Our Global Story

Pioneering Education with Global Impact since 1821
At Heriot-Watt we are passionate about partnership. We believe that collaborative approaches which embrace diversity are central to being able to tackle the challenges and uncertainties in the world today. This extends to the partnership with our own students, working together to ensure that the broad experience at university helps our graduates to flourish and fulfil their potential, through an education designed for quality and professional orientation.

In this publication, we highlight some of the long-term alliances that give Heriot-Watt its distinctive international character. These include research collaborations and partnerships with business that make a real difference, impacting positively on economies, the environment and society.

Through a network of academic partners, we have extended access to degree programmes across the world and combined this with flexible online delivery to meet the demands of lifelong learning. Heriot-Watt students benefit from our commitment to student mobility, gaining lasting friendships and life-changing experiences.

This is all about people; it is our Global Story – contact us, partner with us and join us on this incredible journey.

Contact us at: internationaldevelopment@hw.ac.uk
Our Global Connections

Heriot-Watt has built a large collaborative portfolio with Bangor University to develop new research courses. Since 2012, we have played a very active role in capacity building in Bangladesh, creating a strong foundation for future international collaboration and research.

Our Global Impact Through Partnerships

A flavour of our connections across the world.

**Capacity Building at Scale**
- **Bangor, UK**
- **Monash, Australia**
- **Nanyang Technological University, Singapore**
- **Amirkabir University of Technology, Iran**
- **University of the Philippines, Manila**

**Award-winning Green Campus Building**
- **Portugal, Portugal**
- **Malaysia, Malaysia**
- **Zambia, Zambia**
- **Dubai, UAE**

**Global Exchange Partners**
- **Texas, USA**
- **Scottish Borders, UK**
- **New York, USA**
- **Edinburgh, UK**

**Research Collaborations**
- **Norway, Norway**
- **Zambia, Zambia**
- **Dubai, UAE**
- **Malaysia, Malaysia**

**Campuses**
- **Beijing, China**
- **Las Vegas, USA**
- **India & Pakistan**
- **Xi'an, China**

**Our Oldest University Alumni Association in the UK**
- **Oldest University Alumni**
- **Championing Distance Learning**

**Global Partners in Academic Resources and Rigorous International Standards**
- **UNESCO, UNESCO**
- **Sino-UK Strategic Alliance**
- **SCCM, SCCM**
- **One-of-a-kind Erasmus Mundus Programme**

**Pioneering leaders and solutions since 2021**
- **“Pioneering leaders and solutions since 2021” represents our commitment to innovation and excellence in education, research, and strategic partnerships.”**

**One-of-a-kind Erasmus Mundus Programme**
- **Global, Global**
- **Third Party Programme**
- **Erasmus**

**In collaboration with Université de Bourgogne and Université de Dijon, Heriot-Watt developed the very first Erasmus Mundus Programme**
- **In Asia (Image of Reina and Holloway)**
- **In the field of computer science (Image of Reina)**

**SEE THE WORLD. THEN CHANGE IT**

**35 COUNTRIES**

**85 CAMPUSES**

**48 PARTNERS IN ACADEMIC RESOURCES AND RIGOROUS INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS**
Inspiring Locations

With our roots in Scotland, our ambition and reach are truly international. A leader in transnational education wherever we are, Heriot-Watt is a powerful driver of the global economy. Together with our alumni, civic community and industry partners, we transform people, society and the world we live in.

INSPIRATIONAL SURROUNDINGS

Our campuses are based in some of the world’s most inspiring locations. Each offers superb facilities, safe surroundings and an international welcome. We have built connected and integrated learning environments close to the vibrant cities of Edinburgh, Dubai and Kuala Lumpur. These stimulating cities and the challenges of future urban living echo through our research but also inspire our students when they transfer between our campus locations.

Tradition and innovation intertwine in Edinburgh, home to the world’s biggest arts and cultural festival and a unique living heritage (UNESCO World Heritage site). As one of the Middle East’s most dynamic cities, Dubai is a hub for economic innovation and diversification. Meanwhile, Kuala Lumpur with its remarkable cultural diversity boasts gleaming skyscrapers, fascinating architecture and a myriad of natural attractions.

Our more rural campus locations in the Scottish Borders and the Orkney Islands have become leading centres for creativity and global enterprise. These truly unique natural settings provide highly specialist study and research environments in textile design, fashion technologies, renewable and marine energy and technologies with strong international industry links and collaborations.

