



UNIVERSITY  
*of York*

# *Find your* **PLACE**



**Stories from York**



**RUSSELL  
GROUP**

**12<sup>th</sup>**  
**IN THE UK**

**16 top-ten subjects**

Complete University Guide  
2026

**20<sup>th</sup> in the UK**

**10 top-ten subjects**

The Times and The Sunday  
Times Good University  
Guide 2026

**1 of just 4**  
**UK universities**  
**rated both:**



**GOLD**

**for teaching,  
learning and student  
experience**, in the  
Teaching Excellence  
Framework 2023

**and**

**TOP 10**

**for research quality**, in the  
Times Higher Education's  
ranking of the latest  
Research Excellence  
Framework 2021



university



expert  
faculties



welcoming  
colleges



500 acres of  
green parkland  
campus



**Community  
University  
of the Year**

in The Mail University  
Guide 2026, in celebration  
of our annual  
**York Festival of Ideas**



**4 gold  
7 silver**

**11 bronze**

Athena Swan awards,  
recognising our commitment  
to gender equality in  
higher education

**WORLD  
TOP 200**

**= 154<sup>th</sup>  
in the world**

Times Higher Education  
World University  
Rankings 2026

**169<sup>th</sup>  
in the world**

QS World University  
Rankings 2026

**93.1%**

**of York students were  
in work, further study,  
or another positive  
destination 15 months  
after graduation**

HESA Graduate Outcomes  
Survey 2022/23, UK  
postgraduate and  
undergraduate students

**for social and  
environmental sustainability**

QS Sustainability  
Rankings 2026  
(39<sup>th</sup> globally)

**TOP 2%**  
**IN THE WORLD**

# Stories FROM YORK

## Find your story.

Every great story is defined by the people at its centre. Each individual brings a unique set of motivations, histories and networks that contribute to something far larger than themselves.

At York, your story is your own to discover, but you'll also become a vital character

in ours, helping to shape our community in countless ways. This magazine is our way of celebrating that truth, offering you a glimpse into the vibrant, human core of our university.

In these pages, we'll introduce you to just a handful of the thousands of people and perspectives that make our

campus, our city and our culture unique. We'll illustrate how our community comes together to make a tangible difference, not only through cutting-edge research and world-class teaching, but by empowering people to go out and do amazing things.

**Your story belongs here.**



# CONTENTS

## IMPACT

- 4 | The path to Westminster
- 6 | Somewhere that's green
- 8 | Cereal for change
- 10 | History in our bones
- 12 | Three, two, one: impact

## SUPPORT

- 14 | Get ahead of the game
- 16 | A place to belong
- 18 | Death becomes her
- 20 | Creating community connections
- 22 | Back to school
- 24 | Great minds think differently
- 26 | Finding my place
- 28 | Strengths under the microscope

## STUDENT LIFE

- 30 | Industry insights
- 32 | Shadows of York
- 34 | On your doorstep
- 36 | Going Dutch
- 38 | Penny for your thoughts?
- 40 | The student compass
- 42 | Raising the bar

## CAMPUS

- 44 | This is us: Campus West
- 46 | This is us: Campus East

## NEXT STEPS

- 48 | Discover life at York



## BEAUTIFUL CAMPUS. HISTORIC CITY. INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY.

A member of the prestigious Russell Group, York combines academic excellence with social purpose. Our welcoming environment, adaptable courses, industry connections and overseas opportunities are designed to provide you with lifelong employability opportunities.

**Find your place at York.**

Search all of our courses and discover more about studying:  
[york.ac.uk](http://york.ac.uk)





# THE PATH TO *Westminster*

During her time at York, Lucy discovered a deep passion for human rights.

With the Syrian crisis in the news, she set up a student-led initiative focused on international justice, putting her on a path to a career in politics.

*Lucy*  
**BA ENGLISH AND PHILOSOPHY,  
CLASS OF 2019**

When you graduate from York, you become a member of our alumni community.

York for Life gives you access to resources, support and a network of other alumni from across the world.

Find out more:  
[york.ac.uk/mag-alumni](http://york.ac.uk/mag-alumni)



"I was attracted to a degree in English and Philosophy to learn to think critically and to write with purpose. My course pushed me to consider issues from different angles and back up my ideas with solid reasoning and sound logic. My academic supervisor was incredibly supportive. He encouraged me to pursue the human rights work I was doing alongside my degree and really supported me in my academic interests."

## A champion for activism

"I started university in 2016, when the Syrian crisis was in the news every day. There was one picture, of the two-year-old Alan Kurdi, washed up on the beach. I couldn't understand why there was no outrage and such little action from the Government. I think that's where it all started for me.

"When I attended the Students' Union Welcome Fair, I noticed there were no activism projects dedicated to refugees. So, a few days into my university career, I set up the refugee society, Student Action for Refugees (STAR), which is still active today.

"A key piece of work I did with the society was to support the University in introducing Equal Access Scholarships for refugees ([york.ac.uk/funding](http://york.ac.uk/funding)) – a now well-established scholarship programme at York. We also put on lots of events, our most popular being karaoke nights, as well as letter writing campaigns and film nights.

"I really loved the people I met through this work. As a student, you don't tend to

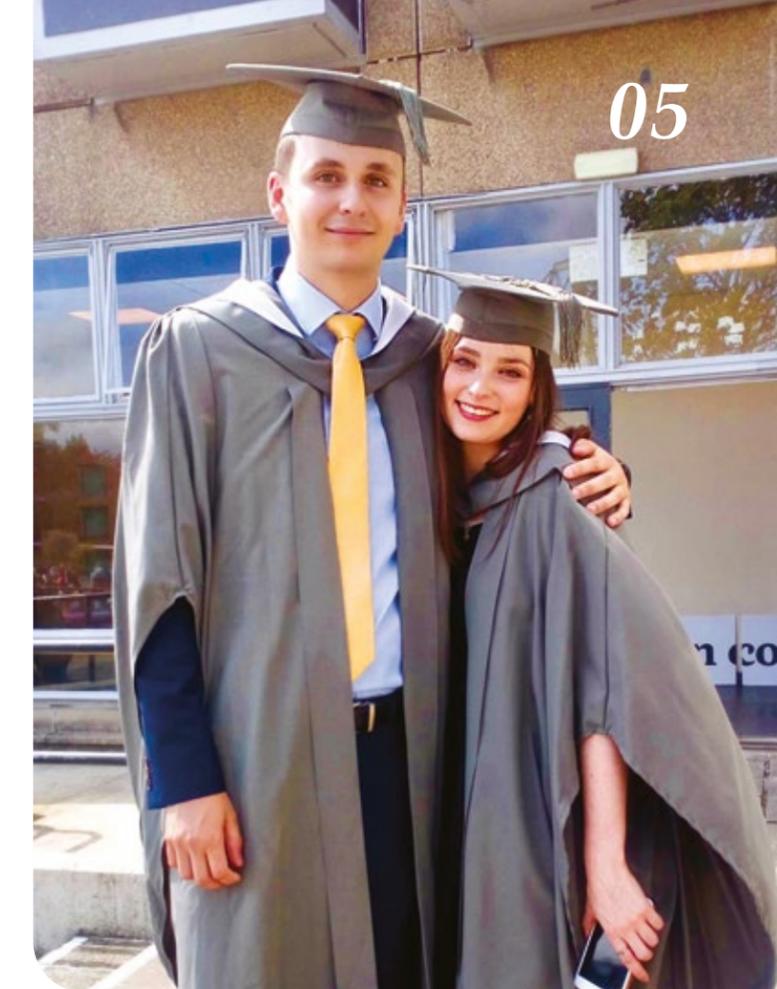
interact much outside your age group, but I was lucky enough to work with some of the kindest people in the city, from the local council, to mosques, churches and small businesses. These were the same people who helped to make York the UK's first Human Rights City. I haven't really seen a community making change like that since."

## Progressing in politics

"I knew I wanted to work in something connected to advocacy and human rights. After completing a Masters degree in International Development at The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), I took up a role at an anti-slavery NGO (Non-Governmental Organisation), consulting with companies on how to protect human rights in their operations and supply chains. From there, I moved to a role in the House of Commons, to help establish Parliament's Modern Slavery Programme. I spent about two years building it up, before eventually moving into Sarah Champion's office, the MP for Rotherham."

## Working in Westminster

"My official job title is Research Manager, which means that I lead on the parliamentary and policy work connected to Westminster. Sarah is a leading voice in human rights, violence against women and girls, anti-slavery and social justice. I lead multiple projects and campaigns to further these causes, whether that's



Above: Lucy and her friend Joe on their University of York graduation day.

writing speeches, supporting the development of good legislation, or platforming the voices of the people we work with and for.

"The best part of the role is the sense of fulfilment. We recently managed to change the law on modern slavery. As a result, the UK has sent a clear signal, that our transition to net-zero will not be carried through on the backs of those in slavery.

"I'm yet to end a day without feeling like I've contributed to something positive. I can really see how the work I support translates into something tangible, whether that's something huge, like a shift in government policy,

or something more local, like seeing an improvement to a constituent's situation after years of difficulty."

## Following in your footsteps

"I think people often assume you need to study politics to work in politics, but I'd argue the opposite. What you really need is a passion for something and experience in that area. York is a place that gives you the space to grow, figure out who you are, and how you want to contribute to the world. I can't think of a better foundation for a career in making change. It's no surprise that York alumni are everywhere in Parliament!"

# SOMEWHERE that's green

Find your way to protect the planet

*Dr Richard Gammons*  
**GREEN CHEMISTRY  
TECHNICAL MANAGER AND  
X-RAY CRYSTALLOGRAPHER**

**Environmental sustainability is one of our four core principles at York.**

**Discover how we're making an impact:**  
[york.ac.uk/mag-sustainability](http://york.ac.uk/mag-sustainability)



**Saving the planet, one molecule at a time: that's the powerful mission driving research at the Green Chemistry Centre of Excellence.**

**Dr Richard Gammons is co-lead for the Centre's sustainability team. It's his job to make sure they practice what they preach: develop research processes that are impactful yet considerate to the environment.**

"As a society, we need to act now to secure a greener future. The University's Green Chemistry Centre of Excellence (GCCE) aims to provide the right tools to support this.

