



UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER

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Pro Vice-Chancellor and Head of the College of Science and Engineering



We are Citizens of Change





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Welcome from the President and Vice-Chancellor

Diverse in our makeup and united in ambition – we pursue excellence in knowledge and learning to transform our community, our world and beyond. We are Citizens of Change.



PROFESSOR NISHAN CANAGARAJAH, PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR

Dear Applicant

Thank you for your interest in this exciting opportunity to play a leading role in helping to shape the future of this great institution.

I was delighted to launch the University's new Citizens of Change strategy in November 2021. In this, I committed the University to research-inspired education, world-changing research and a focus on people, partnerships and impact.

The three values that run across the heart of our strategy are being inclusive, inspiring and impactful. These values speak to the kind of university we are – and will be in the future.

We believe that equity, diversity and inclusion are integral to a successful place of work and study. We proudly embrace our diversity with staff and students from over 100 countries working and studying at Leicester, bringing with them an incredible diversity of viewpoints, beliefs, attitudes and approaches which enrich both the University and the city.

We have had outstanding successes in the past year in terms of our research and league table performance. Our University is now placed consistently amongst the top 30 universities in the country. A rise of 11 places in the Complete University Guide means we now rank 29th in the league table of higher education institutions in the UK. In the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2023, Leicester ranks 163rd among the world's universities and 22nd in the UK. Given this rapid progression, it's no surprise the Daily Mail has named us "University of the Year" for 2024.

In 2023, the University of Leicester was awarded an overall Gold rating in the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF), signifying that both the student experience and outcomes are typically outstanding.

This prestigious accolade places Leicester among a select group of institutions that have achieved TEF Gold alongside a top 30 performance in the Research Excellence Framework (REF), highlighting excellence in both teaching and research.

Research England published the results of REF2021 and the results show that, since the previous REF in 2014, the University has moved up 23 places to rank 30th overall in the Times Higher Education REF rankings. This represents one of the biggest climbs of any university and is an outstanding achievement. This is our best ever performance in a research assessment exercise and an exceptional testament to the quality and impact of our academics' research and the wider research environment.

We are seeking an exceptional candidate for the position of Pro Vice-Chancellor and Head of the College of Science and Engineering. The College comprises five research-led Schools: Chemistry, Engineering, Computing

and Mathematical Sciences, Physics and Astronomy and Geography, Geology and the Environment. Together, these Schools teach diverse programmes of study for campus-based undergraduate and masters students in range of laboratory and technical subjects.

In addition, the College hosts the prestige research facilities, Space Park Leicester that facilitates a collaborative community of space engineers, academics and industry partners working at the forefront of the UK space sector.

The role of Pro Vice-Chancellor and Head of College for Science and Engineering at the University of Leicester will lead and drive an ambitious strategy and vision across the UK and internationally over the next 5 years, leaving an impressionable footprint in the delivery of our Research Inspired Education, Citizen and World Leading Research.

You will have a focus on securing the financial sustainability for the College and able to adjust strategies according to sector needs by confidently navigating priorities, contributing to the growth of the College and University.

Researchers within the College have international reputations and collaborations with researchers throughout the world, making it an exciting environment for both research and teaching. The College has a wide range of innovative and exciting research and international networks which facilitate collaborative work focused on theoretical and real-world solutions.

Reporting directly to the Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, you will be a member of the Executive Board and drive performance management and innovation, lead on strategic business development opportunities and partnerships including active collaborations with national and international stakeholders in education, research government and industry roles.

As a member of the Executive Board, the successful candidate will help to shape the University's future strategic direction and drive its implementation. This is a significant and challenging role for a candidate of the highest calibre who will inspire others to achieve their best, with the vision and drive to ensure that there is a lasting legacy of excellence and innovation in all that the College of Science and Engineering seeks to achieve.

If Leicester sounds like the place for you and you have the skills, experience and desire to make a difference, we look forward to hearing from you.



**PROFESSOR NISHAN CANAGARAJAH
PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR**



We have established a reputation as an open, accessible and friendly university, where people enjoy their work.

Overview of the University of Leicester



The University of Leicester is a dynamic and inclusive institution, celebrated for our inspiring academic programmes, ground-breaking research, and supportive community.

Founded over 100 years ago as a symbol of hope for the future, we are the only university in Europe established by its community as a living legacy to those who made sacrifices during the First World War. This is reflected in our motto, *Ut vitam habeant* - 'so that they may have life.'