In the past ten years, we have opened offices in China and India. Our teams in Beijing and New Delhi support Heriot-Watt’s strategic relationships and further our local collaborations with existing and new partners in higher education, industry and government.

Florence, a Chemical Engineering student, transferred from our Malaysia Campus to spend her final two years in Edinburgh on an Inter-Campus Transfer.

Florence Ong Woei Ying, BEng Chemical Engineering
International Communities

Heriot-Watt is an integrated global university with strong links across Europe and the rest of the world.

With a heritage of pursuing knowledge for the benefit of society and for increasing access to higher education, we are renowned for providing high-quality, professionally orientated education and research relevant to industry and business. Our five campuses in the Middle East, South East Asia and the UK, along with our global network of partners and community of online learners, present a new model of transnational education – the integrated global university where culture, learning, research and collaboration flow around and from the university in all its locations. We have instigated structural change to champion this new model – strengthening the alignment and effectiveness of our systems and processes, assuring and enhancing quality, and championing increased collegiality across all our communities and locations.

GLOBAL COMMUNITY

This global community of scholars comprises 29,000 students from 160 countries. Recognising the complexity and unpredictability of the future, we nurture a distinctive university experience building innovative, entrepreneurial and resilient minds, creating highly specialist scholars who can make an impact in the world and become leaders in ideas and solutions.

WATT CLUB COMMUNITY

Formed in 1854, The Watt Club is the UK’s oldest Higher Education Institution alumni association, now truly global with over 120,000 members and branches on four continents. The newest branches opened in Nigeria and Zambia, strengthening the bond with our growing communities in these countries.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

In Malaysia, we launched the ‘Youth Transformation Programme’ to help bring out the best in young people as they embark on their journey into higher education. The programme helps young people to achieve their full potential through creativity, innovation and critical thinking and also combats low self-esteem, developing resilience and emotional intelligence. Student volunteering is growing at Heriot-Watt as an important part of the broader student experience, resonating well with the values adopted across the University’s communities. In Dubai, our students joined the ‘Protect Your Mum’ campaign raising awareness of breast cancer locally by organising a range of events including an annual show.

HERIOT-WATT UNIVERSITY

Dubai delivers benefits worth AED 520 million (£94 million) a year to the local economy.

Biggar Economics, Independent economic consultancy

Malaysia already delivers benefits worth MYR 10,000,000 (£1.8 million) a year to the local economy.

Keddie Consulting, Independent economic advisors
Academic Recognition

We have a high proportion of staff and students studying and working with us from outside of the UK: 73% of Heriot-Watt students and 36% of staff are international. This diversity creates campus communities where everyone can learn from each other and collaboration is the norm.

Go Global, our student mobility programme, provides more and more students with the opportunity to continue their programme of study in an alternative campus location through a range of short to longer term transfer options. These experiences are often transformational, helping our students succeed in an increasingly connected world. They acquire not only the knowledge and skills through their study, but also cultural intelligence, increased resilience and confidence through their interactions within different cultural contexts. Heriot-Watt’s ethos and graduate attributes are reflected in this endeavour – specialist, creative, professional and global.

Wherever a Heriot-Watt student is located, the learning outcomes of their programme are identical, with one degree certificate globally.

Inspiring Learners

Heriot-Watt graduates are highly employable worldwide, benefiting from a distinctive, relevant and specialist education at a university with a truly international character. Our people set the gold standard and are sought by the best organisations worldwide.

Go Global

Over 750 students have spent time studying at an international campus since the 2015/16 academic year.

750

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Connecting with Business & Industry

Heriot-Watt’s professional and research orientation is reflected through strategic partnerships with business and industry across the globe. The translation of research excellence into practical application is a distinctive feature of Heriot-Watt and forms the foundation of many relationships between the University and its industry collaborators.

We use science and innovation to promote economic development and social welfare around the world – our industry-driven Next Generation Green Data Centre will integrate novel Malaysian and UK green energy and cooling technologies to provide energy efficient cooling around the world and change lives. The project is backed by Dearman, Green Data Centre LLP and University Teknologi Malaysia.

We recently launched a major Joint Industry Project with Petronas in Malaysia which focuses on minimising uncertainties affecting the prediction of hydrocarbon recovery as well as supporting simulation studies through the acquisition of key physical data.

In Dubai, ORA House – a solar home prototype – is being designed and manufactured by Heriot-Watt students in the first ever Solar Decathlon Middle East competition (see image bottom left). The team involving staff and students have created a space to sustainably reduce carbon production and mitigate against climate change. The project also provides an innovative solution that revolves around enhancing the relationship between man, nature and the built environment. ORA House has been sponsored by industry partners including Diamond Developers.

