



# University of East London

**The University of East London (UEL)** has been at the heart of Newham since our founding in 1898. And we were all-in when the Olympic and Paralympic Games took place on our doorstep in 2012. From hosting Team USA (and Michelle Obama) to monitoring the Olympic Park's biodiversity to collaborating with the many businesses and organisations which moved east after the Games, our Olympic legacy is tightly woven into the fabric of our institution.

Our 10-year strategy, Vision 2028, builds on this legacy with a core commitment to inclusion and social mobility, and a promise to advance research and entrepreneurial knowledge that will support our communities, diversify the east London talent pipeline, and build a greener planet and more sustainable future.

## A legacy of sporting excellence and inclusion

Taking inspiration from our Olympic legacy but updating it to fit with current institutional and community needs, our Global Sports Strategy uses the power of sport to transform lives at elite and grass-roots levels, partnering with local, regional and international organisations to champion inclusion, health and belonging.

- Our Docklands campus provided residential and training facilities to Team USA and the Team GB medical team in 2012. Our SportsDock complex is open to all members of the community. Since 2012, 36,000 students and local residents have used its world-class facilities.

- After the 2012 Games, UEL expanded its focus on high-level sport while also ensuring such opportunities were made available to as broad a population as possible. This has included leading and participating in:
  - SportInYourFutures, which has brought more than 1,065 pupils from 21 primary schools in Newham to SportsDock for physical education and exposure to new sport activities and role models. This is where you'll find Team GB's future Olympic and Paralympic heroes.
  - Since 2012, UEL's Sport Scholar programme, which provides an opportunity for elite athletes to train and compete while excelling academically, has grown 614% and generated 11 Olympians and Paralympians. The University is TASS Dual Career Accredited, a recognition of UEL's strength in supporting these student athletes. Of the 155 sport scholars at UEL in 2022, 85% identify as Asian, Black or mixed race.
  - In late 2020, we launched, with Sport England, the East London Talent Pathway (ELTP), a three-year, £600,000 initiative which supports athletes with potential from BAME backgrounds and people from economically disadvantaged circumstances. UEL offers a wealth of resources to these athletes – including mentors, world-class coaching, medical care and access to a multitude of sports.
  - UEL also sponsors the East London Phoenix, founding member of the professional British Wheelchair Basketball Women's Premier League. Phoenix players, some of whom are Paralympians, can frequently be found working with young people in Newham on sport, resilience and self-confidence.

## A repository for British Olympic history

The University's Archives and Special Collections house the British Olympic Association archive collection, with documents and memorabilia from the London Olympics of 1908, 1948 and 2012. Items include posters, gold medals, an Olympic torch and much more. These historical treasures will be showcased at a series of exhibitions and events, open to the public, that the University is hosting this year to celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the 2012 London Olympics and Paralympics.



## A legacy of sustainability

Dr Caroline Nash and Dr Stuart Connop of the University's Sustainability Research Institute were involved in the biodiversity planning and evaluation of the Olympic Park during its development and throughout its subsequent legacy.

Dr Nash and Dr Connop continue to work to evaluate how the Olympic Park's greenspaces and greenspace management have been contributing to the targets laid out in a Biodiversity Action Plan. Dr Nash and Dr Connop are currently advising Id Verde on a new habitat creation initiative in the Olympic Park, and were also involved in conservation planning at the Olympics mountain biking venue at Hadleigh Park in South Essex.

## A legacy of employer engagement and support for business transformation

As London continues to move east, a legacy that began with the 2012 Olympics and Paralympics, and the region becomes the new home of sustainable and forward-thinking businesses, UEL aspires to be at the heart of this newly emerging ecosystem.

UEL is creating the Royal Docks Centre for Sustainability (RDCS), which will be a regional hatchery for innovation and enterprise.

The 2012 Games made east London a more attractive place to do business. Driven by a commitment to ensure our graduates are a first choice for employers, we have been able to tap into this greater pool of employers to offer our students placements, which, in turn, have created a sustainable employment model.

UEL currently has more than 1,000 apprentices and 4,500 students in work placements, many of them located in east London.