

2019–2020

# GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT REVIEW

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# WELCOME FROM OUR VICE-CHANCELLOR

Welcome to the University of Sussex Global Engagement Review. In this edition, we focus on how the University's core values of kindness, integrity, inclusion, collaboration and courage are reflected in our impactful collaborations from 2019 to 2020.



We have taken bold and creative steps to grow our international footprint across the world. Our new large-scale partnerships in China are one example, and we have expanded our research impact through our exceptional research centres working with partners in Latin America, Europe, Asia and Africa.

I am immensely proud of the new Transnational Education (TNE) project launched with Zhejiang Gongshang University, in the Zhejiang Province in China. The joint institute will expand Sussex's international footprint, building on our other TNE partnership in Qatar.

You will also see how the Sussex Sustainability Research Programme and the Science Policy Research Unit within our Business School, and many more of our world-class researchers across the University, are working with partners to deliver transformative research with impact as we continue to work towards a better world.

Our students continue to be globally mobile through participation in global experiences that provide academic stimulation and engagement with new cultures, and boost their employability. Understandably, many of these experiences have recently become virtual, through innovations in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. In everything that we do, we place our students first. You will see this from our student spotlights, highlighting the various ways they have leveraged our international collaborations to enrich their education.

Thanks to all our partners, we have collectively found ways to succeed, and indeed thrive, over the last year, despite the significant challenges we faced as a sector. We look forward, now, with hope, as we continue to build on our achievements and succeed together.

**Professor Adam Tickell,  
Vice-Chancellor and President**

## WHAT SETS US APART

At the University of Sussex, we embrace a set of institutional core values: kindness, integrity, inclusion, collaboration and courage. These were borne out of many discussions with our staff, students and alumni, and they define our institutional mission – ‘a better university for a better world.’ They influence how we work and interact with each other.

In 2020, the world endured a global pandemic, a looming economic crisis, intense activism for racial justice and climate change, and widespread social unrest. As active citizens, it is incumbent on us to think really hard about what it means to live by our values – to challenge conventions and fundamentally reshape how we engage globally.

Collaboration and partnership run through the University of Sussex’s DNA and are essential to the character of the institution. Over the past decades, we have worked with partners to establish an extensive global network of 329 academic partners in 59 countries. The Covid-19 crisis, and our collective responses to it, may result in permanent shifts in partnership preferences and students’ behaviour, teaching models, and ways of collaborating through technology-enhanced learning. At Sussex, we are primed to engage with that shifting agenda.

We are already seeing the potential for partnership growth in technology-enhanced learning, transnational education, virtual student mobility, sustainable internationalisation practices, and collaborative online international learning projects. Perhaps more importantly, we have woken up to the need for greater empathy and compassion to develop a strong international focus and awareness in all our staff and in all that we do.

With our existing and potential academic partners worldwide, who share our values and commitment to high-quality education, we look forward to exploring more flexible and innovative collaborative models, and to implementing new technologies on many levels from novel teaching and capacity-building initiatives to impactful research and international education projects.

We will work to enhance the global nature of our students’ experience to prepare them to thrive in and contribute to an increasingly interdependent world. We will partner with governments and enterprises in the development of their staff. We will collaborate with universities globally to provide international experiences for their students and staff.

We believe our distinctive values and our international character present a unique proposition for our partners. More than ever, we are open to trying new things and working differently as we seize the opportunity to emerge stronger together with our partners.

## SUSSEX AT A GLANCE

Based on the outskirts of the bustling city of Brighton & Hove, we are situated on the beautiful South Coast of England, just 60 miles from London. We are a leading research-intensive university and our academic activities have always had an international dimension and outlook.

We are very excited that the University of Sussex has been ranked 160th in the world in the *Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2021*, and in the top 20 in the UK. Sussex scored highly for several areas, including Research, Citations, and International Outlook, all of which have improved ratings since the previous year’s results. This is down to factors such as experienced teaching staff, world-leading research and the University’s diverse, multicultural student body.

Our research has produced Nobel prizes, developed radical theories, and created important innovations. It has had extensive impact on business, government, the third sector, health and culture. Over 75 per cent of Sussex research was categorised as world leading or internationally excellent in the last Research Excellence Framework.

We have two world-leading think tanks on our campus: the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), ranked 1st for international development; and the University of Sussex Business School Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU), 8th top science and technology think tank (*Global Go To Think Tank Index Report*, published in 2021<sup>1</sup>).

Our teaching is research-informed, with world-leading strength in:

- Development studies, 1st in the world (*QS World University Rankings by Subject 2020*)
- English Language and Literature, Politics, Anthropology, Geography and Sociology are all ranked between 51st and 100th in the world (*QS World University Rankings by Subject 2020*)
- Social Sciences is ranked in the top 50, and Business and Economics and Psychology are all ranked in the top 100 in the world (*Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2021*)
- American Studies, 2nd in the UK (*The Complete University Guide 2021*).



<sup>1</sup> [https://repository.upenn.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1019&context=think\\_tanks](https://repository.upenn.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1019&context=think_tanks)

## FACTS AND FIGURES

**19,395**

students from over 150 countries

**35%**

overseas students

**3,395**

staff from 91 countries

**3**

Nobel Prize winners

**12**

Fellows of the British Academy

**1ST**

in the world for Development Studies  
*QS World University Rankings  
by Subject 2020*

**JOINT  
15TH**

in the world, *THE 'Golden Age'  
Universities Ranking*

**JOINT  
160TH**

in the world, *THE World University  
Rankings 2021*

**75%+**

research rated world leading  
or internationally excellent  
*Research Excellence Framework 2014*

**40%**

overseas faculty

**TOP 10**

in the UK for Business  
and Economics, *THE World  
University Rankings 2021*

# KINDNESS

We will seek to be known as a 'kind' institution. We will care for each other and for the world around us, in responsible and sustainable ways. We will value collegiality and mutual support across all of our actions and activities.



# SUSSEX KINDNESS RESEARCH NETWORK

Sussex Kindness Research is an interdisciplinary research network, created with the aims of exploring, investigating and illuminating kindness and its impact on people and communities.

We had a chat with Professor Robin Banerjee who runs the Network and is a leading thinker on the subject of kindness.



## How did you get into working on kindness as a research area?

It was through my work on wellbeing in schools that I began to focus on kindness. In recent years, my research had demonstrated that any effort to transform wellbeing in a school setting requires a consideration not just of individual children, but of the ethos and climate of the entire school community. Kindness emerged as a key theme in this work, and as I began to speak with other Sussex researchers about this, I quickly came to realise that kindness offers a powerful lens through which we can approach a very diverse range of issues, not just in education, but also in healthcare, social care, business, international relations, and more.

Through a partnership with the non-profit organisation, Kindness UK, led by the philanthropist David Jamilly, I was able to launch an interdisciplinary research network, Sussex Kindness Research. We are now looking to consolidate and grow this into an even more impactful centre of excellence for the growing field of interdisciplinary research into kindness.