"The centre develops innovative solutions to allow circular economies to flourish. We specialise in renewable raw materials, green synthesis, sustainable technologies and design for sustainable reuse.

"But developing new processes, materials and techniques comes with environmental costs too. The work we do is energy intensive. It's vital that we use power from more renewable sources. The University's upcoming geothermal energy project is an exciting step forward!"

### We're all in this together

"The Green Chemistry Sustainability Team leads the Centre's efforts to make science cleaner and greener by reducing energy use and waste across our labs. It's a collaboration of staff and students, making sure the way we do science is kind to the planet. Our students bring fresh ideas, and we provide the resources to turn them into action. We want to equip every student to lead change for the better.

"Our latest project was creating the GCCE Garden on campus: we used food waste for the plant beds and coffee waste for compost. The result is a welcoming, biodiverse space where our staff and students can eat, study and relax. Although projects like this are

small, everything adds up to support the University's sustainability goals.

"We work hard outside the lab, hosting campus-wide events and teaching others about sustainable science. I often attend local primary schools to show how science can be kind to nature. It's never too early to care about the environment."

### Green awards

"The team has gone from strength to strength, growing in numbers with staff and students volunteering their time. Their hard work has led to significant external recognition.

"In addition, after achieving five consecutive Platinum recognitions in the University's Green Impact programme, we secured the prestigious Diamond Certification, which recognises and rewards environmental practices among staff and students. We were one of only three groups across the entire institution to achieve this highest honour.

"I was also delighted to be nominated for a Papin Prize for Technical Excellence in Sustainability. At the ceremony, I was highly commended for my technical skill and for supporting students with sustainability projects."

### Fuelling the future

"Current approaches for converting plants into biofuels use strong and harmful acids. My research has focused on using renewable

resources to create sustainable products for the chemical industry.

"I have worked with sustainable solvents and microwave technologies to break down renewable plant sources, such as waste food and leaves, into simple sugars which can then be converted into bio-ethanol, a greener alternative."

### Get involved

"The University does a lot of campaigning to raise awareness of sustainability. From everyday actions like recycling and using public transport, to joining a society or the Green Impact programme, everyone can join in.

"Reaching more people is key, and leads to joined up thinking and pooling of resources. We're all part of the journey toward a more sustainable future, and education is just the beginning."

**Why not learn more about sustainability on a York Interdisciplinary Module?**



**These elective modules allow students to develop skills and experience working across disciplines on sustainability challenges.**  
[york.ac.uk/mag-yim](http://york.ac.uk/mag-yim)



# Cereal FOR CHANGE

*Dr Karolos Papadas*  
**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR  
OF MARKETING**

**As a Russell Group university, we conduct action-oriented research to address global environmental and social challenges, with both rigour and compassion.**

**Working with local organisations in Ghana, Dr Karolos Papadas and his team developed a new cereal to provide sustainable life-saving nutrition.**

"My research focuses on the intersection of marketing strategy, branding, and sustainability. I explore how businesses can use marketing to drive commercial success and positive social and environmental change.

"When I joined the University of York, I began working closely with a colleague with connections to a university in Ghana. Northern Ghana is seeing the effects of climate change, with floods and droughts often affecting harvests, and the country is facing a critical challenge with child malnutrition.

"Everyday conveniences we take for granted in the Global North, like packaged foods and easy access to clean water, are not readily available for many people. As a research team, we set out to develop a product to combat malnutrition, improving the health and wellbeing of children in Ghana."

## Creating a product

"Marketing might not seem like the obvious route to tackling malnutrition, but it's essential to understand people's needs and make them aware of what's available.



"It was important to truly understand the consumers, both parents and children. We wanted to create a cereal product that was not only nutritious and authentic, but also stylish and desirable.

"The product we developed had a strong marketing and branding strategy, and a brand name: C-Real.

"C-Real is made with fortified flour and locally sourced indigenous ingredients. It's highly nutritious and genuinely very tasty, scoring top in blind taste tests."

## Working with industry

"Creating a sustainable solution to malnutrition means more than just importing food. By using local products, it created jobs in the area, and local retailers get a profitable margin. Health clinics can prescribe C-Real, saving children's lives.

"We spent the first year restructuring supply chains and training farmers. We made it a priority to include female farmers, who are expert in growing soya,

empowering women in the community. In essence, it triggered a systemic change in the local economy."

## Seeing first-hand

"I was overjoyed to be able to visit Ghana myself, where I spoke with farmers, and saw the crops we helped to cultivate. I visited the health clinics, where I met children helped by C-Real, and spoke with mothers who shared stories of their children's improved weight and energy. Encounters like this are unforgettable, a reminder that research truly has the power to change lives."

## Project success

"The project exceeded all our expectations. It paved the way for additional funding, which was used to build a factory in the region.

"It's a testament to how far we've come, from a small-scale operation to a self-sufficient company that's a model for best practice in other countries. This work has truly created a lasting legacy."

**"The project has had a tremendous influence on my teaching. I present it as a real-world case study, showing students how theories can be put into practice."**



**The C-Real project is an international collaboration between York's School for Business and Society, working with the University for Development Studies, Ghana, and Tropical AgriFoods Limited, a social business based in northern Ghana.**

It won the Best African Agriculture Knowledge Transfer Partnership Award, and the Changing the World Award, from Innovate UK in 2024.

The project is now poised for its next phase, increasing production to achieve greater regional and national impact across Ghana.

**Academic research seeks to find solutions to the challenges we face in our evolving world, and this is a core tenet of our ethos at York.**

**Discover how our research is making a difference:**  
[york.ac.uk/mag-research](http://york.ac.uk/mag-research)



# HISTORY *in* OUR BONES

**Malin Holst**

**SENIOR LECTURER,  
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY**

**MANAGING DIRECTOR,  
YORK OSTEOARCHAEOLOGY**

**At York, we have a vibrant research community, with a focus on collaboration and global impact.**

Find out more:  
[york.ac.uk/  
mag-research-  
community](http://york.ac.uk/mag-research-community)



**After mysterious bones were found on a York building site, Osteoarchaeologist Malin Holst was called in to analyse their origin, helping to reveal the brutal lives of Roman gladiators.**

**As both a Senior Lecturer and commercial Director, her work provides students with unique access to recent, real-world archaeological finds.**

"I'm fascinated by the lives of individuals, both past and present. Osteology and paleopathology are a perfect fit for this. Through skeletal analysis, we can determine a person's age, sex, and signs of disease or trauma. The best part for me is that we always find something new.

"Ultimately, my work is about giving a voice to the individuals behind the skeletal remains. Historical evidence is often written by the wealthy and powerful. Through our analysis, we can provide direct evidence of the lives of common people."

## York's gladiators

"During a building project in York, a series of Roman burials were discovered by local organisation, York Archaeology.

"My analysis of these skeletons offered a surprising clue about a long-suspected Roman amphitheatre in York. The remains almost all belonged to young, muscular men, with injuries and muscle markers suggesting a life of intense physical activity.

"One individual had puncture marks on both hips. My colleague, Prof Tim Thompson from Maynooth University, Republic of Ireland, worked with London Zoo to identify the source of the marks. His findings determined that they were most likely caused by a lion.

"This was a stunning revelation. Transporting a large carnivore to Roman York would have been an elaborate and expensive undertaking.

"The discovery was truly unique. There is only one other known and confirmed gladiator cemetery, at Ephesus in Turkey. Our find provides the only physical, skeletal evidence of gladiator fights with large cats in the entire Roman Empire."

## Into the classroom

"Although York Osteoarchaeology is separate from the University, we collaborate constantly. My students at York learn about the gladiator research in their classes, discovering more about the health of these individuals, the trauma they suffered and the funerary rituals surrounding their burials.

"If a find is particularly notable, we'll work with the University's bioarchaeologists. Clients get additional analysis and information about their finds, while students get the unique opportunity to work with recently excavated skeletal remains.

"It generates new research, and frequently leads to new discoveries and publications. It's a true win-win situation, providing students with fascinating and varied cases to work on, and sets York apart from other universities where students may repeatedly study the same skeletons."

## The past beneath our feet

"York is an incredible place to study archaeology. One former student is a perfect example. When they were studying at the University of York, their Masters dissertation investigated a Roman amputation – one of only two known in the UK. This rare opportunity not only earned them an excellent mark but also helped them to secure a role working in the field they have a passion for.

"With four commercial archaeology companies in York, and many more historical sites and museums, there's a wealth of projects that directly feed into student research. These provide students with hands-on experience using newly uncovered finds."

## A niche for everyone

"One of the most appealing aspects of archaeology is its interdisciplinary nature. It bridges the gap between the humanities and the sciences.

"The ability to explore everything from cultural history to cutting-edge science is what makes archaeology so captivating. It offers endless possibilities for discovery."



# THREE, TWO, ONE: *impact*

**The Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition doesn't just celebrate great research; it sharpens the skills of our postgraduates, helping bring their research to life.**

This year's winning trio stepped up to the challenge, summarising years of complex PhD work into a concise, compelling three-minute pitch.

They strengthened their confidence, honed their time management and public speaking abilities, and mastered the art of communicating their ideas clearly, to succeed at the live final at the York Festival of Ideas.

#### Find your niche

A research degree allows you to explore your passion and learn new concepts, all while contributing to new discoveries.

Discover postgraduate research study:  
[york.ac.uk/mag-pgr-study](http://york.ac.uk/mag-pgr-study)



3<sup>rd</sup>  
Place



**Jenny, PhD in Environmental Geography, Department of Environment and Geography**

**Trees vs tsunamis: Mangrove forests as a defence against tsunamis**

"Mangrove trees have dense root systems and tangled branches, which protect coastlines against the impact of storms. Recent decades have seen an increase in mangrove deforestation for tourism, shrimp farms and urban land, leaving coastal communities vulnerable.

