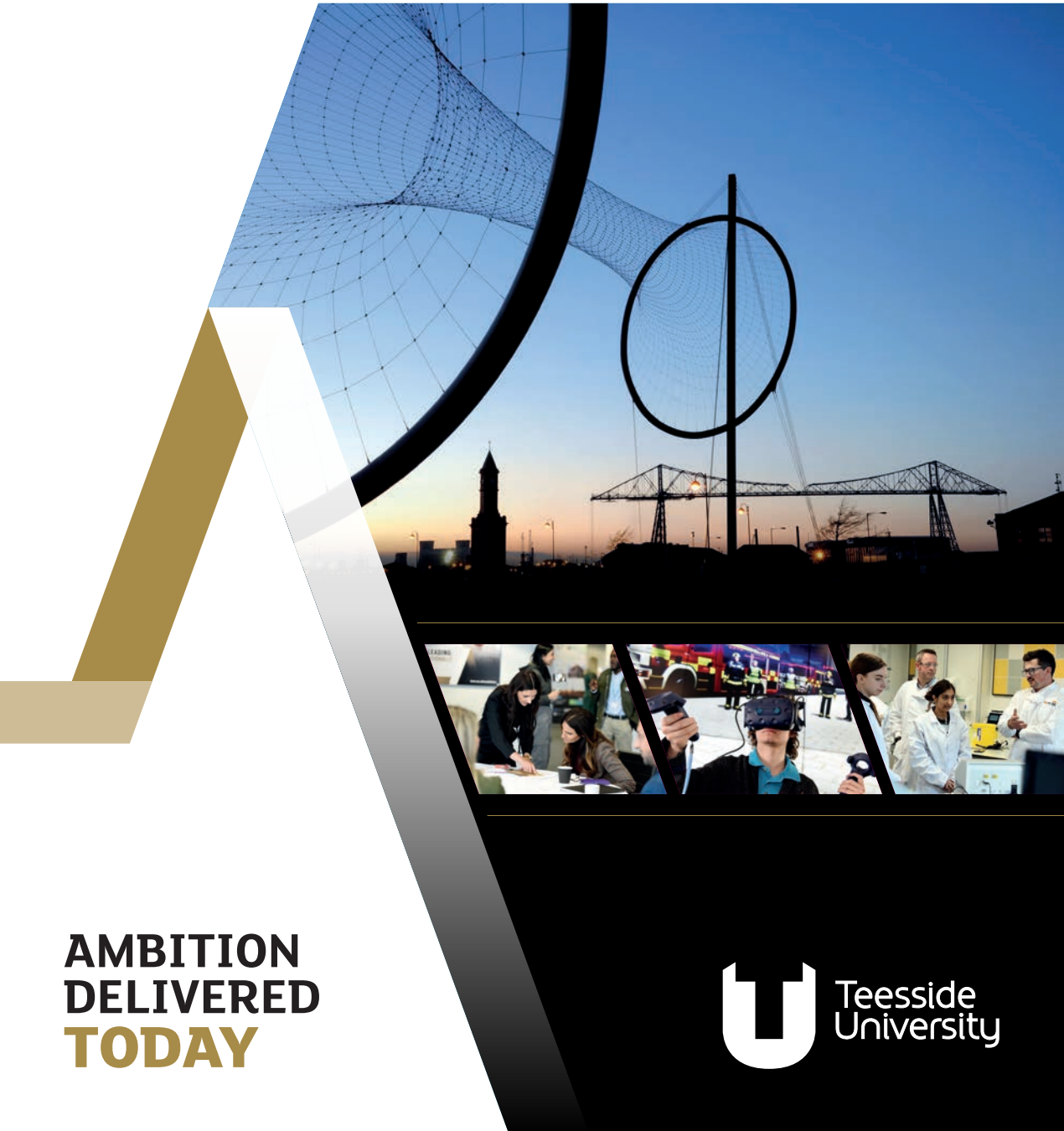


# Enterprise & Knowledge Exchange

Strategic Plan 2022 - 2027



**AMBITION  
DELIVERED  
TODAY**





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# FOREWORD

I am delighted to share this strategic plan with you which will drive the enterprise and knowledge exchange activities of Teesside University, positioning us as an enterprising institution, that complements our overarching mission of transforming lives and economies.

