

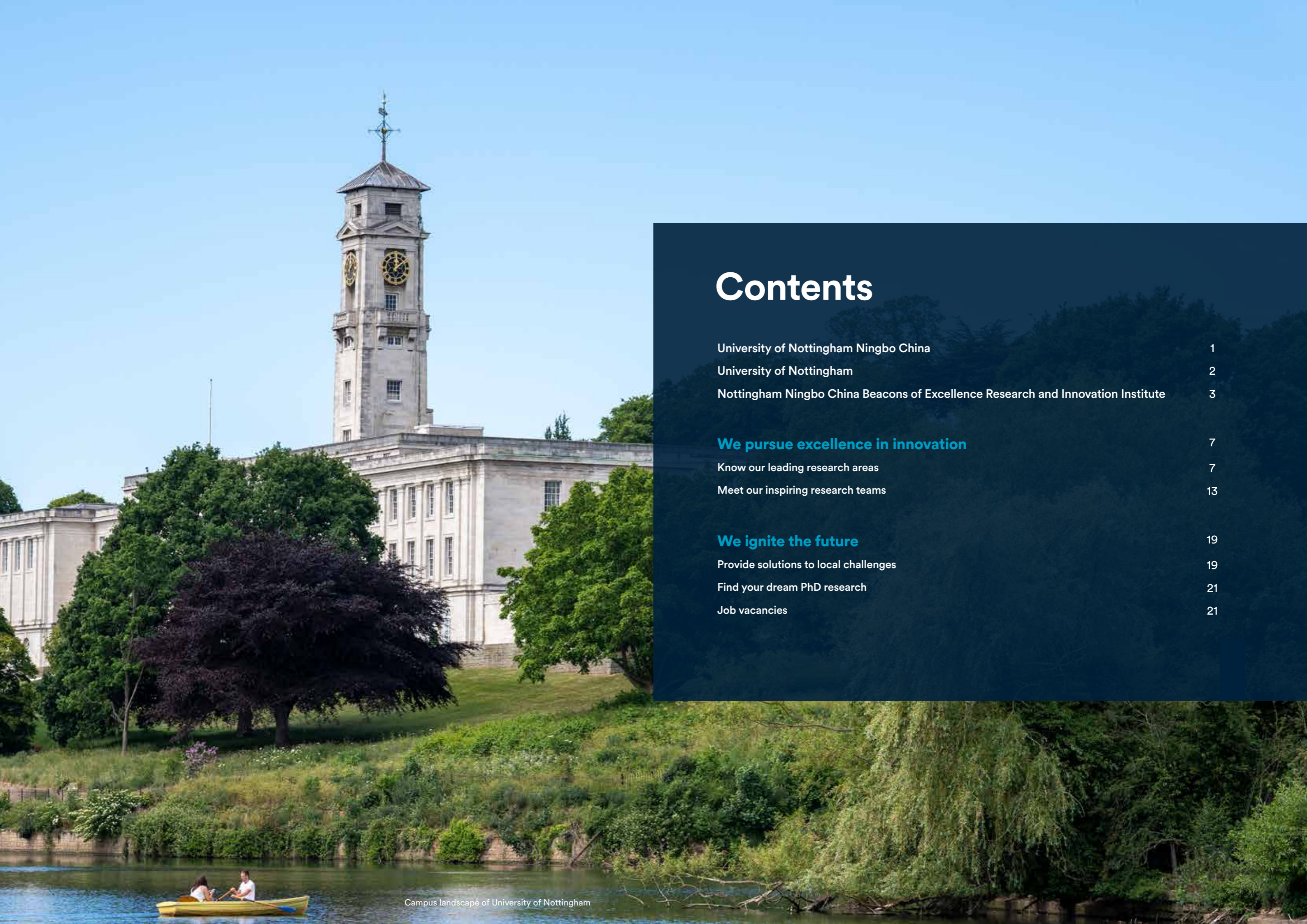
**University of
Nottingham**
UK | CHINA | MALAYSIA



2025

University of Nottingham Ningbo China

Nottingham Ningbo China
Beacons of Excellence
Research and Innovation
Institute



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University of Nottingham Ningbo China

The University of Nottingham Ningbo China (UNNC) was the first Sino-foreign university to open its doors in China. Established in 2004, with the full approval of the Chinese Ministry of Education, UNNC is a collaboration between the University of Nottingham in partnership with Zhejiang Wanli Education Group, a key player in the education sector in China.

