultural connectivity for our students through physical and online collaborations. We are excited that the programmes described in this review are already helping to forge links for academic collaboration and research. These collaborative efforts will not only create research impact but will also play an instrumental role in addressing pressing global challenges.

As we look ahead to developing our new strategic framework, our partnership working will continue to be central to our internationalisation agenda. We look forward to working together with our partners to create more exciting opportunities for students and staff at Sussex and our partners, in teaching, research and mobility.

Gemma Proudley,
Associate Director of Global Engagement

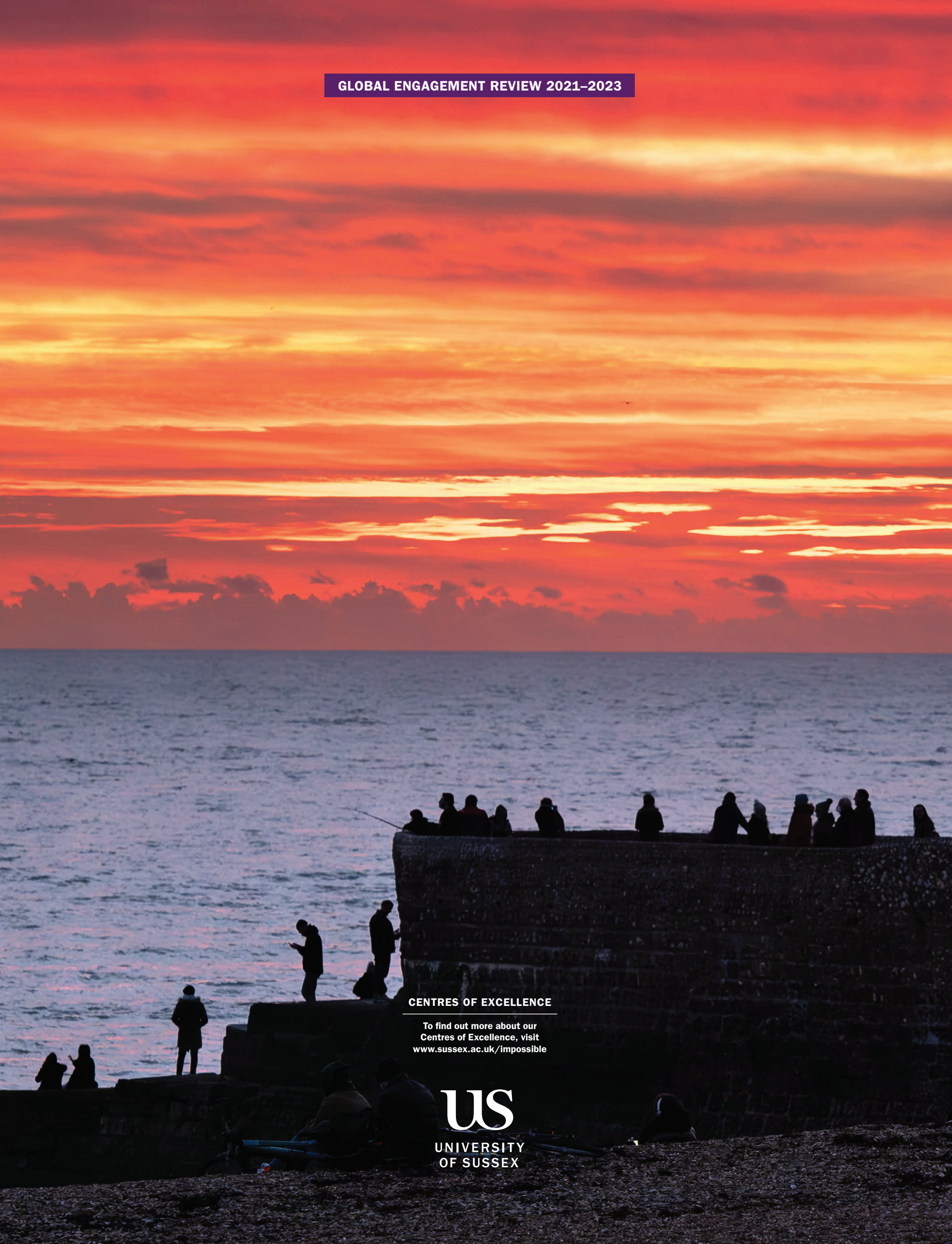
Start a conversation

We're keen to involve international peers in discussions about how we can work together for mutual benefit and for a better world. Please contact Sussex Global Engagement if you'd like to explore opportunities to work with us.

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