As part of our well-established partnership with BP, we have led on an in-depth data collation process for BP’s Statistical Review of World Energy since 2007. Our team provides the analysis which covers energy consumption, production, reserves and trade, as well as data relating to carbon emissions, allowing for a fully integrated and dynamic picture of world energy markets.

Spanning two decades, Heriot-Watt’s partnership with Total has expanded to cover a range of global research and development and education activities including PhD and post-doctorate studies, internships, industry-based visits, business and education forums.

Working hand in hand with business, Heriot-Watt is also playing a leading role in work-based learning, creating a new generation of graduates uniquely well placed to meet current and future challenges.
Pioneering Research

From discovery to application, our research community is driving to be at the forefront of new ideas and solutions to create radical innovations that make a difference in the real world.

TRANSFORMING SOCIETY
We are renowned for world-leading research in the specialist fields of energy, engineering, robotics, social and life sciences, business and design, working closely with industry on a global platform.

By uniquely combining interdisciplinary expertise and scientific breakthroughs, we are developing a whole portfolio of technologies aimed at reducing carbon dioxide emissions while meeting energy demands. We are leading the way in developing practical quantum communication and imaging approaches to secure data systems from global cyber-attacks.

We are turning assumptions about the use of languages, spoken and signed, on their head revealing the effects of multilingual, multicultural communication.

Our robotics research will revolutionise the global economy over the next 20 years spanning the nuclear, space and offshore industries, transport, healthcare and manufacturing. Meanwhile, Heriot-Watt’s Interaction Lab is breaking new ground in the development of robots that can learn from human language and how to interact socially with humans.

9th
82%

WORLD-CLASS RESEARCH
The UK Research Excellence Framework 2014 ranked Heriot-Watt 1st in Scotland and 9th in the UK for impact with 82% of research ranked world-class.

80%+

RESEARCH-LED EDUCATION
Over 80% of academic staff are currently engaged in research at internationally recognised levels delivering research as diverse as providing greater equality for deaf people, helping to manage risk in the insurance industry and enhancing oil extraction from the North Sea.

Our research, SCORRES*, deals with the fundamentals of life in food, water and energy. Its potential to impact on water- and energy-stressed regions of the world is huge and we are really excited about the next steps.

Project COMET** is an excellent example of how Heriot-Watt can develop partnerships to carry out research that inspires in an area of high economic and societal impact.

Professor Mercedes Maroto-Valer,
School of Engineering and Physical Sciences

Project SCORRES* is an Innovate UK-funded project managing solar-PV capacity, electrical storage and demand to optimise irrigation schedules using novel forecasting techniques.

Project COMET** is a large government-backed initiative to drive innovation in carbon capture and storage.

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Collaborating
with Academic Partners & Learners

Collaboration and partnership run through Heriot-Watt’s DNA and are essential to the character of the institution. Over three decades we have worked with partners to establish an extensive global network of 85 academic partners in 35 countries.

PARTNERING WITH LEARNERS
We also partner with individual learners – in the past 25 years we have nurtured a large community of distance learning students around the world. This reflects our commitment to providing access to high quality programmes and recognises the changing educational needs and aspirations of people wherever they may be. These programmes range from the Edinburgh Business School MBA programme, to the MSc in Petroleum Engineering, MSc in Safety Risk and Reliability Engineering and MSc in Marine Renewable Energy. In the coming years, we will be investing in advanced learning technologies allowing even more flexibility to meet the demands of lifelong learning.

FORGING LONG-TERM ALLIANCES
With strategic academic partners, who share our values and commitment to high quality education, we collaborate on many levels from innovative teaching and capacity building to impactful research and international education projects. We support governments, companies and universities in the development of their staff, providing international experiences for students and staff. Our distinctive international character presents a unique proposition for our partners – they can access expertise and opportunities across all our campuses around the globe and build multi-site collaborations. Our academic partnerships range from dual and joint awards at all levels – including unique Erasmus Mundus programmes – to mobility, articulation and progression arrangements and distance learning. We have a distinctive network of long-term learning partners around the world, a model pioneered in the 1990s, allowing students to register and study flexibly for a Heriot-Watt degree within their own country.

I began studying for my MBA with Edinburgh Business School because it offered me the opportunity to study in my own time and at my own pace. Studying independently was challenging but I always felt supported through platforms such as the student portal and online tutorials.

Charissa Jaganath, MBA Graduate, South Africa
If you would like to discuss a collaboration with us, please contact

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