- Full English, small class, interactive teaching
- Textbooks introduced from UoN
- Faculty appointed by UoN, or selected globally based on the same criteria
- Teaching and quality assurance system of UoN
- Network and teaching resources shared with UoN
- Degree certificates exactly the same as those of UoN
- Partnership with nearly 150 world-renowned universities around the world to provide students with the opportunity to exchange during their university life without additional tuition fees

University of Nottingham

Founded in 1881, the University of Nottingham (UoN) is a world-class research university.

- A member of the Russell Group
- A founding member of Universitas 21
- Ranked 7th in the UK on the measure of “research power” in the Research Excellence Framework
- Obtained the Queen’s Anniversary Prize (for higher education)
- Delivered a Gold standard in the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF)
- Nobel Prize Laureates in Economics, Medicine and Chemistry

In 2017, UoN launched the Beacons of Excellence Initiative that championed the University’s field-leading responses to global challenges, covering Precision Imaging, Propulsion Futures, Smart Industrial Systems and Green Chemicals.

The Beacons of Excellence Initiative at UoN has been widely recognised in the UK and Europe, with positive responses from industry. UoN integrates the innovation resources and strengths of the three campuses in the UK, China and Malaysia, and has brought over 300 research teams together. In addition, the Beacons of Excellence Initiative aims to attract a total of between 6 and 8 billion RMB from external funding sources by strengthening external partnerships and networks to ensure its sustainable development.

Nottingham Ningbo China Beacons of Excellence Research and Innovation Institute

The Nottingham Ningbo China Beacons of Excellence Research and Innovation Institute (hereinafter referred to as "the China Beacons Institute") is a world-class scientific and technological innovation platform built upon the international science and technology innovation resources of UoN for innovative research, research outcome transformation, technology transfer and talent cultivation. It was jointly established by the Ningbo National Hi-Tech Industrial Development Zone Management Committee, UNNC and the Zhejiang Wanli Education Group under the framework agreement signed between the University of Nottingham and the Ningbo Municipal Government in May 2019. The establishment of the China Beacons Institute shows a combination of a world-class university with its advanced science and innovation and national development strategies and local social and economic development.

The China Beacons Institute will leverage the unique "Ningbo-based and global-oriented" advantages of UNNC. By introducing the key international technological and innovative resources of the Beacons of Excellence from the UK, the intention is to attract global technology innovation resources. This will allow the China Beacons Institute to focus on original research and cutting-edge new technology development, the aim being to establish a world-class scientific and technological innovation platform with innovative research, research achievement transformation, technology transfer and talent cultivation, in order to support and drive the industry development of Ningbo.

Vision

To create a sustainable innovation eco-system with the integration of advanced technology research, outstanding talent cultivation and research knowledge transfer to turn ideas and dreams into reality.

Mission

To attract and cultivate outstanding researchers internationally
To develop the most transformative and innovative research
To unlock the best commercial potential of advanced technology
To accelerate local innovation and enhance its global impact

Features

The China Beacons Institute will focus on four "ins", being international, interdisciplinary, innovative and interactive.



International



Interdisciplinary



Innovative



Interactive

Top talent recruitment

Recruit globally for outstanding talent and establish world-leading research teams.

Cutting-edge technology R&D

Focus on cutting-edge technologies, and undertake fundamental research to tackle the global challenges facing industries in China.

Innovation talent training

Build a global ecosystem for talent cultivation tailored to the demand of Ningbo, to cultivate future entrepreneurs and global technology leaders with innovative, entrepreneurial and creative capabilities.

Disseminating science and technology achievements

Promote the transfer and dissemination of the science and technology achievements of global community of UoN to Ningbo City to support local industries.