Based in one of the UK's and Europe's most culturally diverse cities, our identity and mission have been shaped by this rich tapestry. Students and staff from around the globe come together to engage here, contributing an incredible array of perspectives, beliefs, and approaches that enhance both our university and the vibrant city of Leicester.

We play a vital role in the regional economy, serving as a leading employer and an active supporter of music, arts,

sports, and culture. Each year, we contribute over £360 million to Leicester's economy, underscoring our commitment to the community.

Our commitment to excellence is evident in our recent investment of over £500 million, which has transformed our campus into a world-class environment with state-of-the-art facilities designed for the future. This includes the newly developed Freeman's neighbourhood—a lively space for students to live, learn, and connect.

As *Citizens of Change*, our researchers are dedicated to tackling some of today's most pressing challenges, from combating viruses and diseases to improving air quality, protecting our natural environment, and promoting social justice. The diversity of our research reflects the rich variety of our community, creating a broad impact on society.

Our reputation speaks for itself, with global recognition for our discoveries and contributions to advancing knowledge. Our standing in the league tables positions us among the leading universities in the UK.

While we take pride in our heritage and accomplishments, the University of Leicester is resolutely focused on the future. Our spirit of discovery inspires innovative thinking, empowering us to seize new opportunities as we embark on our second century.

15,478
undergraduate
students



£340 million
research portfolio (live grants)
from over 250 funders



5,046
postgraduate
students



4,000
staff



33%
international
students



£385 million
turnover



2024 Statistics



College of Science and Engineering

The College comprises five research-led Schools: Chemistry, Engineering, Computing and Mathematical Sciences, Physics and Astronomy and Geography, Geology and the Environment.

With approximately 640 staff, these Schools teach diverse programmes of study for campus-based undergraduate and masters students in range of laboratory and technical subjects.

In addition, the College hosts Space Park Leicester; a collaborative community of space engineers, academics and industry partners working at the forefront of the UK space sector.

Student breakdown

The student body comprises a total of 4367 individuals including 3242 undergraduates (UG) students, 907 postgraduates taught (PGT) students, and 218 post graduate researchers (PGR).

International students account for 27% of the total population, with 1179 individuals from outside the country, consisting of 260 UG, 767 PGT, 112 PGRs students and 40 Distance Learning (DL) students. The College currently contributes 40% of the University's campus based PGT students.

Student recruitment

The student recruitment intake for 2025-2026 encompassing both undergraduate and postgraduate taught programmes is planned to exceed 2100. By 2030, the goal is to increase student recruitment by an additional 30-35%.

Teaching growth

Significant growth has been observed in the following academic areas, Computing with a focus on Data Science and Artificial Intelligence and Aerospace Engineering and Mechanical Engineering.

The College's STEM Foundation Year is an essential part of a longer degree course, rather than a stand-alone qualification and has played a crucial role in supporting student progression into Year 1 undergraduate programmes and the University's widening participation agenda.

To further expand our academic offer, several new programmes have been launched including undergraduate degrees such as Computer Science with AI, an integrated masters in Mathematics and Actuarial Science, Biomedical Engineering (MEng/BEng), Physics with Data Science, and Physics with Climate Science. New taught postgraduate programmes include Data Science, Environmental Data Science, AI for Business Intelligence, Embedded Systems and Control, and Environmental System Science. Additionally, the International Foundation in STEM programme has been introduced to support international students aiming to pursue STEM-focused undergraduate degrees.

Space Park

Space Park Leicester (SPL) is an internationally-significant, collaborative community and the 2nd largest campus-based cluster with a dedicated space focus in the UK. SPL undertakes world-leading research, supports innovation, and offer skills and education to help advance the UK space sector. In our unique, integrated 'end-to-end' community of industry experts, academics, and students work together, on everything from innovative upstream engineering through to the downstream capture, analysis and application of space data. Twenty organisations are currently based at SPL and benefit from state-of-the-art laboratory facilities with access to office

and communal spaces. Space Park also offers professional development programmes, such as the 'Fundamentals of Space' course, designed to provide learners with a clear understanding of the origins and applications of space missions, as well as the science, engineering, and regulation of spaceflight.

Space Park Leicester is home to the National Centre for Earth Observation (NCEO), a research centre supported by the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC). SPL also hosts a regional office for UKSA and is the location for one of the European Space Agency's Business Innovation Centres. This unique integration of research, innovation and education positions SPL as a strategic asset in delivering the UK's industrial competitiveness in the space sector.