One major focus of Sussex Kindness Research has been its support of early career researchers. For several years now, we have supported PhD students from a wide variety of disciplines to attend international conferences and disseminate research that illuminates kindness and its impact on people and communities. PhD students who have won these Kindness UK Doctoral Conference Awards have come from various schools including Psychology; Global Studies; Media, Arts and Humanities; Education and Social Work; and Law, Politics and Sociology.

Every year for the last few years, we have held an event to mark World Kindness Day (13 November). These have always been engaging, thoughtful, and fun. We've had interactive poster workshops, panel discussions, and even musical performances.

And last year, we were a key institutional partner in Kindfest 2020, a virtual festival of kindness. Over the space of just a couple of months in the middle of the Covid-19 pandemic, I was part of a small team of volunteers who designed and planned a charitable online event which eventually attracted 6,000 ticket holders from 38 different countries.

Opened by the late Captain Sir Tom Moore, it featured a fantastic line-up of speakers, artists and musicians, politicians, authors, and other fantastic contributors. Together with our wonderful Visiting Professor of the Public Understanding of Psychology, the writer and broadcaster Claudia Hammond, I curated a festival tent on 'Thinking Kindness', featuring leading thinkers on kindness at Sussex and elsewhere in the UK, US, and Canada. Seeing thousands of people logging in from all around the world to share in celebrating kindness was truly inspiring.

## What will your research focus on next?

As well as looking ahead to another, even bigger Kindfest in 2021, we are excited about taking forward a new portfolio of work on kindness based at Sussex. This includes developing a strong international profile for our interdisciplinary research into the nature and impact of kindness in different parts of society. But it is about extending Sussex's educational provision too. I'm particularly looking forward to working with the Business School on a new Online Distance Learning course on 'The Psychology of Kindness and Wellbeing in Professional Contexts', which we're intending to launch next year.

## Can you tell us a little about yourself?

I'm the Head of the School of Psychology at Sussex, and Professor of Developmental Psychology. After spending my childhood and adolescence abroad (mostly in Japan), I arrived at Sussex about 30 years ago as an undergraduate student and loved it so much that I never left.

My research focuses on the social and emotional development of children and young people. I direct the Children's Relationships, Emotions, and Social Skills (CRESS) Research Lab, which investigates the way children think, feel, and behave in different aspects of their lives. I have a particular interest in young people's peer relationships, which can be a huge source of social acceptance and emotional support, but can also be a context for real challenges and difficulties. My applied research has focused especially on young people's mental health and wellbeing, particularly in the educational context, and I work closely with policymakers and practitioners, at local and national levels, to embed strategies to support wellbeing.

◀ A wildlife ranger at work in the Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserve, Malawi. Staff and students from the School of Life Sciences at Sussex launched a crowd-funding campaign to equip the rangers with potentially life-saving equipment for their night patrols (see the full story on page 7).

## KINDNESS BRINGS US HOPE DURING THE PANDEMIC

Throughout 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic caused major disruption to almost every aspect of our lives, from our research and teaching to health and wellbeing, and our work in the community.

These have been testing times for our staff and students to stand by our values, to demonstrate what such values actually mean.

At the outset, the University set up a task force to strategically co-ordinate activities. In early April, we established three working groups: to begin looking at manufacturing personal protective equipment for NHS staff and other key workers; to help with national efforts to test for Covid-19; and to co-ordinate coronavirus-related research.

Our research has contributed to the national and indeed global discourse on the effects of the pandemic. For example, Dr Alison Lacey has explored the impact of childcare on working mothers, and Dr John Drury has been advising the UK government on human behavioural patterns during crises and emergencies so that messaging to the public would be designed to elicit the most compliance for collective good.

We were also very proud that our final-year medical students graduated early in 2020, to support the NHS to make up for any shortfalls caused by the pandemic, and many of our staff and students worked in NHS diagnostic labs supporting the national effort.

On campus, acts of kindness abounded, with a Covid-19 relief fund exceeding its target. The fund provided a reprieve for students isolated by the lockdown, with financial and mental health support. Food and care parcels were delivered to students isolating, and the University ensured that no one was left behind to cope on their own.

Despite the challenges of the difficult period in which we're living, countless individual acts of kindness shine through and give us reasons for optimism. For example, Kevin Betts, a member of Sussex staff, did an extraordinary job in 2020, raising £45,000 for the mental health charity, Mind. The charity event, *The Run Up to Christmas*, was in its fourth year and had over 5,000 people from over 30 different countries taking part. Unsurprisingly given Kevin's act of kindness and compassion, it grew to be the biggest virtual Christmas run in the UK, if not the world.



▶ Food and care parcels being delivered to students isolating.

▶ Kevin Betts raised £45,000 for the mental health charity, Mind.

## KINDNESS EXTENDED TO COMMUNITIES AROUND THE WORLD

### Life-saving equipment for Malawi wildlife rangers

In 2019, staff and students from the School of Life Sciences at Sussex launched a crowd-funding campaign to equip wildlife rangers in Malawi with potentially life-saving equipment, having just returned from a fieldtrip to the Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserve.

The Reserve, which is home to hundreds of elephants and hippos, as well as other precious wildlife, is protected by rangers responsible for monitoring the wildlife and keeping visitors safe. The Sussex group was shocked to discover that they were conducting night patrols on foot without torches, facing potentially fatal dangers.

Funds raised provided head torches and solar recharging equipment. The money also purchased ultra-violet torches that enable the rangers to check their tents for scorpions, which glow bright blue under UV



▲ An ultra-violet torch causes a scorpion to glow bright blue.

light. Scorpion stings are the main reason why bush excursions by rangers have to be abandoned.

There are also extremely dangerous snakes active at night, and limited anti-venom drugs in Malawi. So the small action of providing torches to use in camps makes a big difference in keeping rangers safe.

“These rangers are literally risking their lives every single night to protect both wildlife and people. They do such an incredible job, but it was shocking to see just how poorly equipped they are, due to a lack of financial resource; Malawi is one of the poorest countries on earth.”

Fiona Mathews, Professor of Environmental Biology, who set up the crowdfunding campaign

### Sussex awarded University of Sanctuary status

In 2020 the University of Sussex was awarded the title of ‘University of Sanctuary’, in recognition of its efforts to welcome and support forced migrants.

Sussex is one of only 15 universities in the UK to be made a University of Sanctuary, which is a status awarded by the nationwide Cities of Sanctuary project.

The award recognises and celebrates the good practice of UK universities welcoming sanctuary seekers into their communities and fostering a culture of welcome and inclusion for all.

In bestowing the title on Sussex, assessors particularly commended the University’s scholarships for asylum seekers, our exceptional, world-leading research on sanctuary-related matters, a sector-leading Migration Law Clinic, close links with student, community and charity groups, and the strong commitment from the senior team.

The University of Sussex is home to the Sussex Centre for Migration Research and has a large number of researchers working on sanctuary-related issues. Research projects include: **SOGICA**, which follows the social and legal experiences of asylum seekers across Europe claiming international protection on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity; and **Optimising Refugee Resettlement**, which explores the experiences of resettled refugees four or more years after their arrival in the UK, employing peer researchers from resettled refugee communities as part of the research team.