Technology incubation

Encourage the transfer of research achievements from laboratories to market, and become an accelerator for hi-tech enterprises.

Innovation resource sharing

Share the research facilities with the public, and carry out exchange, cooperation and interaction to maximise efficiency.

International collaboration

Link to global innovation eco-networks, master the global trend of science and technology, build strategic research partnerships and improve the overall innovation capacity.

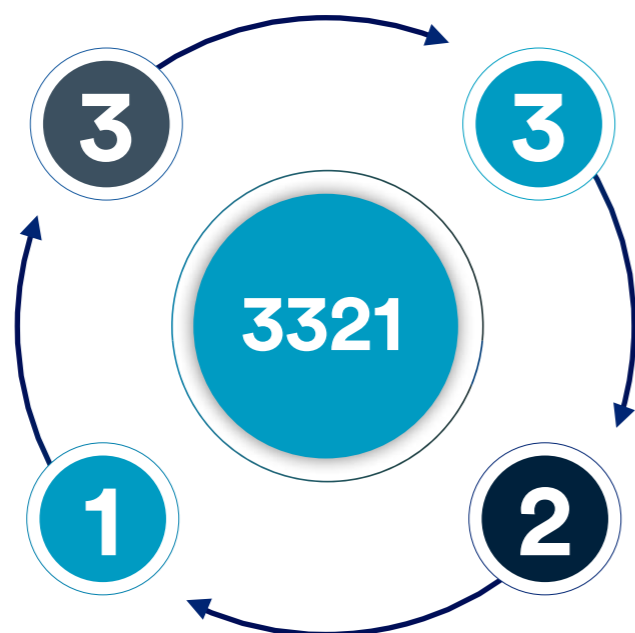
Development strategy

3 Perspectives

Drawing on UNUK established strengths
Tackling pressing local challenges
Building on UNNC proven capability areas

1 Feature

International on talent, resource and governance



3 Beacons

Intelligent Manufacturing
Green Chemicals and Energy
Life Science and Healthcare

2 Modes

Sino-foreign joint laboratory
University-industry joint laboratory



Strategy

Aimed at establishing a world-leading scientific research institute, the China Beacons Institute is guided by local strategies and needs, focusing on major scientific and technological projects and cutting-edge technological innovation. Intelligent Manufacturing, Green Chemicals and Energy, and Life Science and Healthcare are the three key research themes to promote innovation from a global perspective. The China Beacons Institute will gather global wisdom to build a first-class team of academics and lead the development of innovative industry. Through delivering steering, original and symbolic research outcomes, the Institute is committed to underpinning Zhejiang Province's goal of building scientific and technological innovation highland.

Key objectives include:

1

To establish the three Beacons of Excellence Innovation Centres in Intelligent Manufacturing, Green Chemicals and Energy and Life Science and Healthcare. The China Beacons Institute will establish several research and innovation laboratories reaching the standard of Provincial Key Lab /Yongjiang Laboratories. It will also develop several joint laboratories or engineering centres with the local industries in the areas closely linked to the local industrial system of Ningbo.

2

To establish an excellent research team through secondment from the University of Nottingham, internal recruitment and research engagement, global recruitment campaigns, and inter-campus collaboration.

3

To establish an International Innovative Doctoral Education Base and train PhD students with global insights and industry experience.

4

To promote cooperation in innovation and entrepreneurship between China and the UK; to develop a Public Technology Platform, Technology Accelerator, IP and Commercialisation Office, International Technology Transfer Centre and Investment and Financing Office, forming an innovation and entrepreneurship eco-system and culture.

5

To achieve high-level innovation capacity and competitiveness, and to produce high-level research outputs; to apply for and secure external income via knowledge transfer, technology training, technology services, commissioned research and government funding at all levels.

We pursue excellence in innovation

Know our leading research areas

Intelligent Manufacturing

Aiming to assist global partners with research on precision manufacturing, green energy saving and smart automation technologies, the China Beacons Institute will focus on intelligent technologies. The China Beacons Institute will cooperate with government to build the intelligent manufacturing incubation, which promotes the high-quality innovation of the industry and enhances competitiveness of manufacturing in Yangtze River Delta.