"Climate change is causing sea levels to rise, making the risk of more deadly tsunamis grow by the day. In my research, I create numerical models of waves travelling through mangrove forests, to quantify the level of protection the trees can provide against tsunamis.

"I can use equations to predict how far a wave will travel based on its size, or how much it will slow down as it encounters a forest. Developing this model will allow me to design a forest which provides the maximum level of protection for coastal communities."

2<sup>nd</sup>  
Place

Winner  
of the  
People's  
Choice Award



**Mahmoud, PhD in Biomedical Sciences, Department of Biology**

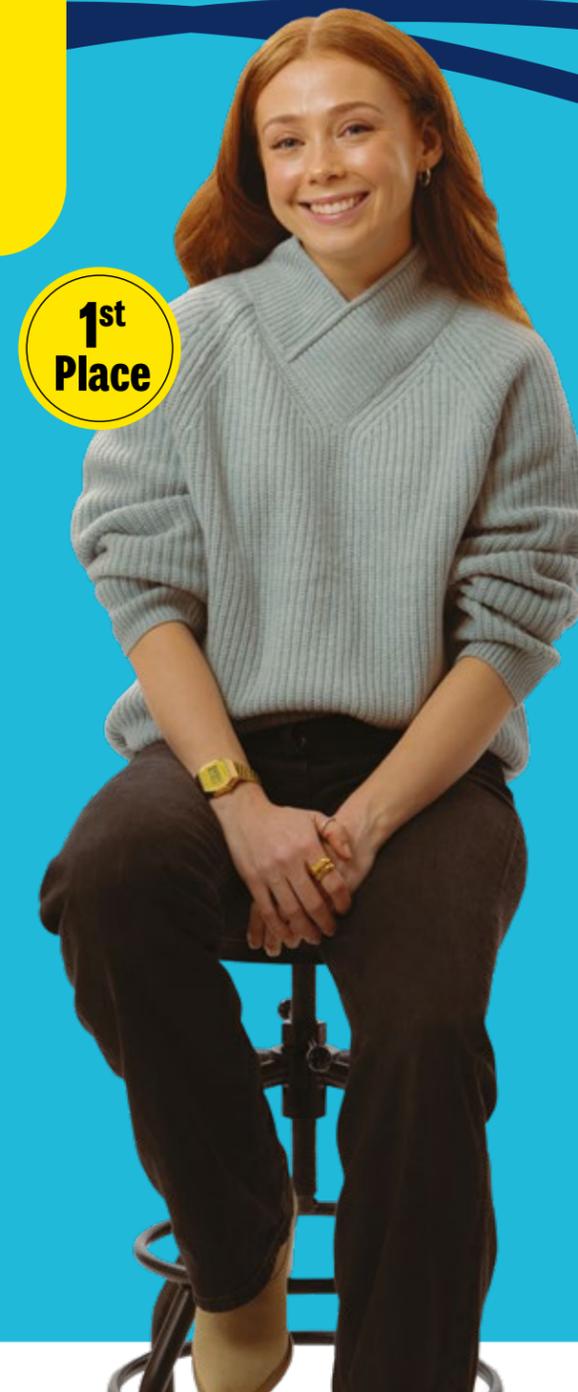
**Bone builders: Super stem cells and the future of healing**

"Did you know that 50% of children experience at least one bone fracture before they turn 18? I'm working on understanding how bones heal, with the goal of helping them heal faster and better in the future.

"In our bodies, we have stem cells, kind of like the body's natural repair crew. I grow them in the lab using special techniques, trying to mimic the conditions they would experience inside us. Then I study how these stem cells turn into bone cells.

"Why does this matter? Because understanding the process can lead to new treatments that would speed up bone healing, treat diseases like osteoporosis and osteoarthritis, and even help in the treatment of bone cancers. This kind of research has the power to change lives."

1<sup>st</sup>  
Place



**Lily, PhD in Psychology, Department of Psychology**

**Belonging shapes belief: Why we trust misinformation**

"Information has never been more abundant... or more unreliable. That's why my PhD is focused on one critical question: why do we believe things that aren't true? To answer this, I'm researching how our social identities can affect the way we judge and share information online.

"Social identity is the way we see ourselves and the groups we belong to. Some parts of our social identities are based on our beliefs, like our religion or political views. Other parts are based on our status, like our job or where we live. My research uses this belief vs status framework to understand how different parts of our identity affect whether we believe false information.

"The impact of my research lies in its potential to help us understand and ultimately reduce the spread of misinformation. While many existing solutions focus on improving people's thinking skills or fact-checking information, they often overlook the powerful influence our identity has."

**The Three Minute Thesis competition was developed to celebrate the best research.**



Find out more:  
[york.ac.uk/mag-3mt](http://york.ac.uk/mag-3mt)

Starting your own business is a powerful way to turn a passion into a profession – and develop a diverse range of skills. With support from York's Enterprise Summer Accelerator, El now expertly balances entrepreneurship with academic studies.

"I applied to the Summer Accelerator on a whim. I had an idea for a business that would combine my course and my passion. Now, thanks to the help I was given during the programme, I run that business alongside my studies.

"I develop and sell tabletop games and related materials online – supporting content for games like Dungeons & Dragons and Call of Cthulhu, as well as entirely new games. The business is small, but I'm so proud of it."

### What's the deal?

"Run by the Careers and Placements team, the Summer Accelerator is all about student business. An eight-week programme, it gives you tools, training and space to start something new. If things go well, you come away with a business – something you take forward, and potentially keep earning from.

"When I took part, I was able to access resources and funding, as well as a place to work, business theory lectures and dedicated one-on-one mentorship.

"My assigned mentor and I had a lot in common. We had a similar course background – Mathematics and Computer Science – and a shared passion for games. She even had connections with other game designers who, like me, had started with small, independent projects. These connections gave me guidance on everything from writing to playtesting and crowdfunding.

"Recent developments in the industry had left more space for indie developers, and I had already been making games for my friends for some time. We focused on consistency so that I would be able to drive my business forward, even when swamped with work. A lot of the things that I learned from my mentors, I still use every day."

### Proficiency bonus

"The talks covered a lot of new and interesting topics, things like business structure and advertising methods. Alongside this was independent work – from business plans and assignments, to my own product development tasks.

"I spent a lot of time working that summer, probably about as much as your average full-time job. I did most of that work in the PhaseOne workspace on campus. Having somewhere dedicated to work was a productivity blessing.

"I'm really passionate about tabletop games, and I believe they're really important, particularly in terms of how games can be used to tell interactive stories. Because they're so story-focused, and usually multiplayer, these kinds of games give people a way to connect with others.

"I know plenty of people who've had their lives changed through gaming. It's also just incredibly good fun! I want my games to make a difference for people, the way they have for me, and I know from feedback that they're already doing that."

### Win-win

"Beyond my personal business, I learned a lot about my specific interest and about business in general. I was able to improve my time management and communication skills and I got better at working to my strengths. Whatever I end up doing in my future career, these skills will always be valuable.

"The things I got from this experience, from access to the workspace, lectures from experts, and time with my mentor, were invaluable. The Summer Accelerator has already proven its worth to me a thousand times over."

**"You come away with a business – something you take forward, and potentially keep earning from."**

# GET AHEAD of the GAME

Find your launchpad to an exciting new venture

Catalyst Building, Campus East

**El**  
**BSc MATHEMATICS  
AND COMPUTER  
SCIENCE**



Get career support from day one:  
[york.ac.uk/mag-careers-support](http://york.ac.uk/mag-careers-support)



Discover enterprise teaching and learning for York students:  
[york.ac.uk/mag-enterprise](http://york.ac.uk/mag-enterprise)

# A place TO BELONG

## Find your route to higher education

**York's Black Access programme is more than just a pathway to higher education.**

**It's a student-led initiative – for and by Black students – working to give the next generation a real, honest look at what it's like to study and live here. And all while building a vibrant community from the ground up.**

*Shalom*  
**BSc NURSING**



"I'm from Ghana, but for the first ten years of my life I lived in the Netherlands. I then attended school and college in Bradford.

"My journey to the University of York was shaped by the Black Access programme, which I first joined in college. Since then, I've not only earned a place at the University, but also started my journey to becoming a nurse. I'm now in my second year of my Adult Nursing degree."

### Insight and inclusion

"Whilst I enjoyed my school and college experiences, one thing was consistently present: I was often one of just a few Black students. This, in part, drew me to the Black Access Programme at York. In addition to learning about higher education, I was eager to meet other Black students.

"My initial online session was nerve-racking! But the programme's residential and campus visits were really beneficial and greatly influenced my decision to go to university.

"Meeting the other students during the visit made the campus feel incredibly welcoming. They were able to share their experiences with me and helped me learn what to expect. They also gave me a window into the culture of York, and insights into the University's Black community."

Watch Shalom's video tour at a Black Access Open Day:  
[york.ac.uk/mag-black-access-open-day](http://york.ac.uk/mag-black-access-open-day)



## Confidence and collaboration

"The programme's impact on my time at university has been really positive. I feel more prepared and confident in the way I approach my university studies. I'm also confident to ask for help from academics when I need it. I am empowered to explore scholarships and placement opportunities that I'm entitled to.

"One of the most important lessons I have learned is to always ask for help, whether from your friends or the University staff. There are always people there to support you."

## Paying it forward

"To me, Black Access lets people know that York is a welcoming place with a diverse Black community. In a full-circle moment, I've joined the student team, helping to raise its profile and support other students on their own journeys.

"I'm not sure what the future holds, but studying nursing has taught me to handle any challenge that comes my way. I've learned so much from the experience, and I'm excited to graduate with my nursing degree and embark on a career in this exciting field."

## Find your path

The Black Access programme is aimed at Black students studying in English sixth-forms and colleges.

Current University of York students showcase their experiences in an honest and informative way. You'll join online and in-person events and activities designed to give an authentic experience of university life.

When you take part, you'll hear about the Black student experience and get advice from those with similar backgrounds. You can access tailored support and mentorship, and you could even qualify for a reduced university offer or a guaranteed interview.