Through the **Migration Law Clinic**, final-year students in the Sussex Law School provide pro bono immigration and asylum legal advice to members of the public, under the supervision of an experienced human rights barrister.

“The University of Sanctuary award reflects the Sussex tradition of being a place of both physical and intellectual refuge and an institution that strives to make the world a better place for those who flee persecution. In turn, we are greatly enriched by the students and scholars from migrant communities who make Sussex their home.

“We know that, despite the transformative power of education, only three per cent of young refugees globally have access to higher education. At Sussex, we will continue to strive to open up access to an academic future and provide a warm welcome to those who seek sanctuary.”

Adam Tickell, Vice-Chancellor and President



# INTEGRITY

We will ensure that everyone within our community is treated with dignity and respect.

## RESPECTFUL INTERNATIONALISATION

An interview with Professor Richard Follett, Associate Vice-President (International) at the University of Sussex.



As Associate Vice-President, I lead Sussex's international strategy. Alongside my institution-wide role, I am also Professor of American History and publish widely on American race relations and the history of African American slavery. Beyond my published work, I'm committed to public outreach and I currently work with many heritage and community organisations throughout the USA to advance our public understanding of racial injustice.

Internationalism is something I'm passionately committed to. I've studied and lived in many countries and have had the opportunity to teach as visiting faculty in China, Nigeria and Germany. I was a Fulbright scholar at Louisiana State University, where I studied for my PhD, and I lived in Spain for extended periods.

Although my own experience of being an international student is now 20 years removed, the opportunity that afforded me was truly life changing. As university leaders committed to international education, I know that we all share a common commitment to provide opportunities for all our students to travel and study abroad.

Without doubt, the greatest highlights have been the people, partnerships, and projects I've been involved with. From meeting inspiring young women in Chittagong, Bangladesh to HESPAL scholars in Palestine, I've had the opportunity to work with some fantastic students and alumni.

Over the past two years, we've developed a range of impactful partnerships in Mexico, Vietnam, India and China. Working with the Association of Commonwealth Universities, Sussex has been instrumental in establishing the Higher Education and SDG network (see story below).

In collaboration with Sussex colleagues, I led a sector-leading programme of work in Nigeria, Africa's most populous country. Through a range of impactful and **action-based MOUs** with Nigeria's National Universities Commission, **Future Awards Africa**, prominent universities, corporate partners, NGOs, and national service organisations, we proactively built a range of mutually beneficial collaborations in line with national priorities and the youth-skills agenda. This model of respectful internationalisation guides our institutional approach globally.

### Sussex and the Sustainable Development Goals

Sussex is a founding member of the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) Network on Higher Education and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Representing over 500 member universities in more than 50 countries, the ACU is committed to building a better world through higher education. Its core values resonate with Sussex's commitment to addressing global challenges through transformative, impactful and mutually beneficial partnerships.

◀ **Graduates of the Corruption, Law and Governance LLM, which is delivered jointly with the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Centre (ROLACC) in Doha, Qatar. Sussex is well known for its world-leading anti-corruption research and expertise, especially within the Sussex Centre for the Study for Corruption. (see page 10 for more information).**

The new Network's guiding principle is that universities are the key to healthier, greener, and fairer societies. None of the United Nations' 17 SDGs can be achieved without the contribution of higher education – through research, teaching and community engagement.

Launched at the United Nations High-Level Political Forum in 2019, when Professor Adam Tickell, Vice-Chancellor, presented on the University's sector-leading approach to sustainable innovation in Africa, the Network encourages member universities to share best-practice and thought-leadership on the ways they are engaging with the SDGs.

Professor Richard Follett serves on the international steering committee and leads on global partnerships for the Network. He says, "By engaging member universities throughout the ACU, we can co-create for impact, share best practice, forge partnerships for the goals, and realise the full potential of higher education to address our global challenges."

Dr Joanna Newman, Secretary General of the ACU, wrote "Universities hold the key to solving the huge challenges our world faces, from global pandemics to climate. To achieve this, they also need to work together, sharing knowledge and ideas across borders. We are grateful to the University of Sussex for their leadership in this critical area." A copy of the University's Sustainability and Sustainable Development Goals Report (2020) can be accessed [here](#).

## Sussex students deliver change through Enactus



▲ The Sussex Enactus team.

Enactus is a global organisation present in over 60 UK universities, with over 2,000 student members. It works to find solutions to problems identified in local and international communities, with a focus on sustainability and economic growth for beneficiaries.

This year the Sussex Enactus team has won four national competitions and achieved impact with its active projects: Jifunza and Revive. These projects support the UN Sustainable Development Goals –

4 Quality Education, 5 Gender Equality, 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth, and 10 Reduced Inequalities.

### Jifunza

Jifunza's purpose is filling gaps in the national curriculum by complementing existing subjects with life lessons in Entrepreneurship, Financial Literacy and more. The aim is to pilot the project in the UK and expand to Kenya.

### Revive

Revive was created to address the digital divide and tech waste: 60 per cent of the global population do not have access to the internet and 5 per cent of global waste is electronic.

The project began as a hub for the Labdoo organisation: companies donated laptops which were wiped in house and then transported to countries in need. The Sussex team has helped organisations in Uganda and plans to expand to Sri Lanka.

The pandemic highlighted not only the digital learning gap within our society but the overall digital divide within our local community. Future plans include partnering with other Enactus teams for wider community reach, as well as equipment expansion to tablets and laptop trolleys.

### P36

A third international project, P36, aims to support reduction of the levels of iron deficiency anaemia in women in rural communities in Nepal.

If you would like to know more or support our work, please contact our academic lead, Mark Fisher. Email: [mark.r.fisher@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:mark.r.fisher@sussex.ac.uk)

## Tales from Bethlehem

Our researchers cover the globe, and academics from our School of Media, Arts and Humanities are no exception. From 2017 to 2020, Dr Jacob Norris, a Middle East historian, led on a research fellowship entitled 'Merchants and Miracles: Global Circulations and the Making of Modern Bethlehem'. This project brings to life Bethlehem's history of global migration and exchange in the 19th and 20th centuries and how this transformed the town.

Dr Norris is producing the Planet Bethlehem digital archive (scheduled for public launch in summer 2021), which documents Bethlehem's global connections, as well as a book on the global journeys of one merchant from the town in the late 19th century.

The project has supported partnerships with institutions in Palestine such as Bethlehem University and the Centre for Cultural Heritage Preservation in

Bethlehem, as well as with archives and organisations among the Palestinian diaspora in Latin America.

By charting the global journeys of Bethlehem's residents, the project presents a new way of thinking about the Middle East and its interactions with globalisation. In the context of pre-1948 Palestine, this means taking seriously the role of local Arab actors as purveyors of global forms of culture, trade, and religiosity.