Additive Manufacturing Research Centre (AMRC)

Taking equipment development, new material development and special structure design as its priorities, the Additive Manufacturing Research Centre (AMRC) customises the next-generation products with composite functions based on heterogeneous materials through the state-of-the-art additive manufacturing technology in combination with voxelised processing and design methods. AMRC, targeting the two major research fields of green chemicals and life science and healthcare, will take advantage of its latest additive manufacturing technology to accelerate frontier technological innovation in these two fields, and at the same time assist the maturity and application of related products. Aside from efforts made in research and development, it also aims to establish international impact, and has been actively engaged in exchanges and cooperation with key institutions in related fields at home and abroad, to jointly tackle frontier challenges. It will build an international R&D team with 15-20 members in the next five years in this respect.

In addition to the research teams mentioned above, there are also teams specialised in **advanced electric drive systems, composite materials, sensor technology, VR and others** in the Institute. For more information, please visit the official website of China Beacons Institute: www.nottingham.edu.cn/en/cbi

Intelligent Human-centred Innovation Laboratory

The Intelligent Human-centred Innovation Laboratory is grounded in the field of Human-Computer Interaction. We apply an interdisciplinary approach in areas of AI and machine learning, multi-sensor fusion technologies, Physical Ergonomics, Cognitive Ergonomics, Augmented reality to study human behaviours, evaluate the use of systems in realistic environments. Research conducted in the lab will develop the new theories, models, concepts and methods that are currently lacking, but required if technology is to be ultimately successful. It aims to empower today's manufacturers to adopt a more user-centred approach to enhance the customer experience, ensure safety and ultimately stand out in the fierce competition market.

Green Chemicals and Energy

In response to the sustainable development of industry and the needs of international energy and the environment, the China Beacons Institute aims to assist with the development of new green energy and environmental related technology to help the industry conquer barriers. It will establish a world-leading energy technology and focus on research on green chemistry and engineering, distributed energy of organic waste, and urban mineral resources. It is committed to leading global partners to promote the development of emerging energy and environmental protection industries.

Green Catalysis Laboratory

The Green Catalysis Laboratory focuses on researching and developing new catalysts and related catalytic technologies to improve the efficiency of existing catalytic processes and unlock new catalytic routes for the production of future-proof green chemicals. During the research and development process, the group endeavors to use renewable new energy (such as photovoltaic power, wind power and valley power) and green raw materials (such as waste carbon and biomass) to improve the sustainability of new catalytic materials and new catalytic processes while reducing their carbon footprints. The research of the group currently falls within the scope of CO₂ valorisation, biomass valorisation, synthesis of hydrogen carriers and non-conventional energy-efficient catalysis (non-thermal catalysis) and others.

Smart Process Engineering Laboratory

The Smart Process Engineering (SPE) Laboratory, with the goals of peaking carbon dioxide emissions and achieving carbon neutrality, such as green chemicals, energy saving and environmental protection, conducts the research and development of process integration and intensification technologies in chemical engineering, energy and environmental processes. Its research through industry-university-research cooperation mainly involves high-efficiency wastewater treatment process, particle technology, innovative pharmaceutical technology, simulation testing, and chemical artificial intelligence, etc.

In addition to the research teams mentioned above, there are also teams specialised in **conversion of organic solid waste, air pollution control, green synthetic materials, clean energy and renewable materials, industrial wastewater treatment**. For more information, please visit the official website of the China Beacons Institute: www.nottingham.edu.cn/en/cbi

Green Technology Laboratory

The Green Technology Laboratory is dedicated to developing green technology solutions, which use fewer resources and/or energy, generate less waste and cause less damage to the environment than alternatives, be it for processes, products or services. Green technologies include a wide range of technologies related to recycling, circular economy, green processing, renewable energy (wind power, solar power, biomass energy, hydropower, biofuels...), resource processing, green chemistry... Basically, this lab is concerned with reducing human impact on the environment in the short and long term. Its main research areas include the research and development of tubular vortex generators, which can be used to reduce the energy consumption of wind/hydraulic material conveying systems, increase the efficiency of food and beverage processing equipment in-situ cleaning process, and enhance the heat transfer, mixing and dispersion efficiency of chemical processes, recycling of lithium battery materials, recycling and high value-added reuse of plastics, and dry separation technology of plastic waste.