**This strategic plan fosters a holistic approach to business and civic engagement; enterprise, and skills development, generating positive outcomes for our students, partners and stakeholders.**

Our approach to partnerships will deliver on regional, national and global priorities through vital knowledge exchange, translational research, and innovation activity.

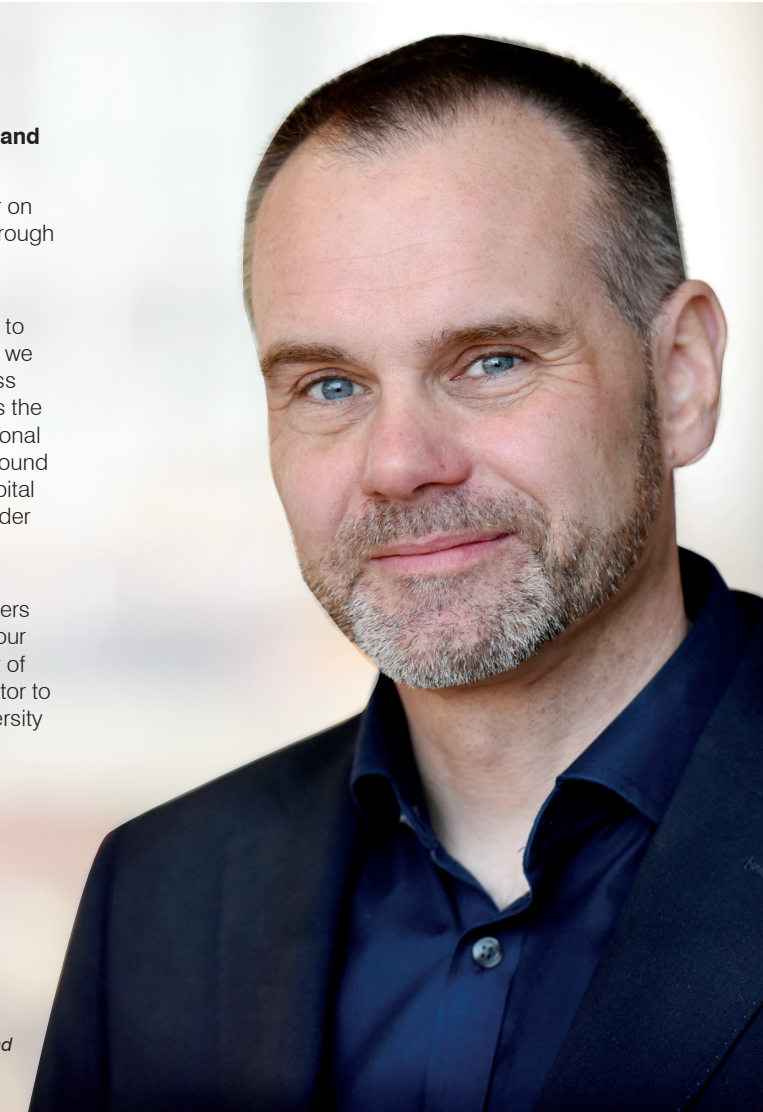
At Teesside University we are committed to our students, staff, and the communities we serve, striving to deliver excellence across all areas to enact positive change across the Tees Valley and beyond. Our annual regional economic contribution is estimated at around £148m GVA with a combined human capital impact\* estimated at £1.3bn, and our wider impact far exceeds this.

We embrace the challenges ahead, and through collaboration with key stakeholders regionally and beyond, we will leverage our position as an anchor institution, a driver of innovation and skills, and a global operator to maximise the impact that Teesside University can have.