Beyond Dr Norris's work, Sussex academics such as Dr Kate Shaw work throughout Palestine and support innovative projects such as Physics Without Borders, a UNESCO-backed organisation that promotes science education in the region. In January 2020, Professor Richard Follett joined colleagues from the British Council and Universities UK International on a higher education visit to Palestine. Among the guests of honour was Dr Mohammad Shtayeh, a Sussex alumnus, and Prime Minister of the Palestinian National Authority.

## Transnational education programme in anti-corruption in Qatar

We are known for our world-leading anti-corruption research and expertise, especially within the Sussex Centre for the Study for Corruption. We work closely with the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Centre (ROLACC) in Doha, to deliver a Corruption, Law and Governance LLM. Taught in English and delivered in Qatar, the LLM has a particular focus on the problems encountered in the Arabian Gulf region.

The students, who are mainly professional graduates working in the Qatari government, the commercial sector and NGOs, gain a thorough understanding of what corruption is, what causes it, and how best to tackle it.

## ALUMNI TAKING OUR VALUES AROUND THE WORLD

Sussex’s network spans the globe – we are in contact with over 112,000 alumni across 177 countries. We partner with our alumni in our development work, to align with research, engagement and recruitment activity in the regions where we are most active. We focus our efforts where we can enhance research that has potential significant impact on global challenges.



**Réjane Woodroffe**, a Development Economics graduate, left a career in high finance to help South Africa’s poorest rural community get on its feet. Her project, the **Bulungula Incubator**, which she set up with her partner in 2007, is having notable success. For example, an e-learning programme developed to teach good-quality English and maths to primary school children (through using energy-efficient computer tablets and training classroom facilitators) is now being piloted in other deprived parts of the country.

Réjane calculates that their projects have more than 10,000 direct beneficiaries, while their broader programmes impact thousands more through sharing and collaborative partnerships with other organisations and government.

Réjane was also awarded the prestigious Study UK Social Impact Award in 2019.

Meanwhile, after many years’ involvement in graduate recruitment, **Tosin Akinluyi**, a Sussex alumna, realised that women did not represent 50% of the applicant pool for careers in technology, engineering, finance and related industries. Tosin saw that women were being biased away from these careers for several reasons: they felt these careers were unattainable; they didn’t see others like themselves within those sectors, in terms of being female and/or ethnic minorities; they were making decisions in a vacuum, being influenced by other people’s comments; or the courses and qualifications were not financially accessible to them. That was the genesis of the Emily O Akinluyi Scholarship, which Tosin established over 10 years ago.

The scholarship supports female students from more challenging socio-economic backgrounds who are studying science, mathematics, or business degrees.

◀ Réjane speaking to students and staff at Sussex during her 2019 Study UK Global Winners visit to the University of Sussex.

▲ Children in one of the Bulungula Incubator Early Childcare Development programmes.

“My hope is that the Scholarship keeps options open. That it helps women achieve their dreams and their potential.”

Tosin Akinluyi is a member of the University of Sussex Business School board and a donor.

A young man with short brown hair and black-rimmed glasses is the central focus. He has a surprised or excited expression, with his mouth open. His face and arms are splattered with colorful paint, including orange, pink, and purple. He is wearing a dark blue t-shirt. The background is a blurred crowd of people, suggesting a festive or social event. A bright pink rectangular box is overlaid on the lower half of the image, containing text.

# INCLUSION

We will value and celebrate the diversity of our campus community and partners, and what they bring to our activities.

# RESEARCH IN FOCUS

Our research centres work with global partners across the world, exploring transformative policies and providing innovative research outputs that change lives. We work inclusively with partners from the Global North as well as from low-to-middle income (LMIC) countries.

## Science and technology interface with sustainability

The STEPS Centre (Social, Technological and Environmental Pathways to Sustainability) is an interdisciplinary global research and policy engagement centre, uniting development studies with science and technology studies.

The Centre is co-hosted by our partners at the Institute of Development Studies (IDS). This has partners in the USA, Mexico, Argentina, Sweden, Kenya, India and China. For the past few years, we have been looking at transformations to sustainability in different contexts, learning and engaging together across the network.

The STEPS Centre has contributed to changing international debates on the role of science, technology and innovation for sustainable development. Dr Adrian Ely has collaborated with partners across five continents to produce a series of articles on grassroots innovation, directionality, hybrid innovation pathways and associated policy responses. This research has directly influenced science, technology and innovation policy and practice at national and international levels, including in the UK, Canada, India, Argentina, and the USA, as well as in international organisations such as the United Nations.

## Sustainable research for a better world

The Sussex Sustainability Research Programme (SSRP) is a global research centre based at the University. The Centre fosters bottom-up interdisciplinary sustainability research that supports the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to achieve a more integrated and effective response by taking advantage of the synergies within the SDGs.

SSRP involves over 100 researchers across six academic schools, 14 departments and the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), alongside diverse institutions in 15 LMICs. SSRP is directed by Professor Joseph Alcamo, who was the first Chief Scientist of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). SSRP is truly interdisciplinary, bringing together experts on climate, social sciences, law, international development, history, and natural sciences, global health, informatics, physics and business to explore local evidence-based responses and solutions, extending sustainability debates to less commonly associated fields of expertise.

Working with partners across the world, from Brazil to Tanzania, from India to Zimbabwe, SSRP has key local and international partnerships and an approach designed to maximise synergies, promote efficiency, and enable tangible impact during the next crucial 10 years.

SSRP continues to seek further partnerships to generate sustainable and scalable on-the-ground responses and to drive policy change with innovative and integrated thinking to enable dramatic progress against the SDGs and improve life on the planet for future generations.

**“SSRP is allowing us to explore and develop new collaborative, interdisciplinary work.”**

**Dr Lily Rodríguez Bayona, Director of Institutional Development, Centro de Conservación, Investigación y Manejo de Areas Naturales (CIMA), SSRP partner in Peru.**



◀ Just one part of One World Week at Sussex, our Holi celebrations on campus are hugely popular with all of our students.



## Transformative Innovation Policy Consortium

The Sussex-led **Transformative Innovation Policy Consortium** (TIPC) is a unique international partnership that brings together national science, technology and innovation agencies and academic researchers. The members experiment with innovative projects and policies that address the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to create positive change for energy, housing, health, transport, water, agriculture, and education provision.

TIPC is based at the Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU) in the University of Sussex Business School, and co-ordinates projects and research in collaboration with the Centre for Global Challenges (UGLOBE) at Utrecht University in the Netherlands, and INGENIO (CSIC-UPV) – part of the Spanish National Research Council and the Universitat Politècnica in València.

There are nine international core members and associates from national science, technology and innovation agencies including China, Colombia, Ghana, Finland, Kenya, Norway, Senegal, South Africa, and Sweden. Each TIPC hub in Africa, Latin America and Europe works closely with other regional partners on developing transformative innovation policy within their context.

TIPC impact highlights include:

- a network of over 200 research and policy stakeholders from national and international agencies and institutions involved in work on transformative policy to meet the SDGs
- formulation and implementation of a new innovation theory to meet the SDGs in new ways.