Life Science and Healthcare

From preventative medicine to medical materials and big data, a significant amount of research resources will be devoted to Life Science and Healthcare. The China Beacons Institute will have a focus on research projects which include evidence-based medicine, biomedical imaging technology and equipment, future health medical equipment, smart food, translational research, big data and clinical research, health economics to contribute to a high value-added medical industry.

Smart Food Joint Research Centre

The Smart Food Joint Research Centre has borrowed the superior research resources from UoN to carry out relevant research in the fields of healthy food, smart diet and smart city, and build a unique interdisciplinary research platform to serve the "Health in Ningbo" project. Its research fields cover precision farming: The livestock farming industry is generally affected by a variety of pathogens, such as bacteria, viruses, and parasites. Owners of livestock farms tend to use antibiotics to prevent large-scale outbreaks of livestock diseases, which will lead to overuse of antibiotics and antibiotic resistance of pathogens, resulting in the failure of antibiotics. The center is making efforts to develop an accurate new detection method to predict disease outbreaks in livestock farms.

In addition to the research teams mentioned above, there are also teams specialised in **bioimaging, big data, biomaterials, smart food**. For more information, please visit the official website of the China Beacons Institute: www.nottingham.edu.cn/en/cbi

Smart, Electrochemical, Nanomaterial-enhanced Sensor & Electronics Laboratory (SENSE Lab)

Smart wearable technology comes with the power to improve healthcare by providing personalized and innovative solutions. Now, a variety of wearable or implantable devices that naturally go with human body has been developed to offer specific information on individual's physiological and psychological dynamics. The lab is now working on a wearable biosensing technology that is based on custom polymer for fabrication of flexible electronics and appropriate bioreceptors. It can be employed for the sensitive, specific, continuous and long-term monitoring of vital signs and noninvasive analysis of important chemical biomarkers in sweat while ensuring the mobility and comfort of users. In addition, drug delivery modules can also be integrated into the wearable devices for specific, precise and controlled drug release. In the near future, advances in wearable technology will speed up the transformation of healthcare, and improve people's quality of life.



Meet our inspiring research teams



Jim Greer

Chair Professor in Engineering Physics

Research areas:

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Power electronics, Machine drive

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Dongbing Li

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Research areas:

Process and product development based on fast pyrolysis of methane/silane, bitumen, and biomass, Smart manufacturing for food - specialty oils/fatty acids, proteins/polypeptides, and phytochemical pigments.

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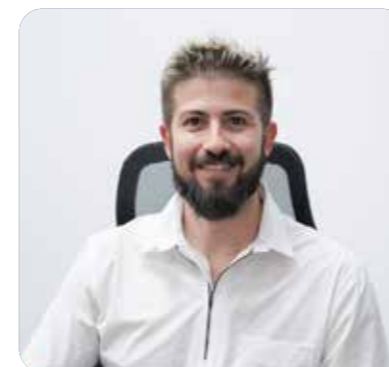
Honglei Zhang

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Research areas:

R&D of novel catalytic materials for renewable energy and environmental pollutant treatment: photocatalytic conversion, biomass energy, industrial pollutant treatment.

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Clean and renewable thermochemical conversion processes for energy and chemicals: pyrolysis, gasification, reforming, combustion and co-combustion. Simulation of reactive flows with chemical kinetic models. Techno-economic analysis of energy systems.

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Shahid Iqbal

Assistant Professor in Renewable Energy & Energy Storage

Research areas:

Expertise exfoliation of 2D layered materials (chalcogenides & MXene) for energy applications, Van der Waals heterostructures, Li-ion batteries, photocatalytic H₂ & O₂ evolution reactions, nanocomposites materials for Photo-reduction of CO₂, overall water splitting, wastewater treatment, solar cells and environmental sustainability.