**Professor Craig Gaskell**

**Pro Vice-Chancellor  
(Enterprise & Knowledge Exchange)**

*\*Including earning potential of our graduates and value of training and support delivered by the University 2020 - 2021*





TEESSIDE UNIVERSITY WAS RANKED JOINT

**30th**

for overall for graduate prospects

On Track in the Complete University Guide 2023

**£148M GVA**

OUR ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE REGION

TU Economic Impact Assessment (2020-21)

MORE THAN **615**

NEW BUSINESSES

launched by our graduates

CREATING

**1,330** JOBS

(August 2022)

**START-UPS**

< **8th** >

IN THE SECTOR

National ranking based on turnover figure of graduate start-ups, HEBCIS Return 2020-21

PROFESSIONAL APPRENTICES ON TU COURSES

OVER **2,000**

**£5.6M**

UNIVERSITY ENTERPRISE ZONE

**520** COMPANIES

benefited from our business support provision

2021-22

OVER **£280M**

INVESTED TO DATE IN CAMPUS MASTERPLAN

NATIONAL HORIZONS CENTRE (£22.3M)

NET ZERO INDUSTRY INNOVATION CENTRE (£13.1M)

TU LONDON CAMPUS ESTABLISHED (2023)

**£59M**

CONTRIBUTION TO THE LOCAL ECONOMY BY TU GRADUATE BUSINESSES

2021-22

tees.ac.uk/source

This Enterprise and Knowledge Exchange Strategic Plan is the result of extensive consultation with stakeholders and a root and branch review of our enterprise and knowledge exchange activity, building on the significant achievements of the University to date.

**We have an incredible platform to launch our 2027 enterprise and knowledge exchange strategy, which will nurture an entrepreneurial culture amongst our students and staff, deepen our partnerships with industry, create connections with the communities we serve, drive regeneration and innovation, and deliver the high-level skills for the workforce of the future.**

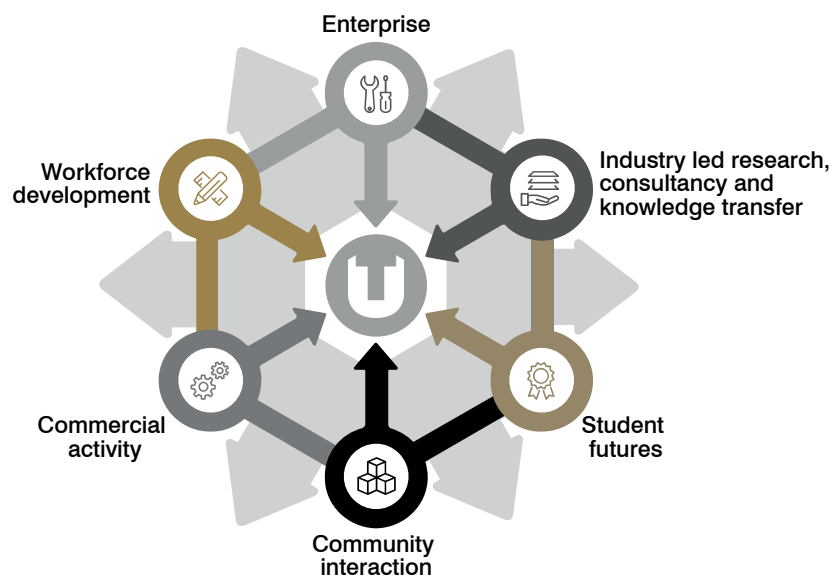
The UK is facing some of the greatest challenges experienced in decades including climate crisis, post COVID recovery, energy shortages and a cost-of-living crisis. And these challenges are felt more sharply in the Tees Valley region than most other parts of the UK. This makes the anchor role of Teesside University, driving regional regeneration through innovation and skills delivery, more vital than ever.

Mobilisation of our strategy is fuelled by empowering our staff and students to make a difference. Key strategic assets, including TU Enterprise and Innovation Ltd (our own commercial subsidiary); TU London (our new campus in the capital) – to access new networks; and over £75m of investment in new medical and digital facilities in Middlesbrough, will enable us to address the skills and innovation needs of the future.



# ENTERPRISE & KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE PORTFOLIO

The University's enterprise and knowledge exchange (EKE) activity is vast and cross-cutting. The portfolio covers a range of activities linked to the University's external facing business engagement and community interaction.