## Building new links in Vietnam

The Vietnamese Higher Education Reform Agenda (HERA) was established in 2005 in order to improve the education system as fast as possible to meet the employment demand in this rapidly growing and dynamic country. International cooperation is an important part of the agenda.

In 2019, through national-level education cooperation between Vietnam and the UK governments at the Ministry of Education and Training (MOET) in Hanoi, Sussex developed a new partnership with

Hanoi University of Science and Technology (HUST), one of the first Vietnamese universities chosen by MOET to pilot international collaboration.

Despite the pandemic, academics from both universities worked together to design and deliver a customised programme as part of Sussex's International Junior Research Associate Scheme.

## Globally mobile

One in five of our students has participated in an internationally mobile experience as part of their degree. Our network of global partners means that there is something for everyone, whatever their interest or preferred destination.

In late 2019, we conducted a survey of first-year students, yielding responses from almost 10% of the entire undergraduate cohort. Nearly three out of four student respondents expressed a high level of interest in going abroad as part of their course, with primary reasons including employability benefits and cultural factors, and secondary reasons including the opportunity to study their subject from a different perspective and develop language skills.

**21%**

of our students have an international experience

**718**

outbound Sussex students took a range of global experiences abroad

**503**

inbound students from partner institutions



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS FROM PARTNERS



### '2+2' double degree with Mahidol University, Thailand

**Muratha Sottatipreedawong** was one of the first students to graduate from Sussex's '2+2' double degree programme, which combines study at both the University of Sussex and Mahidol University in Thailand. She recently gave an interview about her experience.

**I'm really happy that I was a '2+2' student**, which meant I spent the first two years of my biomedical undergraduate degree at Mahidol University and then came to Sussex for the next two years. This means I graduate from both universities, which is fantastic.

**I come from Bangkok and had never been out of Asia until I came to Brighton.** I was very lucky because I lived with a host family in Patcham and I experienced lots of British culture, including Christmas and Easter.

**The campus is beautiful and has a lot of cafés.** I like the coffee in the Jubilee

building café. Most of the time I spent in the Library. I was motivated to study with my friends. There was a room we could book to practise our presentations, which really helped me. My English improved a lot once I was here.

**I really enjoyed having the opportunity to do the Junior Research Associate scheme**, which meant I had an eight-week paid research role working in the world-leading neuroscience laboratory of **Dr Ruth Murrell-Lagnado** before I started my final year. Ruth is working in neuroscience and drug discovery, looking at the P2X receptor ion channel in cell membranes.

**I was mostly doing microscopy to look at live cell cultures.** It was quite hard at first, but it was great that I got that opportunity to do the summer lab. I had more time to continue working on my analysis and to discuss it with other researchers.

### Tripartite student-led virtual project from the UK, USA and New Zealand

Against a backdrop of homeworking and travel restrictions during the Covid-19 pandemic, Sussex students and their peers at Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand and the University of California, Santa Cruz in the USA, worked together to make their recommendations to university leaders on the sustainability of international activities including the large-scale, short-term movement of students around the world, and travel to pursue academic research.

Marc Hepburn, an Economics and International Relations BA student at Sussex, enjoyed being part of the project: "It's been a fantastic experience working so closely with students on the other side of the world, and it's encouraging to see how much can be done purely over the internet. It feels like we've been given a chance to express our thoughts on issues that are so important to all of us and I'm glad we're finding a way to work on building a positive future, even in these strange, uncertain times."

### Physics Summer School with University of California

Californian student **Phoenix Turoci** loved Sussex so much when she attended a **Physics Summer School** in 2018 that she returned to do a Genetic Manipulation and Molecular Cell Biology MSc.

**The summer school programme gave me a good opportunity to study abroad.** I was a pre-med student at the University of California (UC) campus in Berkeley, which Sussex has a partnership with, and the eight-week intensive physics programme is deemed as equivalent to two terms of physics with the UC Education Abroad Program.

**Berkeley, which is in the San Francisco Bay Area, is very hippy, very out there.**

When I came to Brighton last summer a lot of people said it's very similar, but in some ways even more out there. So that wasn't really a big change for me. It does feel like I'm at home.

**Through taking the physics programme, I got a window into how science classes were taught at Sussex.** It was really challenging but I see why physics would be a requirement for medicine and doctors in training because, within the body there are so many forces and concepts that interplay.