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Research areas:

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Research areas:

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Xiaoyang Wei

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Research areas:

Multiphase flow, Development and optimization of gas-solid fluidized beds, Computational fluid dynamics (CFD) simulations, Application of artificial intelligence (AI) in fluidized beds, CO₂ capture and utilization.

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David Fengwei Xie

Professor in Life Science and Healthcare

Research areas:

Biopolymers; polysaccharides; food engineering; "green" materials; functional materials; physico-chemical properties; food health effects; polymer engineering; polymer composites; structure-property relationships; hydrogels; films; food engineering; food 3D Printing; food packaging.

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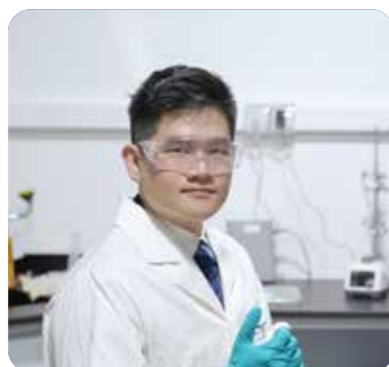
Weihua Meng

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Research areas:

Identify the genetic contributing genes for common complex disorders using genetic methods.

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Loh Teng-Hern Tan

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Imran Mahmood Khan

Assistant Professor in Smart Food

Research areas:

Food Safety; Nanomaterial Fabrication; Biosensing nanopores; Aptasensors; Antibacterial activity; Photo-dynamic/thermal therapy

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Jodi Woan-Fei Law

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Research areas:

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We ignite the future

Provide solutions to local challenges

The China Beacons Institute is actively building two types of joint laboratories: Sino-foreign joint laboratory and university-industry joint laboratory, to cooperate with industries, deepen cooperation in the three key research fields of intelligent manufacturing, green chemicals and energy, and life science and healthcare, accelerate the transfer and transformation of scientific and technological achievements, and promote the development of industrial clusters in Ningbo and the transformation and upgrading of local economy.

Enterprises and institutions are welcome to join hands with the China Beacons Institute to explore new possibilities for cooperation.

Sino-foreign joint laboratory

The China Beacons Institute and UoN jointly established the Smart Food Joint Research Centre, which will transfer the world-leading food technology platform of UoN to Ningbo. The project 'To explore the genetic mechanisms of diabetic retinopathy based on multi-omics technology' was awarded as Ningbo Key International Cooperation Project.



The China Beacons Institute and the University of Western Ontario jointly set up the Zhejiang-Canada Joint Laboratory on Green Chemicals and Energy, which was shortlisted in 2022 for the provincial international joint laboratory certification.



University-industry joint laboratory

China Beacons Institute and Zhejiang Runtu Co., Ltd., one of China's top 500 manufacturers, co-founded a university-enterprise joint research centre, into which Runtu plans to invest RMB 20 million in scientific and technological research and development. The two sides will jointly carry out collaborative research into key technologies in the key areas such as clean energy and high-end dye chemicals.



China Beacons Institute and Zhejiang Amerisource New Material Co., Ltd., a leading enterprise of PBT engineering plastics in China, jointly established the New Polymer Polymerization Process Innovation and Application laboratory. The Joint Laboratory will aim to establish a platform to enhance and develop the theory and knowledge of new polymer polymerization processes and to promote technological innovation.



Public Service Platforms

China Beacons Institute provide an extensive range of state-of-the-art facilities for general physical properties, chemical analysis, thermal analysis, and microstructure and surface analysis.

The equipment mainly includes:

Multi-station automatic Surface Area and Porosity Analyser (BET), Dynamic Vapor Sorption(DVS), Contact Angle Apparatus, Pendulum Impact Testing Machine, Consolidation Tester, Four probe Tester, Universal Material Testing Machine (UTM), Vika Softening Point Tester.

General Physical Properties

Differential Scanning Calorimeter (DSC), Synchronous DSC/TGA (SDT), Dynamic Mechanical Analyser(DMA), Simultaneous Thermal Analyser(STA).