Our enterprise and knowledge exchange portfolio covers a wide range of activities, engaging our students and staff to have a positive impact on the world:

- > we support businesses to start-up, scale-up and succeed
- > we work with industry to co-create innovative solutions through our research offer
- > we enhance the employability of our graduates through employer engagement, live projects and placements
- > we embrace our anchor role to drive positive change in the community
- > we maximise the impact and value of our commercial outputs and products
- > we work with industry to enhance employee skills through our programme of continuing professional development and professional apprenticeships.

Over the next five years, we will enhance these activities, underpinned by a robust partnership framework and key strategic vehicles, to drive our innovation and engagement.

Complementing the future research, teaching and global ambitions of the institution, this strategy will facilitate a cohesive approach to deliver on the University's overarching mission of transforming lives and economies.

# CONTEXT

By 2027, this strategic plan will have positioned the University to deal with the challenges of the future.

**Informing this strategic plan we have consulted extensively with stakeholders including students and staff, and external partners to explore the challenges we face.**

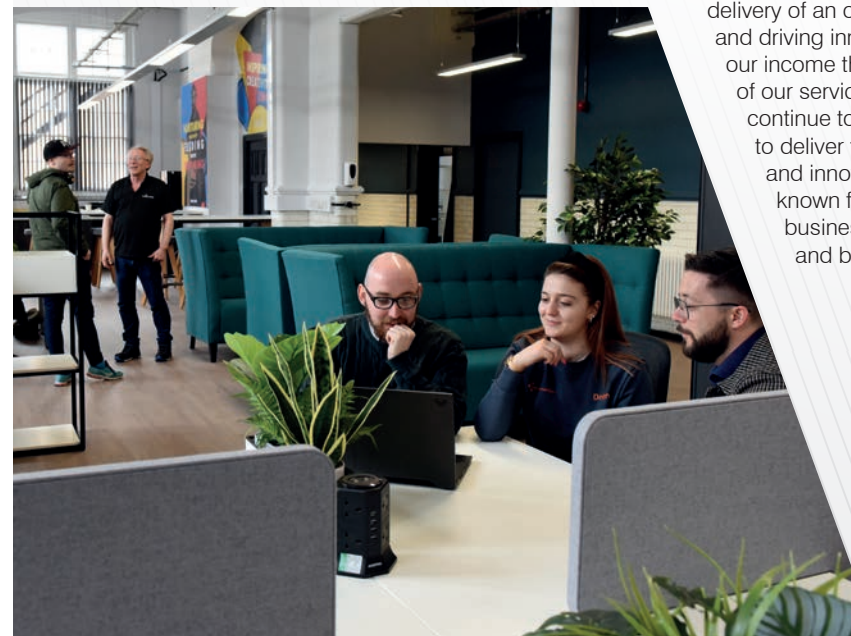
**DIGITALISATION:** The Tees Valley is set to become the UK's first smart region\* addressing social inclusion, structural infrastructure, and digital innovation. We will build on our reputation for digital and gaming expertise, and our strategic partnerships with Adobe, Apple and others, to create a smart campus, a new Digital Life building at its heart, powering engagement through teaching, research, and business support on campus and across the virtual world.

**CLIMATE CRISIS:** One of the first regions to be recognised for its net zero ambitions, the Tees Valley is working to create the country's first decarbonised industrial cluster. Through the University's Net Zero Industry Innovation Centre (NZIIC) we will work with industry partners to tackle decarbonisation and engage communities to explore what a just transition to a hydrogen economy means for them.

**PLACE:** The Tees Valley region has substantial structural economic challenges with high levels of deprivation, health inequalities, high unemployment, low levels of higher education qualifications, and low levels of adult literacy and numeracy compared to the UK population. Government support is being targeted at the region to drive inward investment and create new jobs such as the relocation of Treasury civil service jobs from London to the Darlington Economic Campus. We will work with stakeholders to unlock potential benefits in regional economic development to bring our aspiration for 'transforming lives and economies' to life and share these outcomes across the globe.