**Read about the Black Access programme:**  
[york.ac.uk/black-access](http://york.ac.uk/black-access)

**We strive to ensure access to university is available to all, and that all students are informed on what path to higher education is best for them.**



**Discover contextual offers and admissions:**  
[york.ac.uk/mag-contextual-offers](http://york.ac.uk/mag-contextual-offers)



# Death BECOMES HER

## Find your inspiration

Professor Ruth Penfold-Mounce is a sociologist specialising in death and crime. Her recent National Teaching Fellowship award celebrates her bold, creative approach.



**Ruth Penfold-Mounce**

**PROFESSOR IN SOCIOLOGY  
AND DEPUTY HEAD OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY**

When Ruth Penfold-Mounce first discovered sociology at university, she didn't expect it to shape her whole career. A lecture on the sociology of time sparked her interest, leading her towards crime, culture, and later a PhD about celebrity culture and crime inspired by disgraced pop star Gary Glitter. She never imagined that one day she would earn one of the UK's top teaching awards.

In 2025, the University of York sociologist won a National Teaching Fellowship for her creative and unusual approach to teaching. She calls it "hugely significant, both personally and professionally."

"It feels brilliant to have that recognition," she says. "This award is about more than me. It helps show York's support for innovative methods – and that there are exciting ways to approach difficult topics."

### Exploring sensitive topics

Those "difficult topics" are very much Ruth's focus. Her research looks at the links between death, crime, and popular culture – from celebrity scandals and old beliefs in "corpse medicine" (where people once thought body parts of the criminal dead could heal illness) to the afterlives of famous figures.

"Students love exploring the idea that celebrities never really die," she says. "Take Marilyn Monroe. She still has an agent, and you can still book her image for adverts and films. In a way, there's competition for jobs with the dead!"

But her teaching goes beyond unusual facts. She is passionate about giving students a safe and supportive space to think about sensitive issues. "Death and crime are part of society, but they're

often avoided in everyday conversation," she explains. "My aim is to help students think carefully and ethically about these subjects, and also to learn how to speak about them respectfully."

### Teaching in creative ways

Ruth's classes are far from traditional. Her students don't just write essays. They go on crime-and-death walks around York, make their own podcasts, and study images in films or the media to explore social themes and debates.

"I want students to leave with strong communication skills so they can succeed in the jobs they want," she says. "That means learning how to share their ideas with more than just academics."

This creative approach is a key reason she won the National Teaching

Fellowship. The award celebrates higher education staff who have a powerful impact on students and drive the pedagogic field forwards at a national level. For Ruth, it confirms that teaching can be just as exciting and valuable as research.

### Impact beyond the classroom

Students certainly agree – one described working with her as "an apprenticeship in all things death and creativity." Others say her teaching builds confidence and curiosity – skills that stay with them long after university.

Her influence also goes beyond the classroom. She set up York's Death and Culture Network, which brings together researchers from around the world to understand cultural responses to

mortality. She also takes part in public events such as the Dead Good Festival and the York Festival of Ideas. "We don't want to talk into a vacuum," she explains. "Sharing this work helps people think differently about death and culture."

### Looking ahead

Ruth is co-editing a new book, *Innovative Qualitative Methods for Criminologists*, due out in 2026. It will give students new interdisciplinary tools to research crime and the criminal justice system, including 'walking methods' and visual analysis.

Winning the National Teaching Fellowship is a major milestone, but she sees it as only the beginning. "This award is about inspiring others," she says. "If my work helps students and colleagues feel more confident about tackling tough ideas in creative ways, then I've done my job."

At York, we're committed to excellence in teaching.

We place great importance on innovative and collaborative student-staff partnerships, problem-based learning, and a commitment to social justice and real-world relevance.

Discover how we teach at York: [york.ac.uk/mag-teaching-learning](https://york.ac.uk/mag-teaching-learning)





# Creating COMMUNITY connections

Joining a sports club, society or college committee is a fantastic way to enhance your university experience. Beyond trying new activities, it's a great opportunity to gain new skills and meet new people. For Alex, it was also a chance to give back to the community.

*Alex*  
BSc PHYSICS



Discover volunteering opportunities for current students:  
[york.ac.uk/mag-volunteer](http://york.ac.uk/mag-volunteer)



Watch the 2025 Love York Award Ceremony:  
[york.ac.uk/lya-2025](http://york.ac.uk/lya-2025)



**"It reminded me how powerful small acts of kindness and connection can be."**

"When I joined the University of York, I never imagined the impact opportunities beyond the lecture hall would have on my time here. I came looking for connection, community, and a way to give back. What I didn't expect was how much fun I'd have doing it.

"From welcoming hundreds of new students into college life, to running bingo nights for older residents in York, I've been drawn to the moments where people feel seen and supported."

### Making a difference

"The Tea and Coffee Society is a volunteer-led project that aims to reduce loneliness among the elderly in York. Joining this society has been one of the most rewarding parts of my time at York. I've gained so much from simply spending time with people, listening to their stories, and building friendships across generations.

"Being a part of this society has given me a real sense of purpose outside of my studies, and reminded me how powerful small acts of kindness and connection can be. I've also developed confidence in leading sessions, organising events, and creating a welcoming atmosphere – skills that I know will stay with me long after university."

### Showing the ropes

"I've also poured a lot of energy into one of my biggest passions: sailing. As the Beginners and Recreational Officer for the Sailing and Windsurfing Society, I've had the privilege of introducing dozens of new students to the sport – many of whom had never set foot in a boat before.



"What I enjoyed most was watching people grow in confidence. A lot of students come to their first session feeling nervous, unsure, or convinced they'll fall straight in – and by the end, they're smiling, laughing, and asking when they can get back on the water again."

### Giving back

"York has a college system, and students automatically become a member of one of the 11 colleges. As Head of Community and Wellbeing at David Kato College, I've worked closely with the College committee to run inclusive events, provide wellbeing support, and creating spaces where students feel they belong.

"During Welcome Week, I coordinated over 100 volunteers to support nearly 700 new students. It was no small task, but seeing new people settle into our community made every moment worthwhile.

"Everything I've been involved in has been about bringing people together and doing good things. That's what I love most about being a student at York: there are so many opportunities to give back and have fun. You don't have to be in a formal role to make a difference – you just have to care."

Alex's efforts were recognised at York Students' Union's 2025 Love York awards, where he won the award for 'Outstanding Contribution to Student Life'. The awards celebrate the very best of our students, societies and sports clubs.





# BACK TO school

York has a proud history of working for public good. York Students in Schools (YSIS) is just one example. Each year, hundreds of York students volunteer in local schools and nurseries, supported by this award-winning scheme.

Founded by students, York Students in Schools makes a real difference to the lives of young people in York. Many student volunteers go on to become teachers, equipped with the skills and experience that they gain.

York Students in Schools recently celebrated its 30th anniversary. We asked students past and present to share their experiences.

Discover more volunteering opportunities at York:  
[york.ac.uk/mag-volunteering](https://york.ac.uk/mag-volunteering)



## AMY

**BA English and Related Literature, Class of 2013**

"The teachers I worked with let me get thoroughly involved. I found that I thrived in a classroom environment and it was this scheme that made me want to be a teacher.

"One of my favourite memories is when I had the realisation that I wanted to teach secondary level, when I was sneezed on by an enthusiastic five-year-old!

"I went on to study a PGCE at York, and I've been working as an English teacher for the last decade. I really believe the opportunities YSIS gave me helped form me into the teacher I am today."



## HARRY

**BA History, Class of 2025**

"My time volunteering with YSIS was one of the best uni experiences that I've had. It helped me build confidence, get a sense of the teaching work environment and make contacts in the field.

"It provided me with a sense of fulfilment and fun when engaging with the children, to bring out the best in them.

"I would 100% encourage any future students contemplating a career in teaching or even those who are just curious to give it a try. You won't regret it!"

## CLARE

**BSc Psychology, Class of 2004**

"YSIS was such a community. It really opened my eyes to the world beyond university, and gave me the confidence that I had struggled to find.

"The routine each week of volunteering in a local school – time out of university – was really important to me. I jumped at the opportunity to become a student manager in my third year and meeting lots of different people was one of the best bits.

"I met one of my closest friends in the YSIS office. I cannot tell you how much I value her friendship, and that would never have been if not for YSIS."

## Find your calling

More than 14,000 students have volunteered through York Students in Schools since 1994.

### Placements have included:

- Mentoring Year 6 children through the transition to secondary school
- Supporting child refugees to settle in, build friendships and develop language skills
- Delivering confidence-building workshops to girls in Years 7 and 8.

Find out more:  
[york.ac.uk/mag-ysis](https://york.ac.uk/mag-ysis)



# GREAT MINDS think differently



**Working in York's Inclusive Education Team, Dr Tamlyn Ryan spotted a need to develop a project and toolkit to support neurodivergent students.**

**Along with interns Robyn and Angharad, she co-created resources for the benefit of our community.**

## Dr Tamlyn Ryan, Inclusive Education Advisor

"While leading study coaching sessions, I came across many students who had been diagnosed with neurodivergent conditions like ADHD. We were already doing work around inclusive teaching, and I realised we could reconstruct our staff toolkit to include resources specifically about neurodiversity.

"I wanted to spark a wider conversation about neurodiversity – how it impacts students and their lived experience at university. To support this, we recruited two students, Robyn and Angharad, on an eight-week paid internship.

"Robyn and Angharad were pivotal in understanding the barriers and needs of neurodivergent students at York. They created a survey, asking students what it was like to study as a neurodivergent person, and what they wished their lecturers understood.

"During Neurodiversity Celebration Week, they ran a workshop, giving students and staff an opportunity to discuss the issues they faced. There's so much value in hearing somebody talk about their experience.

"Teaching staff, from schools right through to universities, often emphasise specific ways of participating in learning. That's why student input is so vital to this work."

## Angharad, MBIol Biology

"It was really motivating, even before I got this internship, just to see it being advertised. It was inspiring to know that work was going on behind the scenes to help neurodivergent students. I was really excited to be selected for the project.

"I was able to meet people working at York who are also neurodivergent. I didn't previously know any neurodivergent adults, it was really valuable to talk to people at different stages of life and what would have helped them at university.