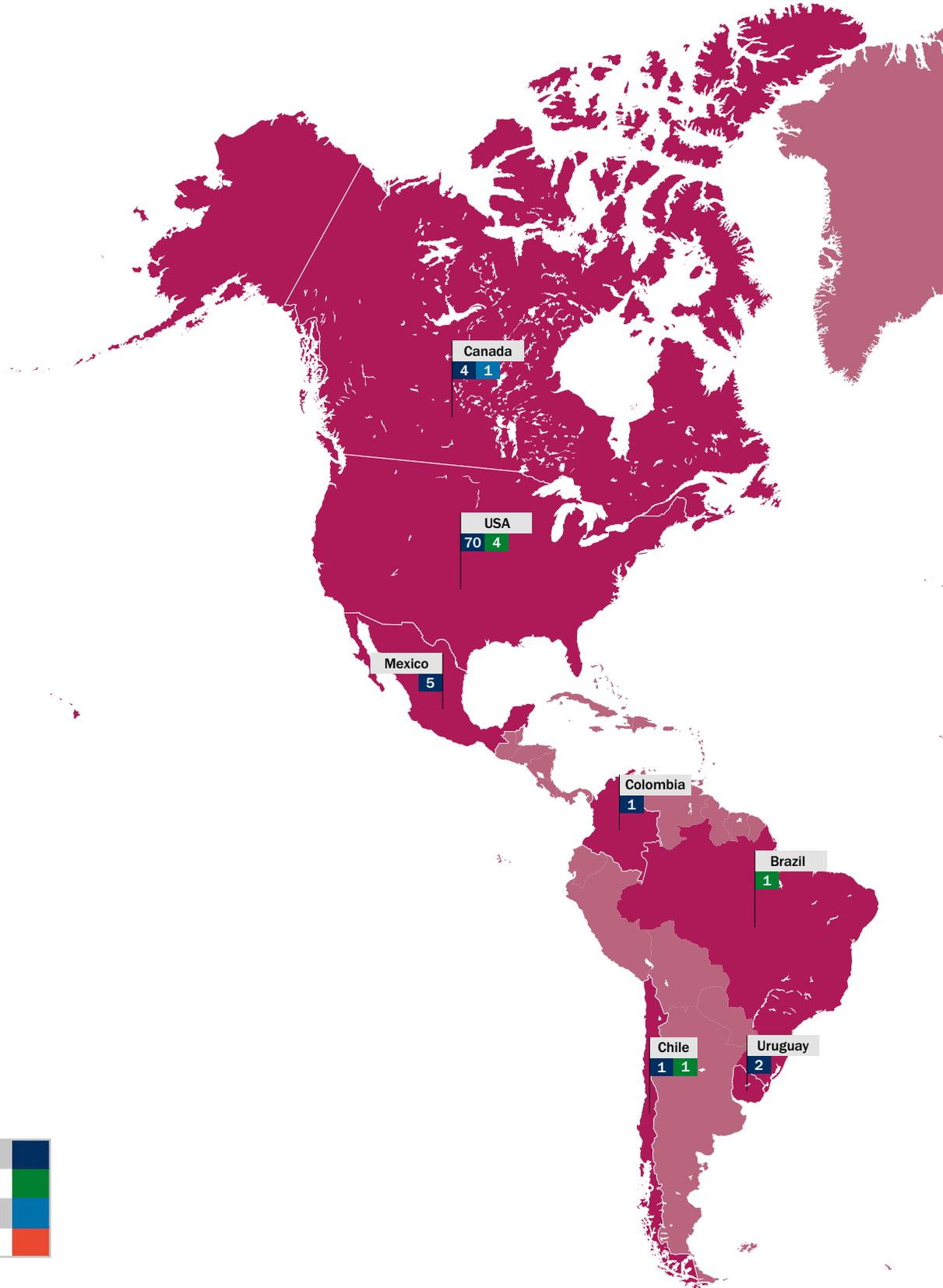


**What I love about Sussex is that it very much feels it's for the students.** I like that all the professors know your name almost immediately, and the administration is tailored for the students. I like how small it is. I feel taken care of. And I love how pretty the campus is, particularly in the fall. We don't get these colours in California.

**It felt very natural for me to come back to Sussex to do my Masters.** I wasn't done with England and Brighton, and it's a really nice science degree.

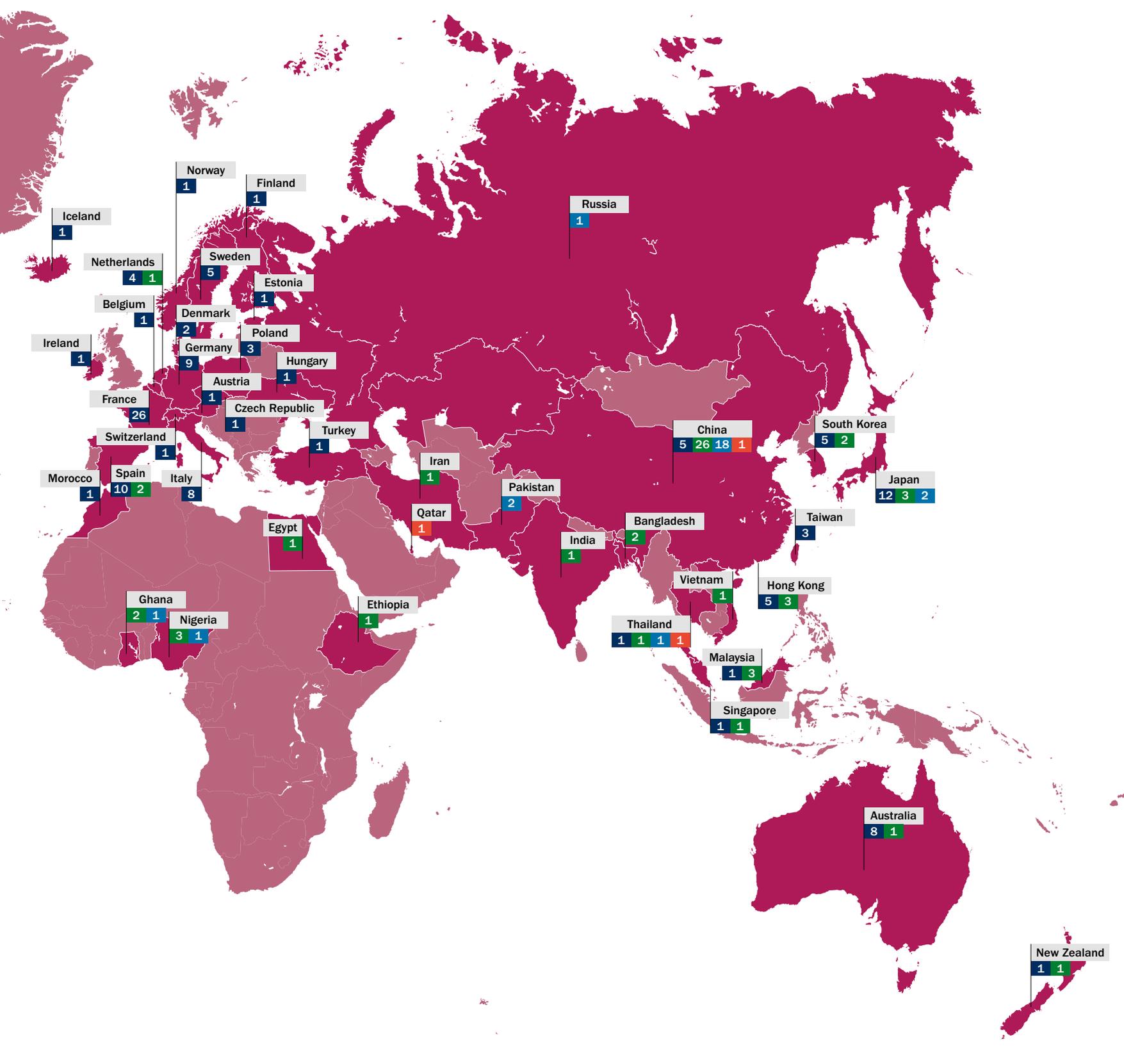
**My MSc is a lot of lab research work about bacteria**, but it is more suited to my general interests in biology. The skills that I am learning on this course will really help me with my ambition to go to medical school.

# WORLDWIDE PARTNERSHIPS



Student Mobility Partnerships	Blue
Memorandum of Understanding	Green
Education and Research Partnerships	Orange
Transnational Education Partnerships	Red

INCLUSION



# COLLABORATION

We will put collaboration at the heart of all that we do, seeking out productive and creative relationships. We will acknowledge and celebrate everyone's contribution.



## ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE GOES EAST

In 2020, the University of Sussex and Zhejiang Gongshang University established a Joint Institute in Artificial Intelligence in Hangzhou, the first of its kind in China.

The Joint Institute at Zhejiang Gongshang University (ZJSU) has four undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in Robotics and Artificial Intelligence and is expected to educate up to 1,000 students over four years. It offers an exciting new way to go beyond traditional modes of teaching and address broader global and societal needs. The establishment of the Joint Institute is a statement of our commitment at Sussex to developing impactful teaching and research partnerships in China and the rest of the world.

**Leina Shi (LS), Head of Global Engagement at Sussex, spoke with the Dean of the Joint Institute, Professor Maziar Nekovee (MN), and the Head of the School of Engineering and Informatics, Professor Ian Wakeman (IW) to explore their thoughts and vision for the Joint Institute.**

**LS: Why did the School of Engineering and Informatics pursue this project?**

**IW:** A couple of years ago, I was an external examiner for a transnational education programme in Beijing for another university. I realised it was an excellent opportunity for students to benefit from a UK and Chinese education while being able to stay in their home country. I talked to my professional services colleagues and we soon started scoping opportunities. With ZJSU, we started with a Skype call, it blossomed into a collaborative and trusting relationship, and even from the early days, I really believed in our partner in Hangzhou. Trust is one of the most important aspects of partnerships.

