The University of Sheffield

Sheffield gained its Royal Charter to open as a University in 1905. When it first opened the University had only 363 students and 71 members of staff. We now have 26,000 students and 7,200 staff based in buildings on over a mile long stretch of campus.

The University of Sheffield is recognised as being one of the original ‘redbrick’ institutions. It is a member of the prestigious Russell Group, which is comprised of 24 major research-led UK Universities. The University is made up of 50 academic departments which are grouped into five faculties: Arts & Humanities; Engineering; Medicine, Dentistry & Health; Science; and Social Sciences.

We are rated 80th in the world in the 2015 QS World University Rankings. The University is ranked 97th in the world and 15th in the UK according to the 2015-16 Times Higher Education World University Rankings, a rise of three and 24 places respectively on the previous year.

1. The Students’ Union

The Students’ Union (SU) is run by students for students. The award-winning SU continues to provide students with state-of-the-art facilities following a £20 million refurbishment, including places to eat and drink, an amphitheatre styled space for special events within the Octagon Piazza, as well as more social and study spaces open for longer hours. The work has also brought the building up-to-date with modern efficiency standards, radically reducing annual energy consumption and the building’s carbon footprint. Why not have a look around yourself?

2. The Octagon Centre

This multi-purpose venue is an internationally-recognised conference centre and music venue, as well as being used for lectures and graduation ceremonies.

3. Firth Court

Firth Court was opened in 1905. It is currently home to the Department of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology. Visitors are welcome to look around the foyer, quadr and first floor at some of the historic features, but please be aware that access may be restricted dependent on events taking place. For further information, please call in at the Porter’s Lodge located on the left as you enter the building.

4. Alfred Denny Building

Named after Alfred Denny, the first Professor of Biology at Firth College which became the University of Sheffield in 1905. The building is home to the Departments of Animal & Plant Sciences and Biology.

5. Western Bank Library

Primarily used by final year and postgraduate students, Western Bank Library was the main University library until the opening of the Information Commons. The University’s libraries are on a number of sites and hold over 1.3 million printed volumes, as well as an extensive range of high quality electronic resources.

6. The Arts Tower

This Grade II listed building is now mainly an administration block, although the School of Architecture still occupies the top floors. At 78m high, the Arts Tower is the tallest University building in the country and was Sheffield’s tallest building until recently. The Arts Tower houses the paternoster lift system which is extremely rare. With 38 cars, it is thought to be the largest working paternoster in the world.

7. Dainton and Richard Roberts Building

The Dainton and Richard Roberts Buildings are home to the Faculty of Science. The East Wing was renamed Richard Roberts after the Nobel Prize winning Alumnus.

8. The University Arms

A real ale pub for University staff, students and visitors alike. Serves hearty lunchtime and evening meals.

9. Information Commons

The Information Commons was a £23 million investment from the University of Sheffield to create a state of the art learning centre. It opened in 2007 and was the first of its kind in the UK. It is a fully integrated learning environment combining both library and IT services, with approximately 100,000 in-demand texts, around 1300 study spaces and over 500 PCs. It is open 24 hours, 7 days a week and students benefit from specifically designed group study areas and IT classrooms. There is wireless networking throughout. The building is swipe access only to ensure it is reserved solely for the use of current students.

10. Jessop West

Geologically, the building is a block, although the School of Architecture still occupies the top floors. At 78m high, the Arts Tower is the tallest University building in the country and was Sheffield’s tallest building until recently. The Arts Tower houses the paternoster lift system which is extremely rare. With 38 cars, it is thought to be the largest working paternoster in the world.

11. Jessop East

Previously the Victoria Wing of Sheffield’s Jessop Maternity Hospital, the University has been careful to retain the look and feel of this building which is intrinsically linked with the city. It now houses offices and practice/teaching rooms for the Music Department.

12. The Diamond

This £81 million building – our largest ever investment in teaching and learning - has created a fantastic place for modern interdisciplinary teaching. As well as specialist Engineering teaching facilities the building is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and houses a range of lecture theatres, seminar rooms, open-plan learning spaces, library services and social spaces available to all students.

13. St George’s Church

St George’s is an old Church of England church which was built in 1821. It was purchased and converted into a lecture theatre by the University in 1994, following its closure several years earlier. It also provides accommodation for some postgraduate students on the upper level.

14. Sir Frederick Mappin Building

Opened in 1904 this was the first purpose-built University building. It was named after Sir Frederick Mappin, who was one of the key instigators in the creation of the University and the first Pro-Vice Chancellor. He was also a local steelworks owner and MP for Sheffield’s Hallamshire constituency. Originally the home of the Technical School, it now houses the Faculty of Engineering along with the Sir Henry Stephenson and Sir Robert Hadfield Buildings.

15. Regent Court

Regent Court is home to the Departments of Computer Science and Information Studies. The Departments of Economics and Journalism are located next door. Archaeology is just round the corner on West Street.

16. The Soundhouse

This innovative black rubber box building replicates the look of a sound speaker. It is a new development with state of the art practice rooms and recording studios for Music students.

17. Hicks Building

The Hicks Building is home to the Departments of Physics and Astronomy and the School of Mathematics and Statistics.
Please note that the self-guided tour is carried out at your own risk. Certain places may not be fully accessible depending on the time of your visit and ongoing development work. We ask that you take care when moving about.

Further information

SSID
SSID is a “one-stop shop” for student related enquiries. If you have any general questions about the University following your tour you can visit our Student Services Information Desk (SSID) during university working hours. SSID is located in the Students’ Union Building on level 3. Alternatively you can visit the 'Ask Sheffield' website: ask.sheffield.ac.uk

Careers Service
The Careers Service, based at Education House, supports current students with CVs, job applications, interview preparation and developing skills for the work place. Our graduates can access the service for up to three years after graduation helping them to progress to a vast range of graduate careers in the UK and across the globe.

301: Student Skills and Development Centre
301 offers a flexible, modern space with a range of services and activities to support student skills development. These include Academic Skills Workshop Programme, Study Skills Tutorials and SURE: Sheffield Undergraduate Research Experience.

Health Services
The University Health Service offers a full NHS GP service to all University of Sheffield students. The University also offers its own counselling service and disability/dyslexia support service.

Accommodation
For accommodation related enquiries please visit our website: www.sheffield.ac.uk/accommodation

Sport Sheffield
For information and questions about sport in Sheffield please visit our website: www.sport-sheffield.com/home

Transport Links
Direct trams run regularly from the University to the Railway Station, Meadowhall Shopping Centre and various park and ride facilities. Excellent bus services also link student accommodation with the University campus and city centre, although many students choose to walk.

Thank you
We hope you’ve enjoyed your self-guided tour around the University.

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