"I felt like we were making a difference, and that was really empowering."



## Robyn, BA Social and Political Science

"I wasn't diagnosed as neurodivergent until the summer before my third year of university. I just dismissed all the issues I had as my own little quirks. I wasn't aware of the support that could have helped me.

"Having the opportunity to speak to Angharad and other neurodivergent students, I could see there were lots of people facing the same challenges as me.

"It was amazing to be part of the team that was making a difference. It was such a positive end to my university experience, knowing that I was making worthwhile changes for future students."

## Award-winning support

The Inclusive Education Team at York works collaboratively with staff and students on learning, teaching and assessment projects that make a difference for all students, in line with the University vision and strategy. These provide a toolkit of resources to support staff in developing their inclusive practice.

The team's commitment to partnership ensures the changes they make are long-lasting and impactful for years to come. They look to develop projects that make a difference for all students, and collaborating with staff and students is central to their work.

We recognise that a 'Whole University Approach' to inclusive learning is needed to ensure success for all our students, and this knowledge has led to the creation of student intern and placement roles as part of the team.

These collaborative partnerships have had a significant impact on the projects we lead, shaping priorities as well enabling a deeper understanding of student perspectives.

York's Inclusive Education Team was recognised with a Collaborative Award for Teaching Excellence (CATE).

**Discover some of the ways we can support you to achieve your best at York:**  
[york.ac.uk/mag-teaching-support](http://york.ac.uk/mag-teaching-support)





# FINDING my place

**As an estranged student, Shanza came to university without the support of her family. At York, she found a welcoming community which set her up for success.**

*Shanza*  
**BSc MOLECULAR  
CELL BIOLOGY,  
CLASS OF 2025**

At York, you'll find a dedicated network of support services, here to help you navigate your university experience from start to end.



Discover the support available to you:  
[york.ac.uk/mag-support](http://york.ac.uk/mag-support)

## I FOUND MY WAY

"I left home at the age of 17. I had no idea what I could do or what I wanted to do. I had thought about university, but I had no idea how to get there.

"When I got my A level results, I felt a mixture of excitement and dread. I wasn't sure if higher education was even possible for me. I didn't think I could afford it; I didn't realise that there was financial and pastoral support that I could access.

"I phoned the University of York. They explained to me the support that was available, including some bursaries that I could get, but it was all too overwhelming. I deferred for a year, and ended up working. I was thinking, 'is it right for me? Is it worth it? I'm already working and it's already tiring. Can I imagine studying on top of this?'"

"But looking at York's website again, I couldn't picture myself anywhere else. It was an immense feeling of belonging, from seeing the campus, to looking at all the colleges and hearing about the experiences of students that I could relate to. I made the decision to accept my offer."

## I FOUND MY FEET

"My first few months at York were a mixture of excitement and uncertainty. As an estranged student, I didn't have a family safety net to fall back on. I had to learn to be independent quickly.

"When I went to my first seminar, I was nervous, but my supervisor, Betsy, was so, so lovely. Richard, the Department's Director for Students, was there from the beginning as well. The way the staff engage with their students is honestly remarkable. It made me forget that I was an estranged student – I was just a York student.

"My department became a huge source of support for me, both academically and personally. Richard and Betsy supported me through many emotional meetings, listening to me questioning if I was good enough, or if I was even moving in the right direction.

"What I loved about it was that they just gave me space to cry, and reminded me of all the progress I had made. They had noticed things that even I didn't notice, and sent so many emails. It was just constant support. It was the brace that I needed."

## I FOUND MY FUTURE

"My course pushed me in many ways. It sharpened my ability to think critically, analyse data, and approach problems methodically. I learned resilience – how to keep going when things get tough – along with how to collaborate effectively with others. The combination of independence and teamwork has been invaluable.

"I graduated from York in July 2025, and I've gone straight into a role as a science teacher with TeachFirst. It's scary, but at the same time feels quite fulfilling, especially because it's been science teachers that have helped keep me going.

"The skills that I developed in my degree, I can apply to my role as a teacher. My long-term goal is to be able to support others who might feel like I once did: like university isn't an option for them, like they don't know what to do, like science is too hard, like they are alone.

"I came into university feeling alone, but I built such a sense of belonging. Graduation was bittersweet, to feel I was leaving York. But in a way, I'm not actually leaving. I'm always going to be a part of it."

## I FOUND MY PEOPLE

"York's independent students' support team put on networking events. Although I only attended a few, they gave me the courage to branch out on my own.

"I started to connect with the other people on my course and in my flat. I was living with another student, Sophie, who was in the same supervision group as me. We both encouraged each other – it was really, really nice. We graduated sitting side by side.

"Each year, York raises money to provide Christmas presents for independent students. I'll never forget the excitement and the giddiness that I felt when I realised I was going to get one. I don't know how many years it had been since I'd had a Christmas present.

"The experience concreted the feeling that I wasn't alone. Someone was thinking of me – not just one person, but a whole team. And I guess that team became something of a family to me."

# STRENGTHS *under the* MICROSCOPE

*Navin*

**MBiol GENETICS,  
CLASS OF 2024**

**Navin came to York from India. During his time here, he took advantage of opportunities to build his skills and networks. When it came to applying for his first graduate role, it was these experiences and the connections he'd forged which made all the difference.**

## **Moving to the UK**

"Studying abroad was a very last-minute decision for me. For most of my life, I imagined I would stay in India. With the general upheaval caused by COVID-19, I reconsidered my options. The UK and the Netherlands were the main countries I considered, but I preferred the UK because it had a very easy, centralised undergraduate application system. In a few weeks, I was given offers at all the universities I applied to!

"York was very highly-ranked for Biology and is a Russell Group university. It also provided me with the option to study genetics as an integrated Masters course, which I would not have been able to do at many other universities. My parents were very happy I was in York: it's known for being a safe city."

## **Developing my skills**

"During my time at York, I had opportunities to participate in activities that enriched my skills and prepared me for the workplace. The York Strengths Programme helped me to identify my skills and strengths – and to develop areas that I might have otherwise overlooked.

"The programme showed me how core qualities, such as being an innovative thinker, an agile learner, an authentic communicator or a problem solver, could be applied in both my academic and professional life. It was really useful in helping me understand how to frame my own skills in job applications and interviews.

"Another fantastic opportunity I was able to take advantage of was York Leaders. This programme offered me the opportunity to explore different perspectives on leadership, by taking part in group challenges and testing my leadership capabilities. I was placed in a team of 14 students to design and deliver a collaborative project. It was a lovely experience that taught me much about leadership, teamwork, and communication."

## **Building a global network**

"York has a collegiate system, which means students are assigned to one of the 11 colleges on campus. This really made it easier to meet other students and make friends.

"It was a humbling experience to meet people from all corners of the world. It was fascinating, and it helped me to broaden my perspectives. I feel it's very important to know that we are part of a global network of people."

## **After graduation**

"I gained a good amount of work experience during my degree. I did internships almost every year, which gave me the chance to learn new, relevant skills that helped me when applying to graduate roles.

"In my final year, I undertook microscopy and image analysis work during an internship. Around the time I was completing this, another lab happened to be looking for someone with that exact skill set. This enabled me to secure my current role as a Research Technician.

"The biggest tip I'd give to build up your CV is to make connections. Talk to people, at your university, at your internships, anywhere. These networks matter. You never know who might give you your next opportunity."

**Play to your strengths. Find opportunities to develop your skills beyond your degree programme.**



**Explore skills and development opportunities:**  
[york.ac.uk/mag-skills-development](http://york.ac.uk/mag-skills-development)



**We also provide a range of academic skills training:**  
[york.ac.uk/library/skills](http://york.ac.uk/library/skills)



# INDUSTRY insights



**Aaron,**  
BSc Interactive Media  
(with placement year),  
Class of 2025

**An industry placement is a chance to apply your learning and develop valuable professional skills.**

**With support from dedicated careers staff, Aaron secured a year-long position with Primark Dublin as part of his degree. He gained hands-on experience that became the launchpad for a successful career in user experience (UX) design.**

"When I was choosing a degree, I knew I wanted to work in a creative tech role. The only problem was that I had no idea which one. The Interactive Media course at York caught my attention because every single module sounded like something I would actually enjoy learning.

"It also came with the option of a placement year, and for me, that was non-negotiable. Entering such a competitive industry, a degree is important, but experience is the golden ticket."

## Getting stuck in

"I found my placement at Primark through the University's placement resources. Before I knew it, I was packing my bags for Dublin.

"My role as a Technology Placement Student was anything but boring. Some days were full of meetings, planning sessions and user interviews. Other days, I would be overhauling current designs, testing them with real users and presenting updates to the team and stakeholders.

"It was the perfect mix of creativity and professional challenge, and I thrived on the variety and pressure.

"The University was there for me throughout. They helped me polish and refine my CV, prepare for interviews, sort out the logistics of moving abroad, plus they checked in regularly while I was away. That support made a big difference."

**"You'll come away with new skills, more confidence and a much clearer idea of what you want next."**

## Personal growth

"The experience taught me more than just perfecting my technical skills. I learned how to manage my time, communicate clearly, present with confidence and work with all sorts of different people. I even briefly tested out other roles within the company, but my time with the UX design team confirmed it was exactly where I wanted to be.

"When my placement ended, the UX lead asked me to stay on part-time during my final year. It meant juggling my degree with three days a week of professional work, but it also meant I graduated with two years of industry experience.

"That gave me the edge I needed to land my current role as a UX Designer at THG Ingenuity, where I work on websites and services for brands such as MyProtein, LOOKFANTASTIC, Holland & Barrett, and Disney."

## Give it a go

"If you are wondering whether a placement year is worth it, my immediate answer is yes. No hesitation. I would rather say 'oh well' than 'what if'. Even if you don't find your dream job, you'll come away with new skills, more confidence and a much clearer idea of what you want next."