**CONNECTIVITY:** Our students and staff are valued champions with the confidence and capability to inspire others, drive innovation and deliver transformation in the region, UK and internationally. As an anchor institution, we will provide opportunities for our students and staff to collaborate with communities, businesses, and other external organisations to make a difference to society, culture, and the economy.

**SUSTAINABILITY:** The University's financial stability has enabled investment in its facilities and staff, delivery of an outstanding student experience and driving innovation. Diversifying and growing our income through commercialising some of our services, facilities and activities will continue to provide the stable base we need to deliver the outstanding student experience and innovative applied research we are known for, as well as driving an increase in business density in the Tees Valley region and beyond.



\*Tees Valley Combined Authority Digital Strategy 2022-2032



# STRATEGIC AIM & PRIORITIES

Our aim: To be an enterprising university, working in partnership to have a transformational impact on people, our region and the wider world.

We will deliver this by focussing on five strategic priorities.

## > Create an entrepreneurial culture, developing the skills, behaviours, and confidence to fuel enterprise.

- > We will work with employers to develop experiential learning opportunities that equip our students with the skills, confidence and behaviours to make a positive contribution to society.
- > We will enhance the number and sustainability of graduate start-ups, spin-offs and social enterprises to maximise the long term economic and societal impact of the university through its students, staff and ideas.



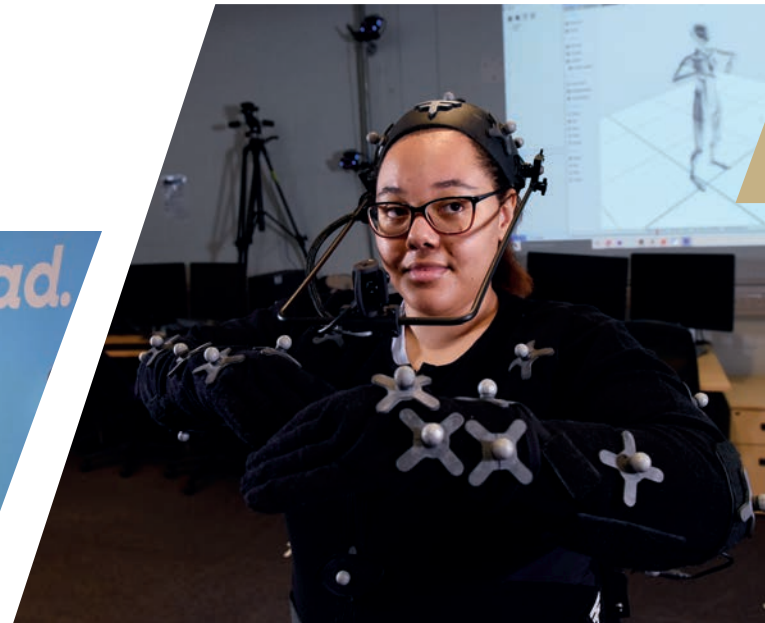
## > Develop and nurture sustainable strategic relationships, providing benefits to partners, students, alumni, and staff.

- > We will enhance our partnership management model to improve the way in which external partners engage with the University, driving an industry-led and proactive approach.
- > We will increase and enhance impactful partnerships based on shared values, and a commitment to transforming lives and economies through education.



## > Drive regeneration, working with businesses and organisations to co-create solutions to challenges, drawing on the knowledge, expertise and talents of our people.

- > We will leverage our expertise in research and innovation to address regional, national and global challenges around key thematic areas including digital, people and place, health and wellbeing, and net zero.
- > We will work with key stakeholders to optimise the region's profile, promoting opportunity, innovation and expertise.



## > Deliver the high-level knowledge and skills essential for a talented, diverse, and future-facing workforce for our region and beyond.

- > We will develop market-led, solutions-focussed skills pathways and products, that support the sustainability of the workforce.
- > We will enhance student industry interaction, providing a range of opportunities for students to showcase their skills, expertise and knowledge to employers across all sectors.