Institute for Space

The Institute for Space works in collaboration with Space Park Leicester to address some of the most pressing space sector and global sustainability challenges. Central to this approach is the aspiration to pursue interdisciplinary space-enabled or space-related projects. The Institute brings together the diverse space community working across the University, a network of nearly 300 people. The themes of the institute are: Space for Society exploring how space impacts





humankind, culturally, socially and economically; Space Environment exploring the sustainable use of space and the Sun's impact on our planet and lives; *Life in Space* examines how space affects the human body, life science experiments in space in addition to looking to habitable environments beyond Earth and; Space Technology look to the next generation of science instruments and technologies and their applications across space and for use in other disciplines.

International partnership with Apollo

The University has joined forces with The Apollo University and Apollo Hospitals in India and launched a global centre for digital health and precision medicine research. Leicester and Apollo initiated the partnership in 2023, when they signed a Memorandum of Understanding to explore collaborative education and research programmes, particularly in the fields of healthcare management, healthcare and data science and the centre launched in January 2024. The relationship between the institutions progressed in 2024, with the announcement of our first collaborative course: a computer science undergraduate degree programme which sees students study for two years at The Apollo University in Chittoor,

with the opportunity to progress to their final year and graduation at the University of Leicester.

Apollo and Leicester has announced the creation of two further non-health-related undergraduate degree programmes in business and management, and electrical, electronic and information engineering.

Institute for Environmental Futures

The Institute for Environmental Futures seeks solutions for environmental futures that maintain the human habitability of our planet, protect and restore nature, and stabilise the climate. The Institute is an interdisciplinary initiative and integrates a critical mass of environmental researchers from across a broad range of academic disciplines, spanning arts, social sciences, humanities, physical sciences and life sciences. The Institute's key research themes are: Habitable Earth, Environmental Justice and Natures of Exclusion, Environmental Loss and Damage, Climate Risks, and Resilience. The research strengths it draws on include environmental Earth Observation (Earth Observation Science, Space Park Leicester), environmental health, environmental data science and machine learning, biological sciences, palaeo-environmental research, social sciences, arts and humanities as well as health sciences.



Dalian University of Technology (China)

The Dalian Leicester Institute (DLI) is a Joint Education Institute (JEI) that gained PRC Ministry of Education (MoE) approval in March 2017 to teach three, four-year undergraduate degrees in China with the University's partner, Dalian University of Technology (DUT). The Institute currently offers three undergraduate degree programmes in the subject areas of Applied Chemistry (corresponding the Programme of Chemistry at UoL), Mathematics (corresponding the Programme of Mathematics at UoL) and the Process Equipment and Control Engineering Mechanical Engineering (corresponding the Programme of Mechanical Engineering at UoL). Each Programme initially enrolls up to 100 students each year for full-time undergraduate Bachelor degrees. Through DLI, a successful application for the China Scholarships Council (CSC) studentships was the first CSC award achieved by the University of Leicester. Through flying faculty we teach a total population of 1179 UG students in China. We are seeking to extend the partnership with two new academic UG programmes and new MSc and PhD opportunities, currently awaiting approval.





The role

Job title:

Pro Vice-Chancellor and Head of the College of Science and Engineering

Salary:

Competitive with a £30,000 additional responsibility allowance for tenure as Head of College.

Department:

College of Science and Engineering

Hours/contract:

Full-time

This appointment is initially for a four-year period. When the term is completed, you will be offered a professorial position on a permanent basis.

Reference:

11435

Role purpose

As Pro Vice-Chancellor and Head of College and a member of the University's Executive team you will play a key role in shaping the University's future strategic direction and driving its implementation. You will be an outstanding academic leader accountable for the academic and financial management of the College.

You will lead on the development and implementation of College strategies and operational management in line with the University's strategy, aims and objectives. You will be responsible for excellence in research, teaching, student experience, and enterprise, deepening inter-school collaboration, through effective leadership, annual planning and resource management.

Working with Heads of Schools, you will provide outstanding leadership and seek to identify creative and innovative ways of working, implementing improvements to services and staff.

Main duties and responsibilities

Leadership

- Play an active role in the Executive Board, assisting in achieving the University's Strategic Plan and goals, contributing to University planning and to the formulation of policies and procedures and taking a lead on specific issues and implementation at college level.