**Almost all of our undergraduate degrees offer a placement year option to gain work experience. These structured opportunities are integrated into your studies.**

**Check our course pages to find out more:** [york.ac.uk/mag-courses](http://york.ac.uk/mag-courses)



**The University of York is among the top 30 most targeted universities by the UK's leading graduate employers**

The Graduate Market in 2025

**Find your edge by gaining practical experience that boosts your employability.**

**Placements and work experience are a key element to our courses at York.**

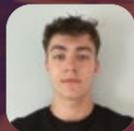
**Discover ways to boost your CV:**  
[york.ac.uk/mag-careers](http://york.ac.uk/mag-careers)



# SHADOWS of YORK

## A tour of our haunted city

York is a beautiful city, layered with buildings and sights from throughout its long history. Founded by the Romans in 71AD, York has been at the centre of many notable moments in British history. With centuries of stories to tell, it's easy to see why York is rumoured to be one of the most haunted cities in the UK.



**Felix,**  
BA Business of the  
Creative Industries



**Lucas,**  
BA Business of the  
Creative Industries

Join Felix and Lucas  
on a video tour:  
[york.ac.uk/mag-ghost-tour](http://york.ac.uk/mag-ghost-tour)



Discover more  
about our historic city:  
[york.ac.uk/mag-city](http://york.ac.uk/mag-city)



### 1. THE YORKSHIRE MUSEUM'S UNTIDY GHOST

The Yorkshire Museum sits in the grounds of St Mary's Abbey. You might expect a spook in a ruined monastery, but in fact the ghost of Alderman Edward Wooler has been spotted in the Museum Library, leaving behind a trail of scattered books.



### 2. THE ROMAN SOLDIERS OF TREASURER'S HOUSE

A trumpet blares, then soldiers march through the solid walls, their bodies cut off at the knees! Recent excavations revealed that Treasurer's House is built on a Roman road, known as *Via Decumana*. Could it be that the sightings are a flashback to Romans walking along the old road?

### 3. A PRANKSTER AT THE GOLDEN FLEECE PUB

This pub is renowned as the most haunted pub in York. One tale is of the cheeky Victorian boy who came to an unfortunate end on the road outside. He likes to play tricks on the pub's customers, and if you fall victim to one of his silly pranks, you'll likely hear him giggle. We guess ghouls just wanna have fun!



### 4. BRING HOME YOUR OWN GHOST FROM THE SHAMBLES

Once a street full of butchers' shops, the Shambles is now a tourist hotspot, known for its crooked buildings. One of our favourite shops here is York Ghost Merchants, where you can choose your own ghost model to take home with you – so adorable!



### 5. BLACK CATS OF YE OLDE STARRE INNE

York's oldest pub, tucked down a snickelway off Stonegate, is home to perhaps the city's cutest ghosts. Two black cats are often spotted near the bar, but patrons bend down to stroke them, to find only thin air. A bit spooky, right? It's thought that these are the spirits of two cats who were buried in the walls of the pub – a tradition to ward off evil and protect against fire, thankfully no longer practised!



### 6. IS DICK TURPIN HIDING IN THE TREES?

The infamous highwayman, known for brutally robbing wealthy travellers, came to his end on the gallows at the Knavesmire in York. Eventually he was buried in St George's Churchyard. His ghost is said to walk along the nearby river path, waiting in the trees for unsuspecting passers-by.

# On your DOORSTEP

With a Russell Group university on your doorstep, why move away? Here at York we have hundreds of students who commute to campus.

If you're local to York and are considering commuting for your studies, you may be eligible for a guaranteed offer or interview.



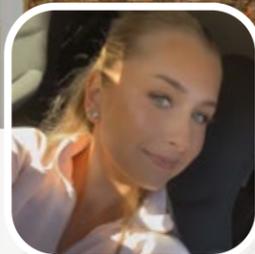
Find your route to York. Discover student life as a commuter student, plus read the eligibility criteria for our guaranteed offer or interview: [york.ac.uk/mag-commuter](http://york.ac.uk/mag-commuter)

## Deni, BSc Marketing

"I commute to the University of York by car, a decision driven by the fact that York has been my dream university with amazing opportunities, and its proximity to my family home allows for a great balance between my university and home life.

"The journey takes about 25 minutes, and I've found the commute to be very convenient, making it easy to juggle my part-time job and my studies. Plus, I personally enjoy driving, and the annual parking fee is very accommodating.

"For others considering commuting, I'd advise you to embrace the flexibility it offers. It's a great way to build responsibility and independence. Always plan for quick drive-through meals, a solid playlist, and a little extra time for traffic!"



**"York is often recognised as one of the most cycle-friendly cities in the UK."**

Abdurrahman

## Abdurrahman, BSc Environmental Science

"The first thing that reassured me was how visible and easy cycling seemed here." York is often recognised as one of the most cycle-friendly cities in the UK. There are extensive off-road cycle paths and infrastructure, plus great facilities and support available through the University.

"My journey from Campus West to the city centre takes around 15 minutes. Whether it is riding past the Minster in the morning light or spotting ducks on the lake, my ride is a daily moment of calm, and a connection to York I never expected."

## Georgie, BSc Biology

"I live about 13 miles from York and commute to campus four or five days a week. It means I save money, stay close to family and friends (especially my dog), and keep some balance between student life and home life.

"There are bus routes from my hometown to York, which is great if I want to see people after lectures and not worry about driving. A single ticket is just a few pounds, which makes uni more accessible.

"I've found that making the effort to plan things in advance really helps me to feel integrated with the campus community. I can go to social events, grab coffee with course mates or study with friends in the Library between classes. My closest friends and I plan things like meals out or shopping trips in the city centre. It has made me see a whole new side of York, even though I've lived nearby my whole life."



# GOING DUTCH

Find your home from home

**Amy**  
BA HISTORY OF ART

Thinking about studying abroad during your degree? It's a brilliant opportunity to broaden your academic and personal horizons while experiencing life in another country.

Amy spent a year at Leiden University in the Netherlands. Here's what she learned.

Discover global experiences at York:  
[york.ac.uk/mag-study-abroad](http://york.ac.uk/mag-study-abroad)



Students sitting on the bank of a canal

"I always knew I wanted to study abroad. The opportunity to do this as part of my degree was one of the reasons I chose York. The History of Art department has links with lots of universities in Europe, close to world-class art galleries. I attended talks about my options for studying abroad, and I opted to do an additional year of study, with my year abroad in my third year."

## The process

"When making my application, I did lots of research on various institutions. Leiden is one of the oldest universities in the Netherlands and has its own collection of famous artworks. These include lots of original prints by Rembrandt, who was born in the town!"

## My experience

"Studying abroad is not without its challenges; you are pushed out of your comfort zone. As I adapted to living in a new country, I discovered a quiet self-confidence I hadn't known before. I was fortunate enough that many people have amazing English skills, but I still pushed myself to learn some Dutch. By the end of the year, I was confidently ordering drinks in cafés."

"I also gained a new passion for my degree subject. I had never studied art from the Netherlands before, but specialists in the field at Leiden taught me this area and inspired me to write my dissertation on the subject."

"It was interesting experiencing a different way of teaching and learning. The staff even allowed me into the archives, where

I saw and experienced first-hand etchings and engravings by Rembrandt and Hieronymus Bosch. When I returned to York, I had a fresh new perspective, and this has made my final year even more enjoyable."

## A different culture

"I really enjoyed experiencing some of the Dutch national holidays. On Leiden's Independence Day, 3 October, everyone gets up at dawn to sing and eat herring on white bread. Then there's a big festival with rides and fireworks in the evening."

"Day-to-day, I loved cycling around the city and sitting by the many beautiful canals with my friends, reading, swimming, or hiring boats with a picnic. There were so many amazing art galleries and museums on my doorstep."

"I really enjoyed getting the train to discover the many amazing towns and cities in the Netherlands. I was able to travel around Europe too, getting the coach to Cologne and Paris, and seeing Berlin and Milan."

## University support

"The Global Opportunities team at York were instrumental in helping me secure this opportunity. I received excellent support and guidance throughout. I attended a series of workshops ahead of my year abroad, and this ensured I was well-prepared with essential information. All the University support networks were still available to me whilst I was overseas, and my department supervisor continued to have regular meetings with me."



## My key takeaways

"I think it is easy to be cliché about a year abroad. I cannot stress enough how much I enjoyed and was shaped by this experience, and I was lucky to be surrounded by other like-minded international students who also wanted to get the most out of the opportunity."

"My advice to anyone considering studying abroad is to go for it! It is such a unique experience that stands out on your CV. The skills and friends you make are life changing. When else do you get the experience to study and live in another country, to fully embrace another culture for a whole year."

# PENNY FOR YOUR *thoughts?*

Going to university can be a fun and exciting way to experience independence, sometimes for the first time.

Maia shares her top tips on how to make the most of student life in York and how to help your budget go further.



**Maia,**  
BA English/Politics

## Accommodation

"Can often be your biggest expense! There are so many options on campus to suit a range of budgets. Sharing a bathroom, cooking for yourself, and looking for shorter let lengths can all help to keep costs down."

## Student life

"At York, you'll join one of 11 colleges, which all offer free and fun events throughout the year.

"There are also over 300 student sports clubs and societies, which can be a free or low-cost way to experience new interests and friendships. I loved attending weekly Literature Society meetings and joining their free bookshop crawls – I also enjoyed the Harry Styles Fan Society's free painting and quiz nights!"



## In the city

"York is a bustling city packed with history, green spaces, pop-up festivals and street entertainment, constantly giving you new things to do that don't break the bank.

"Some of my favourite activities include picnicking in Museum Gardens, walking the city walls, or visiting the Minster (free with your university ID). I also love the National Railway Museum, and Shambles Market, and the best part is that visiting won't cost you anything."

## Working while studying

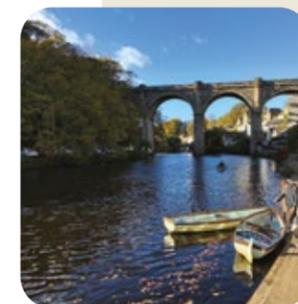
"If you want to work part-time whilst you study, there are student-friendly opportunities at the University, which are flexible and understanding of your studies.