> **Create connections between the University and the communities it serves, through meaningful interaction, collaboration, and inclusion.**

- > We will improve access to campus, welcoming communities, organisations, businesses, and policymakers to share information, ideas and inform our offer.
- > We will work with public, private and the third sectors to drive social and economic change for the communities we serve.



## DELIVERY

The success of the Enterprise & Knowledge Exchange Strategic Plan will be achieved through collaborative working across the University and with our external networks.

**Key strategic assets of the Teesside University Group will be enhanced, and new institutional vehicles operationalised, to drive the University's ambition, including:**

 NATIONAL HORIZONS CENTRE



**National Horizons Centre (NHC)**

Our £22.3m flagship centre of excellence for health and biosciences supports the growth of the sector across the Tees Valley, which is now host to world-leading biologics manufacturers and firms from across the world.

It powers economic growth in the industry, creating jobs for local people, and highlighting the region as a hub for activity, innovation and investment.

Partnerships sit at the heart of the NHC model, ensuring a real-world impact through joint research, consultancy, specialist training and development, access to cutting-edge equipment and co-creation spaces. Our emphasis on collaboration puts businesses and organisations at the forefront of innovation.







## Net Zero Industry Innovation Centre

Driving the University's journey to net zero by 2030, the £13.1m Net Zero Industry Innovation Centre (NZIIC), will position the region and the University at the heart of the UK's green industrial revolution.

Supporting the ongoing call for clean energy and sustainability, the NZIIC is the latest development at the expanding Net Zero Innovation Hub, spearheaded by the University and the Tees Valley Combined Authority. The centre convenes expert insight, resources and partnerships to grow net zero capabilities and opportunities, promoting the region's expertise in addressing the clean energy agenda and helping to create hundreds more clean energy jobs.



## TU Enterprise and Innovation Ltd (TUEI)

TUEI has been established to help commercialise Teesside University's products and services, and invest in new business ideas that benefit people, businesses, and communities we serve. It will leverage the University's knowledge, expertise and professional services to yield future income, support new ideas with potential for significant growth and enhance our business interface.

TUEI supports the University's ambition to grow and diversify its income base in response to current and changeable market conditions. This proactive approach will help the institution to continue to invest in facilities and expertise from a position of resilience and security, supporting sustainability of our commitment to deliver our core mission; to transform lives and economies.

## Atmos

Atmos is the health and science training delivery arm of the University that offers a comprehensive training and development offer to local, national and global companies. A wide range of expertise across a variety of health disciplines sees Atmos work closely with local health authorities to identify current and future skills needs.

Cutting-edge facilities, including clinical simulation and sonography suites, bioinformatics and imaging labs, enable Atmos to provide education and training to our health apprenticeship cohorts and a bespoke offer for health professionals.



## Launchpad.

## Launchpad

The University's start-up hub powers the generation and growth of new businesses led by our graduates. Part of a £5.6m University Enterprise Zone, Launchpad's team of enterprise advisers work with students and graduates to identify opportunities and develop them into new businesses with the potential for growth.

The space offers a thriving community for new and existing TU start-ups, providing co-working and business start-up accommodation working side-by-side with other new businesses.

Launchpad shapes our enterprise education, developing our curriculum to provide every student with the opportunity to gain practical insight into the enterprise possibilities in their field of study, whether that be freelancing, new business start-ups or intellectual property licensing. Bespoke programmes help develop the skills of new CEOs to capitalise on investment opportunities, and connect new companies with grant awards, and to access investors and the venture capital community.





**U** Teesside University | London **TU London**

The University's new campus in London will be an innovation hub enabling the University to access new markets, deliver student number growth and act as a strategic base for development of partnerships, business engagement activity and diversified revenue streams.

Aligned to the University's ambition around the levelling-up agenda, TU London will enhance our student employability and enterprise ecosystem, providing a new base for student and staff activities.

The development of a new partnership network in the capital provides a vehicle to expand the reach of the University and the region, enhancing the profile of the University's work across the world, and the potential of the Tees Valley region as a destination of choice for business and investment.



Here East



Teesside University London, based in Here East on the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.



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