

CLINICAL TRIALS.

The wider West Midlands region has five established medical trials units, three of which are at the University of Birmingham. This includes the **Primary Care Clinical Research and Trials Unit** and the **Cancer Research UK Clinical Trials Unit** which specialises in the design, coordination and analysis of phase I to I-III cancer clinical trials. The **Birmingham Clinical Trials Unit** undertakes high-quality innovative clinical trial research in speciality areas other than cancer and primary care.

Other key facilities include:

- The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Centre for Surgical Reconstruction and Microbiology, which is the largest trauma centre in the UK and treats all injured troops in the military
- Leukaemia Centre at Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital, which is at the heart of a £5 million initiative to develop and deliver new treatments to benefit Leukaemia patients
- The Birmingham MRC Centre for Immune Regulation, focusing on immunology research supported by state-of-the-art technologies
- Birmingham Clinical Research Academy, a partnership between The University of Birmingham and University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust to establish a world-class medical technology research and training academy in the city
- Health Research Bus (HRB) – a pioneering mobile medical research facility developed by the University of Birmingham, funded by Birmingham Science City and the first of its kind in the UK

Well connected

Birmingham is at the heart of the UK's motorway and rail network and is recognised as the best connected UK city. It has easy access to all major cities across the country and an international airport just 10 minutes from the city centre.



"The new Queen Elizabeth super hospital can form the hub of a thriving life sciences sector."

Andy Mountain, Alta Innovations



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INNOVATING AND EVOLVING.

Life sciences – pharmaceuticals, medical biotechnology and medical technology – are a vital part of everyone’s life and a strong sector for Birmingham and the wider region. The population of Birmingham is one of the **most ethnically diverse** in the UK; making it an ideal location to undertake clinical trials with over one million residents, not withstanding the **5.3 million** population in the wider West Midlands conurbation.

A bright future

- Birmingham is constantly innovating and evolving. Its future goals are clearly outlined in the Big City Plan – the most ambitious and far-reaching citywide development project ever undertaken in the UK
- World class property developments under construction include the iconic £600 million New Street Station Gateway and the landmark Library of Birmingham
- With connectivity high on the city’s agenda, proposals are also in place for the expansion of Birmingham Airport and a High Speed 2 rail terminus in Birmingham’s Eastside, an area undergoing a multi-billion pound regeneration
- A sustainable and environmentally focused city, Birmingham champions the use of innovative products and practices to lower the city’s carbon footprint at a reasonable cost. The city is already ahead of its CO₂ reduction targets, with a strategy successfully underway to reduce CO₂ emissions by 60 per cent come 2026

A leading centre for life sciences

- Significant collaborations between the University of Birmingham and the majority of the world’s top 20 pharmaceutical companies including GlaxoSmithKline; Lilly; Pfizer; UCB Celltech; AstraZeneca; Bayer and Novartis
- Almost 40 per cent increase of life-science businesses compared to 2005
- Hosts one of the largest clinical trials clusters in the UK at the University of Birmingham and the first Cancer Research UK national children’s cancer trials team

- The West Midlands has over 500 medical technology companies, more than any other UK region
- Home to large firms including Salts Healthcare Limited and The Binding Site, which has a brand new headquarters in Edgbaston and an annual turnover of £43 million
- Several university spin outs including Microbial Systems Limited (1988), Peptide Therapeutics (1992), IMT Limited (1996), Hybrid Systems (1998), Cobra Therapeutics (1999), Cellyntx (2007) and most recently, a spin-off of PsiOxus (formerly Hybrid biosystems)
- Two well-established Science Parks, Birmingham Research Park and Birmingham Science Park Aston
- Several private major health providers including the Priory Hospital and Edgbaston Hospital
- A very strong NHS presence in the city – a major purchaser of medical devices, new medicines and other healthcare services in the UK
- Research specialism within the NHS:
 - Women’s health at Birmingham Women’s Health Care NHS Trust
 - Paediatrics at Birmingham Children’s Hospital NHS Trust
 - Orthopaedics and locomotion at The Royal Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust



“The UK is currently pipelining one in five of all medical biotechnology products in trials and here in the West Midlands there is a high density of specialist manufacturers within the sector.”

Tony Davis, CEO, Medilink UK

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WORLD-CLASS DEVELOPMENTS.

Support infrastructure

- There are many supporting organisations available within the city which enable commercialisation and innovation in the life sciences sector. These include Medilink West Midlands, a representative body providing specialist business support; Midtech, a regional innovation hub; and Alta Innovations, the technology transfer company for the University of Birmingham
- Birmingham Science City is a partnership of Higher Education institutions, government and business to promote growth through effective knowledge exchange and demonstrator projects showcasing new science-based market opportunities
- Human Biomaterials Resource Centre (HBRC), funded by Birmingham Science City and involving the Universities of Birmingham and Warwick is collecting and storing appropriately consented, quality-assured biomaterials for distribution to biomedical research groups in academia and industry

- Birmingham City University has strengths in the delivery of healthcare and application of new technologies and is the most significant trainer of nurses and allied health professionals in the region

Large firms in the sector

The Binding Site • Birmingham Research Park Ltd • Bionostics Holdings Ltd • Bodyguard Work Wear • Euroshowers (Midlands) Ltd • Farmoza Ltd • The Hearing Services Centre • RSL Steeper Holdings Ltd • Salts Healthcare Ltd • Triple O Dental Laboratories Ltd • Werfen Control S.L.

World-class research

- Birmingham is home to several institutions that provide access to practically the whole sphere of life sciences through complementary research activities:
 - Aston University’s Life & Health Sciences department is a leading light in Ophthalmic research, with one of the largest departments in the country and rated world-leading in the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE)
 - The University of Birmingham’s College of Medicine and Dental Sciences is internationally recognised and has invested more than £73 million in an ongoing programme of works, including the £35 million Institute of Bio-medical research



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