**LS: The Covid-19 pandemic has changed the international higher-education landscape in many respects, how has it impacted the Joint Institute in terms of engagement from Sussex?**

**IW:** Students lie at the heart of what we do and students from the Institute are part of the Sussex community. Engaging them has been more challenging since the outbreak of Covid-19 but it has resulted in the development of more creative and stimulating ways in which we can work together. For example, we developed the Joint Institute Ambassador scheme where students from our UK campus engage with students in China at the Institute. The scheme has been a great success and students have shown how they can adapt to the new way of working and how technology can bring us together, even with the limitations of physical distance.

**MN:** As a result of the pandemic, we have seen many Chinese students choosing not to travel overseas for their degrees. The Joint Institute gives these students an opportunity to benefit from a UK and Chinese education, secure degrees from both Sussex and ZJSU, engage with local employers in Hangzhou, and get the opportunity to intern at prominent AI industries in the city and province. The pandemic impacted on our travel plans to deliver physical teaching. We had to improvise, and we've managed successfully so far to teach over 300 students virtually. In my meeting with some of our Masters students today, a few of them expressed their interest in undertaking a PhD at Sussex. I was very proud.

**LS: We have been working in unprecedented times, during which the impact of the pandemic and geo-politics has been constantly changing. What are some of the key challenges you see in the future of this partnership?**

**IW:** I am fairly optimistic. It is worth remembering that China is a country of 1.4 billion people and 60% of the population live in cities, compared with

about 80% in Europe. City living is accompanied by an increased level of education for a very considerable portion of population. There are a lot more people to educate in China. The Joint Institute has been approved by the Ministry of Education in China to deliver high-quality education, to meet this growing demand.

**MN:** I think one of the great things about being in science and technology is that it's borderless. As an academic, I see that continuous and strong collaborations worldwide can really help ease some of the political and economic tensions between nations.

**LS: What is your vision for the Joint Institute?**

**IW:** The Institute is here for us to deliver the Sussex experience abroad. Our teaching, curriculum, policies and student support have been jointly designed by both universities. We want to create a truly global student experience, with the quality and standard you'd expect from two leading universities working together to create new and innovative degrees. We'd like to collaborate further with local industries and organisations in Zhejiang Province to add value for our students and alumni. The Joint Institute offers graduates great prospects in the Chinese employment market as they are able to bring an international perspective and share their unique knowledge and skill set. This will enable them to thrive in and contribute to an increasingly interdependent world.

**MN:** My vision is to have a successful educational programme as a foundation, and to develop further opportunities for research and knowledge exchange. Hangzhou is already a great hub of technologies and e-commerce in China – we want to develop links with local industry and business that will help our graduates move straight from their education into good employment. The Joint Institute opens up a wide range of opportunities. We are very excited for the future possibilities this brings.

◀ **A student of the Asian University for Women (AUW) tending to vegetables in the campus garden. We are immensely proud of our partnership with AUW, which is helping transform the lives of talented women from across Asia (see the full story on page 20).**

## Partnership that transforms lives

Founded in 2008 as a centre of excellence for women's education, the Asian University for Women (AUW) has a student body of more than 600 women from 15 countries – including many from the war-torn areas of Afghanistan, Syria and Yemen.

Its establishment came from deliberations by the World Bank, which saw the need for a university in the Asian subcontinent that would attract young women from particularly deprived and disadvantaged backgrounds. We are extremely honoured to be partnering with AUW to offer a Scholarship Programme for AUW graduates to pursue a Masters degree at the University of Sussex.

One such Scholarship recipient is Alinery Lianhlawng, who studied for a Master of Business Administration (MBA) at Sussex. Alinery has gone on to set up 'Rochun: Pay It Forward', which is a social venture aimed at providing access to educational resources and boosting the leadership skills of young people in her home state of Mizoram, India.



“I am very grateful to Sussex, through its partnership with Asian University for Women in Bangladesh, for allowing me to study for an MBA, and I'm proud that I was among the first to receive an International Female Leaders Scholarship. I want to

empower other young people and so, as part of Rochun, I also mentor around 15 to 20 students and youths on a weekly basis for further studies. I want to help them to find a purpose in life, and to see that there's so much beyond the world they're in.”

Alinery Lianhlawng

## Sussex-Ghana: a partnership based on alignment of goals

The Sussex-Ghana Strategic Fund has been designed to cultivate research and teaching collaboration between staff at the University of Sussex and the university of Ghana, addressing global challenges and building capacity at both universities.

In the last five years, we have used the Strategic Fund to cultivate and expand research and teaching collaborations, and to contribute to capacity-building at both institutions. It has been used widely – from helping to share best practice in university governance and planning, to underpinning research in pharmacy, teacher education, global health and sustainability.

We have collaborated on Sussex-Ghana Global Dialogues: the first featuring the then Ghanaian Minister of Education on Global North-South HE Collaboration; the second focusing on the challenges of Antimicrobial Resistance.



In 2019, we jointly ran a high-profile Workshop on Science for Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals. In 2020, we collaborated on an inter-university workshop on Covid-19 impacts on global poverty alleviation, to share expertise and explore opportunities for collaboration.

▲ Professor Joseph Alcamo led the discussion at the University of Ghana in 2019 to explore the role of Science for Implementing the UN Sustainable Development Goals.



## Global network supports reproductive health

Narrating Blood is an international research network at the University of Sussex, based in the Centre for Cultures of Reproduction, Technologies and Health (CORTH). It is a joint collaboration with the Sussex Centre for Innovation and Research in Childhood and Youth (CIRCY) and the Institute for Development Studies (IDS).

With some support from our International Partnership Strategic Fund, the Narrating Blood project has continued its engagement

in the last few years, bringing together national and international research expertise to establish a set of analytical and methodological instruments to address the social, economic and health burden of hidden blood-related conditions such as anaemia in low-to-middle income countries. This programme explores the impact of hidden blood-related conditions on social, economic and health welfare in the UK, Bangladesh, India and Ghana.

## Making new connections in India

We share a distinguished history of research collaboration with the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), with a joint focus on international development. Together, we were delighted to receive a UK-India Education and Research Initiative award (UKIERI) to run a Study in India programme in 2020. Combining faculty expertise and leveraging established connections for research, academics from both institutions worked to develop a unique programme 'Intersectional Inequalities: migration, sexualities and gender', exploring the theoretical debates, emerging empirical evidence and challenges for policy in the fields of migration, urbanisation, sexualities, gender and socioeconomic marginalisation in India and South Asia.

Though it was a great disappointment to 30 visiting students and faculty to have their TISS trip curtailed by the Covid-19 pandemic, many were delighted to be part of a virtual alternative on contemporary India delivered by TISS at the end of 2020.