- Explore opportunities in relation to teaching and learning, research and enterprise for the College's portfolio, building development opportunities, networks and partnerships including active collaboration with national, international stakeholders in government and industry roles.
- Provide outstanding leadership in people management, defining and setting standards of excellence in research and teaching.

Strategic planning and operational management

- Manage financial, staffing and other resources to ensure achievement of the University's strategy and compliance with financial and other controls.
- Set strategic and operational objectives for the college, with respect to teaching, research and enterprise to support growth opportunities.
- With the Heads of Schools, and with and Deans of Teaching and Research and Academic Centres, develop, implement and regularly review the College Plan, setting performance targets consistent with the University's strategic direction.
- Explore opportunities in relation to teaching and learning, research and enterprise for the College's portfolio.

People and resource management

- Manage the Heads of School, College Deans and Executive Director of Space Park Leicester to provide outstanding leadership, playing an active role in recruitment, management and development of people in conjunction with Human Resources and relevant policies and procedures.

- Work with Heads of Schools and College Deans to achieve agreed income and other targets including proactively increasing enterprise and commercial opportunities.
- Actively promote the diversity and inclusivity of the College by continuing to drive and build upon our culture including maintaining and extending our Athena Swan accreditation.

Research and teaching

- Develop and implement coherent strategies to deliver and set high standards of excellence in research and teaching, ensuring operational frameworks exist to ensure delivery of the objectives.
- Ensure an effective strategy is implemented with regards to REF, KEF and TEF, ensuring the attraction of research funding and effective bid and funding management.

External representation

- Promote the University values of high standards of professionalism in teaching and research, focusing on the needs of students and other stakeholders, collegiality, interdisciplinary, integrity and community service.
- Promote the well-being of staff and students in the College, fostering a culture of respect in all aspects of operation and leading.
- Promote the College as a place of international repute in which to study, research and work and encourage international collaboration and exchange.



Qualifications, knowledge and experience

Essential

- Significant research and/or teaching profile that aligns with one or more of the key strategic priorities for the College.*
- Significant and demonstrable track record of successful leadership, strategic development and delivery gained within the academic sector.*
- Recent demonstrable experience of leading a large complex unit e.g. School, Department and supporting/leading projects across a College/the University.*
- Demonstrable experience of leadership and turning plans into action, taking into account developments in the competitive landscape as well as the particular characteristics of the current Leicester experience.*
- Ability to think strategically, develop vision for the future of the University/College with demonstrable experience of strategic leadership and delivery.*
- The capacity to manage a substantial financial resource, with proven experience in the delivery of complex budgetary processes, ideally involving other external partners.*
- Experience of successfully managing staff, with the ability to combine both decisiveness and a consensual approach to management where necessary.*
- A demonstrable track record of working with academic partners.*
- Extensive knowledge of developments in the Higher Education arena, both nationally and internationally, and a high regard for research, scholarship, teaching and learning.

Desirable

- Knowledge and experience of distance learning will be an advantage.