Thermal Analysis

Scanning Electron Microscope(SEM), Atomic Force Microscope(AFM), Metallographic Microscope, 3D Measurement System(3DScan), X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy(XPS), Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope, X-ray Absorption Fine Structure(XAFS).

Microstructure and Surface Analysis

X-ray Diffractometer, Scanning Electrochemical Microscopy (SECM), Gas chromatography-Mass Spectrometry (GC-MS), High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC), Inverse Gas Chromatography Surface Energy Analyser(IGC-SEA), Inductively coupled Plasma Emission Spectrometer (ICP-OES), Total organic carbon analyzer(TOC).

Chemical Analysis



Find your dream PhD research

We welcome qualifying applications all year round. You may consider either a Spring or Autumn entry that better suits your study plan. Faculty of Science and Engineering also considers bachelor degree only holders with first class honours from a British university, or the equivalent from other institutions.

You have chance to win PhD scholarship which covers tuition fee and monthly stipend. Students also have the opportunity to carry out teaching (after the completion of Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA) training) or research assistant duties at UNNC since second year of their PhD programmes. On successful completion of the PhD, the students will be awarded a PhD degree from University of Nottingham. The University of Nottingham PhD degree is accredited by the Chinese Ministry of Education and the UK Quality Assurance Agency.

Application procedure



Contact

Student Recruitment and Admission Office

Email: Admissions@nottingham.edu.cn

TEL: +86 (0) 574 8818 0182

Job vacancies

With part of the mission of "acquiring high-level experts and establishing world-class research teams", the China Beacons Institute has committed to recruiting high-level researchers via global recruitment campaigns.

In addition, the China Beacons Institute will launch a series of internal funding schemes to encourage and support early-career researchers to become national-level talent with international visibility. Besides an internationally competitive package, the China Beacons Institute will offer research funding support and PhD student support to Principal Investigators and above to establish their laboratories and form their teams.

Vacancies

- Outstanding Principal Investigators
- Principal Investigators
- Senior Investigators
- Investigators

Remuneration, Benefits and Support

The China Beacons Institute offers internationally competitive salary package and a range of benefits and entitlements, including employment support allowance for your home flight and accommodation, insurance, schooling support, relocation & repatriation support, and paid annual leave. Start-up research funding may also be provided based on research needs.

How to Apply

Anyone interested in the job opportunities is welcome to submit their CV along with supporting documentation to job@nottingham.edu.cn to express their interest. Online applications will be required as part of the recruitment process.

Ningbo, a city of culture and a gateway to the world

Ningbo has been a strategic industrial and commercial city since ancient times, and has more than 1.3 million market entities of various types, with 9 companies listed in the top 500 Chinese enterprises. Ningbo has cultivated 8 100-billion-level industrial clusters, built 5 national-level industrial clusters for auto parts and magnetic materials, etc., and accelerated the formation of three trillion-level industrial clusters for digital economy, high-end equipment, and green petrochemicals.

For the past few years, Ningbo has made great efforts to create the city images of "Share the Growth with Ningbo" and "Youth-friendly City" for talent recruitment. Participating in the integrated development strategy for the Yangtze River Delta in depth, Ningbo has endeavored to build strategic platforms such as the Qianwan New Area and Yongjiang Science and Technology Innovation Corridor. Focusing on the construction of major industries such as new materials, industrial Internet and core infrastructures, Ningbo has deepened the implementation of the 1+X series of measures for talent ecology construction. And building and making full use of the Zhejiang Innovation Center, Collaborative Innovation Center for Featured Industry Engineers, and Home of Academicians, Home of Talents and other service platforms, Ningbo is trying its utmost to make itself the first choice for the development of high-quality talents.



Manufacturing Star City

The number of manufacturing champion entities ranks top in China



Trillion GDP City

GDP ranked No.11 in China (2024)



International Port

The world's biggest cargo handling port



Technology innovation

Top City
Ranked 4th in China's Technology Innovation Cities in 2024



Creating the future, today.





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