We were delighted that Russell Whiting, Head of Department for Social Work and Social Care, contributed a lecture to the TISS International Webinar Series on Mahatma Gandhi, exploring the concept of Gandhian social work in a UK context, with a focus on Doris and Muriel Lester (social workers in London in the 1930s, who tried to embody the philosophy in their working lives).

These are our first steps to encourage students to reach a shared appreciation of each country's cultures, and to gain new insights and make valuable connections that will empower them to make real contributions not just to the academic sphere, but to civil society.

We are delighted to add TISS Mumbai to our sector-leading mobility programme, such that the next generation of UK thought-leaders, policymakers and entrepreneurs begin to better understand India through the expertise of TISS faculty.

## Sussex Global Partners virtual conference

Travel has been widely disrupted, but we were encouraged by the spirit of international collaboration to meet our partners worldwide. Notwithstanding the pandemic, we held our first annual Global Partners Conference virtually in June 2020. Technology brought together 197 participants from 30 countries, with global partners from Africa, Asia, Australasia, Europe, and the Americas.

The conference theme, 'Internationalisation and the Global Sustainability Challenge', sparked innovative discussions and debates around the challenges that higher-education institutions face as they ramp up internationalisation activities in the face of the global sustainability challenge. This virtual event was a catalyst for collaboration, engagement, and learning. We were grateful for the contributions from our partners and peers including students and alumni. Speakers included sector leaders from the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU), Universities UK International (UUKi), the Nigerian National Universities Commission, and institutional partners from the University of Malaya and Victoria University of Wellington.

"We value our impactful partnerships and the need to be agents for positive change... there is an immediate need for international collaboration to address the global sustainability challenge."

Professor Richard Follett, Associate Vice-President (International), University of Sussex

"Students (on mobility) broaden their perspectives and are enriched from learning Maori perspectives... Maori people foster the connection to land with a greater appreciation for the wellbeing of the planet."

Andrew Wilks, Director, Sustainability, Victoria University of Wellington

"In transnational education (TNE), it's the programme of study that moves, not the student – TNE delivers student excellence and on the sustainability agenda too."

Eduardo Ramos, Head of TNE, Universities UK International



# COURAGE

We will speak out on issues that concern us and will face up to difficult challenges. We will support those who have the courage to change and be bold, innovative, creative and experimental.

## Countering violence against women and girls in Mexico

In partnership with the British Council in Mexico, and its 10-year Active Citizens programme, Sussex has been actively supporting the United Nations Development Programme's Spotlight Initiative, which aims to eliminate femicide in Mexico by enacting progressive public policy across the nation.

Mexico, like many Latin American nations, has crippling high rates of gender violence. Femicide is very much a daily occurrence, as is widespread violence against women and girls.

The Spotlight Initiative is a community-engagement and public-policy project, tackling gender discrimination and empowering women to develop their community leadership skills. It seeks to highlight gender-related violence and deliver substantive public-policy initiatives in three geographically and ethnically distinct

regions: Chihuahua in the north, Guerrero to the west, and Mexico's most populous state, the Estado de México. Along with having the highest femicide rates in Mexico, all three areas suffer from extraordinary rates of violence and drug-related crime.

**"I can tell you without hesitation that not a day goes by where I don't think about the experience I was able to attain during our visit to the University of Sussex, as well as apply it to some part of the difficult task that is co-ordinating and implementing Spotlight in my country."**

**Gabriela Murguía Favela, Spotlight Initiative Coordinator, United Nations Development Programme in Mexico**

In collaboration with Spotlight and the British Council in Mexico, Sussex and the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) partnered to provide the first stage of training for government leaders at federal, state, and municipal level, who will develop a train-the-trainer scheme to cascade knowledge and social action methodologies within their government departments and communities. The first group attended the University of Sussex and IDS in December 2019 for leadership methodologies on social activism and community engagement. They were welcomed by Dame Denise Holt, former UK ambassador to Mexico, and Chair of the University's Council.

For Sussex, this initiative does more than just provide training, it positions us as an active participant in co-created social action and as a contributor to progressive knowledge diplomacy on the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 5.



## Courage to bring about change

What do food clubs, sustainable plastic and cycling have in common? In 2020, our students shared inspirational stories about courageous acts they undertook to make change during their time at Sussex and beyond.

### **Molly Maire and Jazmin Ansell**

Molly and Jazmin spent a year abroad on a student exchange programme at Uppsala University in Sweden. Inspired by Uppsala's environmentally sustainable reputation and their academic interests, the women joined the global climate strikes and met climate activist Greta Thunberg in Stockholm. At the end of their studies, they decided to travel back to the UK on bicycles to end their study abroad experience with minimal carbon emissions.

Cycling was not the only sustainable practice they enjoyed. Molly and Jazmin also founded 'Bruised Food Club', a sustainable anti-food-waste project, creating pop-up cafés using unsaleable food from supermarkets and redistributing it to the local community.

### **Lucy Hughes**

Lucy Hughes, who graduated from Sussex in 2019, has won international recognition for her packaging material made from fish waste. Now she is working on bringing it to market.

Lucy created a biodegradable alternative to plastic as part of her University of Sussex Product Design degree course. The most remarkable feature of her product – a clear film that can be used for packaging, among other uses – is that it's made from fish waste.

Her passion for sustainability was fuelled by the knowledge that our oceans are filling up with plastic – more than 150 million tonnes of it reportedly floating around the world. By 2050, weight for weight, it's predicted that our seas will contain more plastic than fish.

Lucy's invention, which she has named MarinaTex, landed her the prestigious 2019 James Dyson Award, beating more than 1,000 other entries from young engineers worldwide. She also won the University's StartUp Sussex Social Impact Prize. Awarding her the prize, Sir James Dyson said, "Ultimately, we decided to pick the idea the world could least do without. MarinaTex elegantly solves two problems: the ubiquity of single-use plastic and fish waste."

In the past year, Lucy has been working with government-funded laboratories to explore the full properties and potential of MarinaTex, as well as having conversations with supermarkets and businesses interested in following its development.

◀ **Our oceans are filling up with plastic. Product Design graduate, Lucy Hughes, is tackling the problem head on, developing a revolutionary biodegradable alternative to plastic.**

## LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

We've built a legacy of challenging convention and know that we can continue to do better, working for positive societal, environmental and policy change. We are proud to be a values-based university – kindness, integrity, inclusion, collaboration and courage are pivotal to our approach to partnership and these core principles have shaped our international strategy during the Covid-19 pandemic and will define it in the future.

We remain committed to developing the University's global presence with partners across the world. There are a lot of possibilities for our future collaborations. We are keen to see our programme of internationalisation take root in the University and beyond. We welcome opportunities to develop innovative and digitally enhanced ways of delivering education across the globe, and to exploit the shift to online learning to advance some collaborative online learning projects.

We look forward to working with you on our University plans and collaborating to deliver our respective goals in the international space.

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### 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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