"These include working in the Students' Union venues, or becoming a student ambassador. I have loved this role: it fit around my schedule and was so rewarding to help future students."

## Getting around

"York is a very walkable city, so getting around is easy and cost-efficient! Free buses run between Campus East and West, and student tickets are available.

"If you fancy a trip out, Leeds, Knaresborough and Harrogate are fantastic options by bus or train. A real highlight is the river boats at Knaresborough, perfect for a scenic row under the Viaduct."



## Food

"Budget-friendly student meals might conjure images of pot noodles and baked beans, but this doesn't have to be your fate! VisitYork and UniDays share the latest student deals, so you can enjoy York's great foodie spots.

"My favourite supermarkets, Aldi and Lidl, are easy to reach from campus, and planning meals or batch-cooking is a great way to help you save.

"The Students' Union also offers Fruit & Root for free healthy items, and the Student Pantry is great for free essential non-food supplies."



## Find your freedom

When you come to York for your studies, you'll find dedicated financial support. Our Student Advice and Communities team are on hand to offer advice and guidance, plus we have a number of scholarships and bursaries for eligible students.



Explore tips for managing your money, plus the support available:  
[york.ac.uk/mag-student-living](http://york.ac.uk/mag-student-living)

# THE STUDENT Compass

The day you join the University as an international student marks the beginning of an incredible adventure. But crossing continents means navigating a world of new customs, languages and challenges, far from everything familiar. Where do you even begin?

*Miriam*

**BSc ACCOUNTING, BUSINESS  
FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

"When I first arrived in York, everything felt new – the accents, the weather! But over time, I found comfort in the small things: from discovering more of York's hidden corners to sharing food with friends. Here are some of my top tips to help you settle in as a new international student:"

## 1. Best ways to make friends

"Some of my closest friendships were formed on my course and through academic events. You'll meet people who share your interests, and can easily build friendships with, through teamwork and shared experiences. Don't be afraid to say hi to someone new!"



"Studying abroad is your chance to grow and explore!"

"I'd also recommend attending the events organised through the Students' Union. Welcome Week was really exciting – it was a great opportunity to make new friends, learn about the vast range of societies, and soak up the campus energy."

"If you enjoy supporting others while developing yourself and feeling more connected to the University, sign up to work as an International Student Ambassador! It's a fantastic way to meet people from around the world and gain new experiences."

## 2. Top lunch spots

"There are loads of places to grab something to eat on campus. My go-to for lunch on Campus West is always Alcuin Kitchen. It's a cosy spot to grab a quick bite between classes, so give it a try."

"When it comes to hanging out with friends, we have a few go to spots on campus. The Link is one of our favourite places to relax because it is cosy, friendly, and perfect for grabbing a bite or chatting between lectures. Every meet up has helped me to feel more at home here."

## 3. Top city spots

"I'd strongly recommend anyone, especially with an Asian palate, to visit Noodle Lane! It's one of my favourite restaurants in York, and perfect if you're craving comforting, authentic noodles in a warm and welcoming atmosphere. The lemongrass fried chicken (香茅炸雞) is a must-try."

"And if the weather's nice, grab some food and a board game and have a picnic with your friends. Museum Gardens is a stunning riverside park in the heart of the city. It's such a beautiful and relaxing place to enjoy good food and great company."

## 4. Events, societies and activities

"There's truly something for everyone at York. Join any society that matches your interests, there are truly no limits! As an international student, you could start with something that feels familiar, but don't be afraid to explore new communities. You'll find lots of global societies, which allow you to meet people from all over the world."

"There's also some great sporting options, with loads of sports clubs to try. I went to a trampoline class, which I really enjoyed because it was such a fun way to de-stress. I also love heading to the York Sport swimming pool."

## 5. A final thought

"The best advice I can give: be confident. Don't be afraid to speak up or ask for help, even if your English isn't perfect. People here are friendlier and more willing to help than you might expect."

"And most importantly: dream big! Studying abroad is your chance to grow and explore! I never imagined I'd one day be here sharing my experiences with others, but it shows how much you can achieve when you step out of your comfort zone."



You'll find a range of support services to help you to get settled as a new international student at the University, from airport pick-up to orientation, immigration advice and preparatory courses.



Discover international support:  
[york.ac.uk/mag-support-international](http://york.ac.uk/mag-support-international)

# RAISING *the bar*

## Find your passion

The Students' Union at York is led by students, for students. Through representation, support and activities, it works to enhance the York experience.

Sports Officer Darcy represents student sport across all levels and disciplines. They share how getting involved has shaped their time at York.

*Darcy*

**SPORTS OFFICER,  
YORK STUDENTS' UNION  
BA HISTORY AND POLITICS  
CLASS OF 2025**

**"I want everyone to feel confident and able to access sport at the University."**

"The moment I arrived at York, I joined the University hockey team. I went on to captain the first team for two seasons, giving me a great experience leading talented, hardworking players at the top of their game.

"Whilst I love the enjoyment and unique team spirit that comes with playing group sports, my ambition then grew beyond a single club. I knew I wanted to get much more involved with the broader sports community here at York.

"In my second year, I applied to join the York Sport Union Committee. This gave me a chance to work supporting campaigns and events across the University. The experience gave me a new perspective on the role of the Students' Union.

"I loved being a part of the sporting community. The work I did as part of the team solidified my desire to run for the position of Sports Officer. I wanted to make our University, college, and social sport as great an experience for all students as it had been for me."

### A campaign for change

"My election manifesto focussed on inclusivity, representing the diverse community we have at York. I want everyone to feel confident and able to access sport at the University.

"Election week was very exciting. It gave me the chance to speak to many

students about their experiences and hear what university sport meant to them. The biggest takeaway was that as much as I can advocate for students, students also want the opportunity to advocate for themselves. It is my job to enable this.

"As Sports Officer, I act as the representative for all of York's students on all matters related to sport. I lead two committees to ensure continuous improvement, and I also lead the two big sporting events of the year, Roses, our annual sporting competition between Lancaster University, and College Varsity."

### Open field

"There is an activity for everyone at York, whether this is elite competition, a casual kick about, or simply a social walking or running club. The variety of sports we have on offer, across so many different levels, means there is truly a space for everyone, whether they consider themselves an athlete or not.

"Sport and physical activity are so important for student wellbeing, and I believe it is vital that it remains a priority for both the Students' Union and the University.

"My biggest recommendation is to give things a go! All of our sports clubs have Instagram accounts and are contactable by email, so you can easily reach out to find out more or get involved.

"The Students' Union Social Sport programme is one of the best ways to try new things. The programme has a series of weekly turn-up-and-play sessions that you can attend on your own or with friends, no matter your ability."

### My path to success

"For me, sport was a vital part of my studies at York. It gave me a community, a break from my assignments, and taught me valuable skills I will use in my future career. I can say, without a doubt, I would not have enjoyed my time at university or completed my degree to such a high standard had I not played sports here.

"Being a student at the University has been the best three years of my life! I made the most incredible friends who constantly encouraged me to be the best version of myself. From my college, course, and sports clubs, York gave me so many opportunities to meet amazing individuals who will hopefully be by my side for many years to come."

Find your new passion with the York Students' Union:  
[york.ac.uk/mag-students-union](http://york.ac.uk/mag-students-union)



# THIS IS US

Our parkland campus is home to big ideas, ambitious academics and passionate learners. Campus West is our original site, built around the Tudor manor of Heslington Hall.

Explore more of our campus: [york.ac.uk/mag-campus](http://york.ac.uk/mag-campus)



# CAMPUS WEST



### 1. Heslington Hall

This 16<sup>th</sup>-century manor is home to our Faculty of Arts and Humanities, as well as a public art gallery.



### 3. Newton's apple tree

A descendant of the tree which inspired Isaac Newton's theory of gravity stands in the courtyard of the School of Physics, Engineering and Technology.



### 5. Long Boi memorial

A life-size statue of Long Boi, whose towering height captured our hearts, unveiled by Greg James live on BBC Radio 1.



### 2. Library and archives

Home to over 1 million printed books, over 1,000 study spaces including sensory and family rooms, digital labs, archives and more.



### 4. Living wall

Over 21,830 plants were selected to create the living wall of our Environment building, which looks stunning and boosts local biodiversity.



### 6. Sports at 22 Acres

With over seventy sports clubs at York, our well-maintained playing fields are used for a range of sporting activities.



### COLLEGE ACCOMMODATION

- A** Alcuin College
- D** Derwent College
- H** Halifax College
- J** James College
- V** Vanbrugh College
- W** Wentworth College

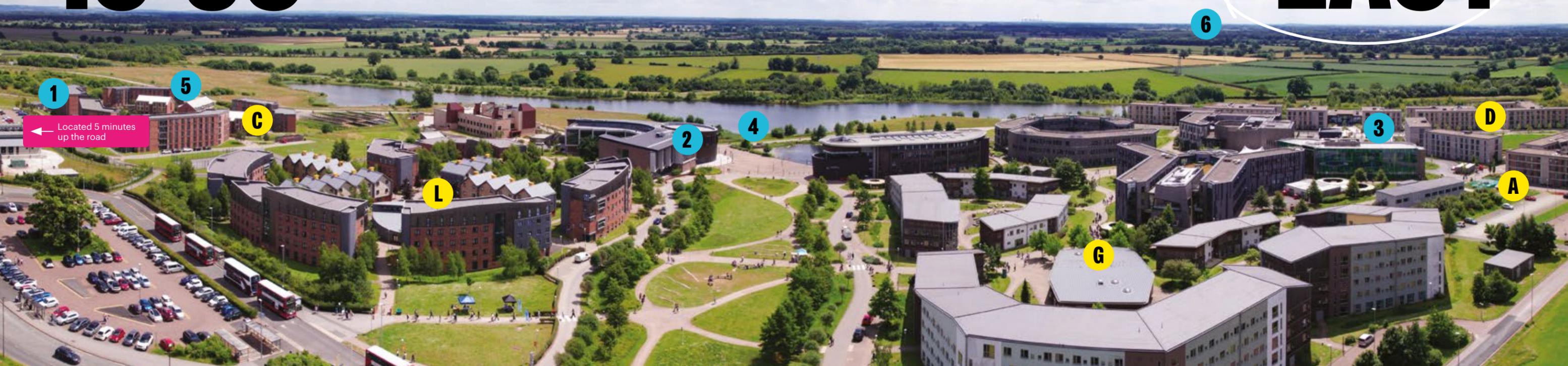
# THIS IS US

A short walk away, Campus East has been growing since 2008. It's peaceful, but there's always something exciting going on.

