

## Looking to the Future

### **Introduction:**

De Montfort University (DMU) is proud to be the United Nations Academic Impact Hub for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)16: Peace Justice and Strong Institutions. The hub oversees initiatives to advance all SDGs both in teaching, research and outreach.

To do this effectively, DMU collaborates with the United Nations and Economic and Social Council partners, universities and other institutions to promote local and global peacebuilding efforts, particularly in developing countries and areas of deprivation using research projects, educational opportunities, and policy advocacy aimed at strengthening governance and promoting peaceful societies.

The university engages with outreach programs, workshops, and events that aim to address social inequalities and promote social justice within the local context by fostering strong community ties and encouraging civic participation.

The university frequently organises campaigns and events to raise awareness about issues related to SDG16, such as human rights, justice, and peace. These activities engage both the university community and the broader public in discussions and actions that contribute to the advancement of peace, justice and strong institutions and all SDGs.

Our ethos at De Montfort University as the 'Empowering University' has a cross-cutting theme which is dedicated to sustainability and the SDGs. Therefore, when considering opportunities when looking to the future, we are proposing to continue:

- Championing systems thinking with our students as one of our new 'Graduate Attributes' aligning to Education for Sustainable Development pedagogy
- Developing best practice case studies celebrating where SDGs are embedded within the DMU curriculum via multi modal teaching and learning activities
- Expanding our internal web platform to share sustainability and SDG activity and resources across the institution for students and colleagues
- Promoting SDG activities and sustainability events throughout the academic year
- Engaging with students, colleagues, external stakeholders and partners with sustainability and SDG activities
- Supporting all colleagues and students with embracing sustainability and SDGs in their subject areas
- Highlighting exemplars of sustainability within teaching, research and knowledge exchange
- Celebrating colleagues and students for implementing SDG activities
- Finally we are launching innovative opportunities for 100 SDG Hub Impact Fellows (further details below)

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### **SDG Hub Impact Fellows**

A new initiative to appoint 100 Fellows from across the institution comprising academics, PhD students, and Professional Service colleagues, across all SDGs but with a specific focus on the university's research and teaching strengths including: 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16, and 17.

The wider objectives of these Fellows; who will comprise five key areas of the university: Teaching Fellows, Research Fellows, Knowledge Exchange and Practice Impact Fellows, PhD Fellows, and Professional Service Fellows, are to:

- Pledge to promote SDG Hub activities and opportunities to students and colleagues
- Use their disciplines to advance work towards the targets and indicators of the SDGs
- Attend SDG Hub events
- Participate in teaching and research showcases
- Contribute to generating evidence for SDG activities

Beyond this exciting new initiative, it is the ambition of DMU to develop stronger international partnerships for collaboration on the SDGs, particularly with universities in the global south.

With the clock ticking down towards last five years of the SDGs, the university wants to use this as an opportunity to use the SDG framework targets and indicators to develop new innovations in research and teaching and new relationships to create long-term impacts at pace.