Skills, abilities and competencies

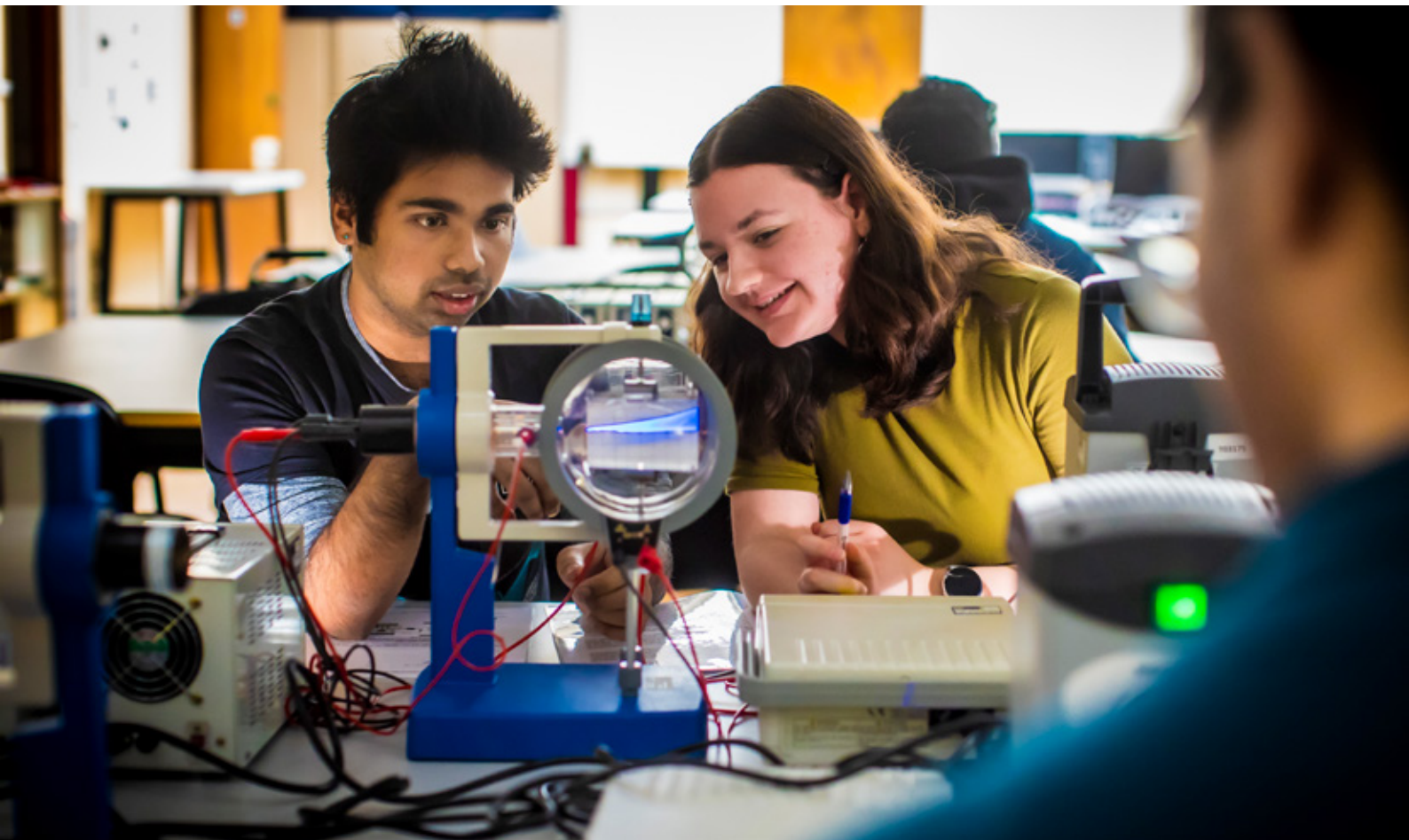
Essential

- Proven capabilities as a leader and manager with a flexible, inclusive and collegial management style appropriate to the complexity and diversity of the University.*
- Ability and track record of leading continuous organisational change and development effectively.*
- Demonstrable commitment that inspires academic excellence.

- Outstanding communication skills, natural authority and a commitment to excellence in all areas.
- The ability to influence and gain the confidence of colleagues from a breadth of academic disciplines, in particular those other academic areas in the College structure.
- Financial and commercial acuity, and the ability to formulate robust business plans to support the College's strategic priorities.
- Demonstrable commitment to the promotion of equity and diversity. The ability to secure widespread engagement in and commitment to such a vision, and to motivate colleagues around its delivery.
- The ability to respond to changes in the external political, policy and educational environments.
- A commitment to the development of the College's culture and systems to facilitate the recruitment and retention of outstanding colleagues.
- Evidence of excellent negotiating and influencing skills.
- The ability to undertake a substantial ambassadorial role and to establish effective relationships with government, funding bodies, research councils and other stakeholder organisations in the UK and internationally.
- Outstanding communication skills, natural authority and a commitment to excellence in all areas.
- A commitment to people development and the organisational values and behaviours that underpins the culture and values of the University.

*Criteria to be used in shortlisting candidates for interview.





University values

Inclusive – We are diverse in our makeup and united in ambition. Our diversity is our strength and makes our community stronger.

Inspiring – We are passionate about inspiring individuals to succeed and realise their ambitions. We challenge our community to think differently, to get involved, and to constantly embrace new ideas.

Impactful – As Citizens of Change we will generate new ideas which deliver impact and empower our community.

Equity, diversity and inclusion

We believe that equity, diversity and inclusion is integral to a successful modern workplace. By developing and implementing policies and systems that challenge stereotypes across all aspects of our work, we have a culture that recognises and values the diverse contributions of our staff which benefits everyone. Our strong values of inclusivity and equity support our efforts to attract a diverse range of high quality staff and students, and identify our University as a progressive and innovative workplace that mainstreams equity, diversity and inclusion.

