



**Civic University**  
Network

Case Study:

# King's College London:

A civic university at the heart of London

## Background

The future of King's is interwoven with the future of London – as a place to live, work, learn and experience.



By the time we reach our 200th anniversary, in 2029, we aim to be regarded globally as a civic university at the heart of London, working in partnership to contribute to the success of the city in which we create our home.

This means close collaboration with London's businesses, policymakers, universities and further education institutions, as well as with the communities in our home boroughs of

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Lambeth, Southwark and Westminster. And it means connecting the global to the local, extending the reach and benefits of problem solving to generate knowledge that benefits London and the world.

King's strategy, [Vision 2029](#), sets out our ambition to achieve this. As part of King's Vision 2029 internal consultation, we identified a huge appetite among staff and students to play a greater and more systemic role in London.

## Consultation and strategy development

To better understand where King's might best collaborate and contribute to our local boroughs King's initiated a two-phased internal and external consultation process.

The internal consultation was open to all members of the King's community while the external consultation gathered the views of local communities, authorities and businesses, providing clarity on their perspectives and expectations of King's.

Arising from the consultations, King's has set out five priorities:

- [London as a living classroom](#) - We work with partners in London to develop formal and informal learning opportunities for students that integrate London into their experience and help them to develop the skills and networks that will support them in their future careers.
- [London as a living laboratory](#) - Through our research collaborations and partnerships with London's businesses, organisations and agencies, we work across disciplines to help London address its challenges and opportunities.
- [Working side-by-side with local communities](#) - Through mutually beneficial relationships with local communities, we are developing collaborative approaches to shared challenges.
- [Connecting the global to the local](#) – King's is proud to be a global institution that takes seriously its role in, and responsibility to, the city and the communities around us.
- [Extending partnerships across higher education](#) - Working together to explore opportunities and address challenges through coalition and cooperation.

Each of King's nine faculties brings the strategy to life through a range of partnerships across the capital where faculties have [identified priorities for collaboration](#) with London and Londoners. These collaborations draw on London as both a living classroom and an active

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laboratory, creating distinctive learning and research opportunities while serving London and helping to ensure the success and wellbeing of the city and its communities.

In each faculty, a London Champion works closely with colleagues to maximise the potential of partnerships with London, across education, research and service.

Each faculty has adapted the role of London Champion to fit with both the culture and the disciplinary mix of the faculty which helps to ensure that priorities are more closely aligned to those of external communities and partners.

## #KingsLocal

Through the external consultation with local communities, charities and the local councils of King's home boroughs, Lambeth, Southwark and Westminster, where King's has campuses, we've identified four areas, leading to the development of the [KingsLocal framework](#), where we can do even more together to serve, support and sustain our local communities:

- Education & attainment: ensuring everyone can aim high and reach their full potential
- Business & enterprise: supporting the development of thriving local economies while creating opportunities for all
- Community resilience: strengthening communities and helping them develop solutions to the problems they face
- Health & wellbeing: improving the health and wellbeing of our communities through local partnership.

To deliver on this goal, we're building stronger relationships with local authorities and working side by side with local organisations and community leaders to develop collaborative approaches to our shared challenges.



Bespoke [statements of intent with each of our local boroughs](#) identify areas for collaboration informed by their ambitions and King's strengths, and where [King's Civic Charter](#) sets out our clear commitment to London and the people who live, work and study here.

## King's Civic Charter

The Charter pledges that King's will:

- **Contribute to the vibrant and thriving communities** of which we are a part: listening, sharing information and identifying opportunities for partnership
- **Respect the lived experience of our communities**, seeking ways in which we can work together to generate knowledge that contributes to the health and success of our home boroughs and the people who live and work in them
- **Welcome our communities** to take part in activities across our campuses
- **Support our communities in challenging disadvantage and inequality** through research, teaching and service activities in collaboration with residents, local authorities, schools, businesses, civil society organisations and community groups.