Explore more of our campus: [york.ac.uk/mag-campus](http://york.ac.uk/mag-campus)



# CAMPUS EAST



### 1. Sport Village

With a swimming pool, football pitches, fitness studios and more, our newly refurbished gym was recently voted best in York.



### 3. The Catalyst

Kick start your dream business with a Year in Enterprise, working alongside other startups in The Catalyst.



### 5. Pluto

This miniature dwarf planet marks one end of a scale model of the Solar System which stretches all the way from the observatory on Campus West.



### 2. Piazza Building

Constructed with sustainability in mind, the Piazza Building is home to a 350-seat auditorium, study spaces, and a cafe and restaurant.



### 4. Nature walk

Spot plants and animals on this circular walk around campus – a perfect way to de-stress in the fresh air.



### 6. Yorkshire countryside

York is surrounded by natural beauty: the North York Moors, the Howardian Hills, the Wolds and the Dales make for great day trips.



### College accommodation

- A** Anne Lister College
- C** Constantine College
- D** David Kato College
- G** Goodricke College
- L** Langwith College

# DISCOVER LIFE AT YORK

We've covered just some of the amazing stories that our students and staff have to tell. Why not take a step towards your next chapter?

## Areas of study

- Archaeology
- Architecture
- Arts and creative technologies
- Biology
- Business, management and finance
- Chemistry
- Computer science
- Economics and related studies
- Education
- Engineering
- English and related literature
- Environment and geography
- History
- History of art
- Languages and linguistics
- Law
- Liberal arts
- Mathematics
- Medicine with Hull York Medical School
- Music
- Nursing and midwifery
- Philosophy
- Philosophy, politics and economics
- Physics
- Politics and international relations
- Psychology
- Social and public policy, and criminal justice
- Social work
- Social and political sciences
- Sociology



Search the degrees we offer and find a course that's right for you:

- [york.ac.uk/study](https://york.ac.uk/study)

## York life

Discover hundreds of things to do and a beautiful city to explore:

- [york.ac.uk/student-life](https://york.ac.uk/student-life)
- [york.ac.uk/city](https://york.ac.uk/city)
- [york.ac.uk/ideas](https://york.ac.uk/ideas)

## Accommodation

Explore our accommodation and colleges:

- [york.ac.uk/accommodation](https://york.ac.uk/accommodation)
- [york.ac.uk/college-life](https://york.ac.uk/college-life)

## International community

Discover our diverse community of over 20,000 students from more than 140 countries:

- [york.ac.uk/international](https://york.ac.uk/international)
- [york.ac.uk/respect-at-york](https://york.ac.uk/respect-at-york)
- [york.ac.uk/together-york](https://york.ac.uk/together-york)

## Free short courses

Get a taste of our subject areas on a short free online course. Completing certain MOOCs might make you eligible for an alternative offer to study with us:

- [york.ac.uk/moocs](https://york.ac.uk/moocs)

## Meet current students

Find out what it's really like to live and study in York from the people who know best:

- [blogs.york.ac.uk](https://blogs.york.ac.uk)
- [york.ac.uk/chat](https://york.ac.uk/chat)
- [youtube.com/@UoYstudentvlogs](https://youtube.com/@UoYstudentvlogs)

## Connect with us

Get the latest news and updates, and a glimpse into life at York:

- @ [uniofyork](https://twitter.com/uniofyork)
- UoYstudentvlogs
- f [universityofyork](https://www.facebook.com/universityofyork)

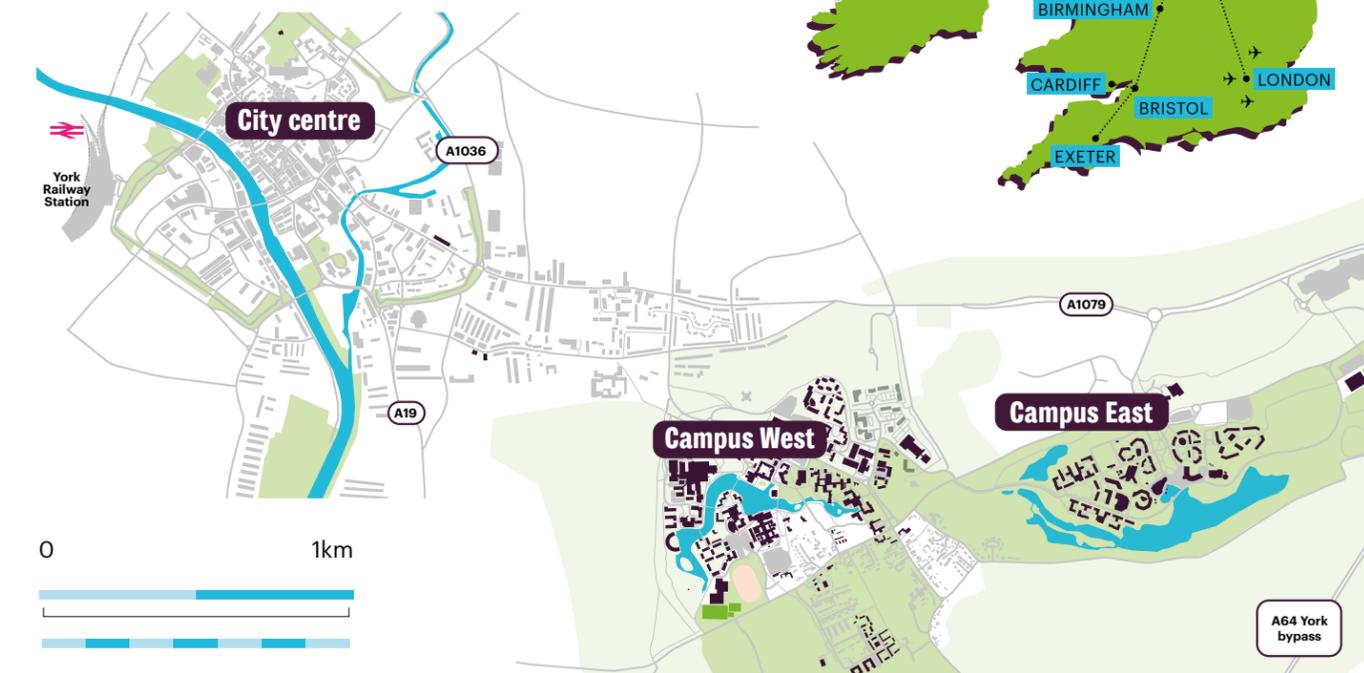
## Travel times

From York to other major cities by rail

London	2 hrs
Leeds	40 mins
Edinburgh	2 hrs 30 mins
Manchester	1 hr 45 mins
Birmingham	2 hrs 30 mins

From the city centre to the University (Campus West)

By taxi	10–20 mins
By bus	15–30 mins
By bike	12–15 mins
On foot	25–30 mins



## Getting here

### Air

There are international airports at Manchester and Leeds Bradford. York is under two hours by rail from London, so Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted airports are also within easy reach.

### Rail

York is on the main line between London King's Cross and Edinburgh, so trains are fast and frequent. There are direct services from York to other major cities including Birmingham, Bristol, Liverpool, Leeds and Manchester. The journey from the station to Campus West takes around 15 to 30 minutes by taxi, bus or bike.

### Road

Leave the A64 at the junction with the Hull/Bridlington roads (A1079/A166). Follow the A1079 towards York. The route to the University is clearly signposted. All public car parks on campus have reserved bays for Blue Badge holders.

You can reach York by coach from many destinations around the country. National Express buses stop at York railway station.

### ORDINANCES AND REGULATIONS

This publication is issued for the general guidance of prospective students and does not form part of any contract. Our ordinances and regulations, which are binding for all students, can be found on our website. Information correct at time of going to print: **January 2026**.

### PRODUCTION

Content, design, illustration and photography developed by the University of York. Thank you to all our contributors across each article, and to all that submitted photography.

Cover: 170gsm uncoated  
Text: 100gsm offset

The University of York is committed to environmentally friendly, sustainable printing. This publication uses Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) certified paper.



## Marketing, Recruitment, Admissions and Outreach

+44 (0)1904 324000  
[ug-admissions@york.ac.uk](mailto:ug-admissions@york.ac.uk) | [pg-admissions@york.ac.uk](mailto:pg-admissions@york.ac.uk)  
[international@york.ac.uk](mailto:international@york.ac.uk)  
[york.ac.uk/study](https://york.ac.uk/study)

University of York, York YO10 5DD



Meet us online or  
on campus:  
[york.ac.uk/visit](https://york.ac.uk/visit)



UNIVERSITY  
*of York*

Like what you read?  
Tell us what you think  
for a chance to win £50:  
[york.ac.uk/prospectus-feedback](https://york.ac.uk/prospectus-feedback)

Terms and conditions apply.

  [uniofyork](https://www.instagram.com/uniofyork)  
 [UoYstudentvlogs](https://www.youtube.com/UoYstudentvlogs)  
 [universityofyork](https://www.facebook.com/universityofyork)

PROUD TO BE  
**COMMUNITY  
UNIVERSITY  
OF THE YEAR**  
(The Mail University  
Guide 2026)

**RUSSELL  
GROUP**

**TEF** Teaching  
2023 Excellence  
Gold Framework

**Athena  
Swan**  
Bronze Award  
GENDER CHARTER

**1 OF 4**

Universities rated  
Gold for teaching and  
top 10 for research\*

\*Gold in the Teaching Excellence Framework 2023 and Joint 10<sup>th</sup> in the Times Higher Education ranking of the most recent Research Excellence Framework (REF 2021)