How to apply

Applications should consist of a full academic curriculum vitae detailing relevant qualifications and experience, full employment history and achievements. CVs should be accompanied by a covering letter describing briefly how candidates meet the criteria outlined in the person specification, why the appointment is of interest and what they believe they can bring to the role.

Applications can be made through our recruitment system Eploy. Please click on the below link to apply:

<https://jobs.le.ac.uk/vacancies/11435/pro-vice-chancellor-and-head-of-the-college-of-science-and-engineering.html>

The deadline for applications is midnight on **28 February 2025**.

First stage interviews will take place remotely on **19 March 2025**, and second stage interviews will be in person on **09 April 2025**.



Living in Leicester

Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland are rich in culture, heritage, and leisure activities, from our vibrant multicultural city, to the beautiful market towns and rural villages.

Often described as the heart of rural England, the area features beautiful country villages, the National Forest, great rivers and castles, and a cosmopolitan city centre, making it an exciting and diverse place to live and work.

Leicester is one of the UK's ten largest cities and represents the largest economy in the East Midlands region. It has a bustling and diverse atmosphere and recent regeneration (to the tune of £3 billion) has made this cosmopolitan city even more exciting. Leicester is home to the state-of-the-art Curve theatre, as well as large and multicultural festivals. It is famous for its diversity and offers an amazing chance to dive into many different cultural celebrations.

Leicester celebrates Diwali (the Festival of Light) with spectacular lights, stunning street parades and dazzling fireworks. This is attended by 35,000 people and is the largest celebration of the festival outside of India. The city also hosts an annual Pride Parade (Leicester Pride), a Caribbean Carnival, and the largest comedy festival in the UK.

The University, working in close partnership with the city, has been the inspiration behind two of Leicester's most famous tourist attractions. The award-winning National Space Centre – the UK's largest attraction dedicated to space exploration – and the King Richard III Visitor Centre which retells the dramatic story of the University's discovery of England's most infamous King. Leicester is well-known as a sporting capital – hosting the country's best-supported rugby team the Leicester Tigers as well as Leicester City Football Club and Leicestershire County Cricket Club.

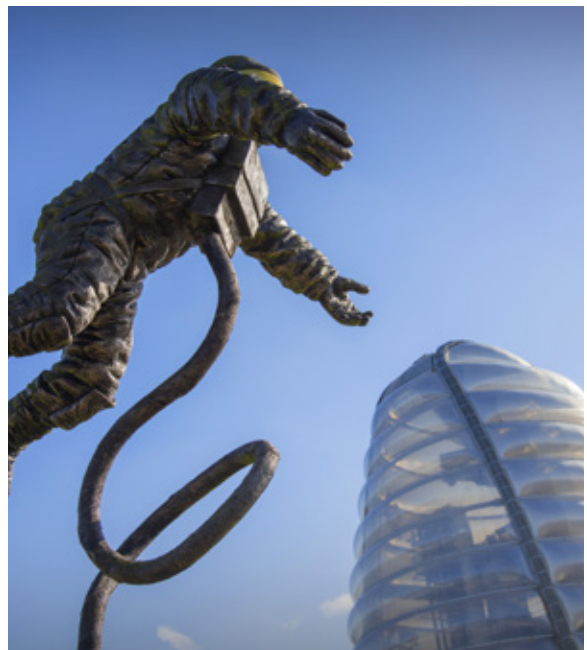
The city benefits from a large number of public parks including Abbey Park and also Victoria Park which is adjacent to the University. Leicester is steeped in history, dating back to the original Iron Age settlement which was to become an important Roman trading centre with a commanding position on one of Britain's



Leicester represents the largest economy in the East Midlands region.

most important routes – the Fosse Way. The growth of manufacturing industry reached its peak in the great hosiery, textiles and footwear enterprises of the 20th century.

On Leicester's doorstep is the National Forest, offering cycling, riding and walkways, adventure activities and some of the most impressive landscapes in the region, including Charnwood Forest and Swithland Reservoir. To the east is Rutland Water, one of the largest man-made reservoirs in Europe, which supports a wide range of water sports. Leicester and the surrounding region offer a wide choice of property to buy or rent. In the city itself, there is a diverse mix of housing and apartments. Both new and older properties, including substantial homes, can be found in leafy parts of Leicester within easy reach of the University. Alternatively, there is property available in the attractive villages and market towns in Leicestershire and Rutland such as Market Harborough and Oakham. House prices are markedly less than those in London.





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