

SAINSBURY CENTRE

Museum Transition Manager Sainsbury Centre

SC5003

CANDIDATE BROCHURE
sainsburycentre.ac.uk



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WELCOME FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, JAGO COOPER

The Sainsbury Centre strives to foster an enjoyable working culture that is friendly, inclusive and tolerant. I believe it is only by creating a positive working environment and collaborative approach between everyone working here, that we can create the right welcome for more than one hundred thousand visitors every year.

In joining us you will become part of a creative cultural organisation that is at the forefront of museum innovation and public engagement. Our central aim is to bring the fantastic collections to life and empower them to intrigue, inform and inspire our diverse public audience. With around fifty full-time staff and another fifty part-time/ volunteer staff we are all working hard to achieve our collective ambitions. Please reach out to the Sainsbury Centre contact listed on this page should you have any further questions or queries.

I look forward to hopefully working with you in the future.

Best wishes,

Dr Jago Cooper

For an informal discussion about the post please contact Lorna Harper, Deputy Director of Sainsbury Centre For Visual Arts via lorna.harper@uea.ac.uk



THE SAINSBURY CENTRE

The Sainsbury Centre is a world-class art museum with a unique perspective on how art can foster cultural dialogue and exchange, formally recognising the living lifeforce of art and enabling people to build relationships across an arts landscape.

Home to a global collection of artworks spanning 6,000 years of human imagination and creative power, our curators collaborate with artists to explore the most important questions people have in their lives such as What is Truth? and How Do We Find Love? It is not a museum to only learn more about artists, cultures or movements like Francis Bacon, the Tang Dynasty or Modernism, it is a place of experience, where collections are animate, and visitors are invited to form a personal relationship with art.

In 1973, Sir Robert and Lady Lisa Sainsbury donated their world-class art collection to the University of East Anglia (UEA) in Norwich. Trailblazing in their choice to display art from all around the globe and from all time periods equally and collectively, Sir Robert and Lady Lisa Sainsbury created one of the most sought after yet non-conformist art collections. The Sainsbury Centre is an international museum for everyone welcoming over 1 million visitors a year to enjoy its collection, housed in a modern architectural icon designed by Sir Norman Foster, and its sculpture park set in 350 acres of parkland. It will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2028.

THE ROLE

As we approach our 50th anniversary, the Sainsbury Centre is embarking on a transformative capital project to refurbish and future-proof our Grade II listed building. This major renovation will include architectural and infrastructure upgrades and visitor experience enhancements, consolidating the museum's innovative legacy and cultural heritage for the next 50 years. During the project, the Sainsbury Centre will operate as a 'Museum Without Walls', delivering a programme of activity ensuring the continuation of our unique approach to animate and show case our collection and to continue to extend access to and raise the profile of the Sainsbury Centre to reach new audiences.

We are seeking a dynamic and experienced Museum Transition Manager to support, coordinate, and manage project delivery, overseeing tactical, day to day execution, budgeting, and scheduling, and to lead internal coordination across all stages and with all departments.

You will work closely with the Deputy Director to ensure the smooth and efficient delivery of the museum's operations, playing a pivotal role in coordinating complex, interdependent activities across the Sainsbury Centre, ensuring outcomes are delivered on time and within budget. This will include pre-closure planning, mobilisation, practicalities, and logistics as well as the realisation of our Museum Without Walls programme.

You will represent the Sainsbury Centre in key stakeholder forums, advocate for its needs, and stand in for the Directorate when required. From project inception to handover, you will collaborate with internal teams (curatorial, collections, learning, conservation, technical, front of house, media) and external partners to ensure seamless delivery, business continuity, and operational success.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

As Museum Transition Manager, you will collaborate closely with the Deputy Director in all elements of her work and play a key part in future strategic projects. Your responsibilities will include:

- **Project Planning:** Lead on mapping out project requirements in advance, identifying tasks involved, producing programmes, workflows, and action plans.
- **Project Coordination:** Develop and manage internal day to day coordination across all stages of the Centre's projects and related strands of activity ensuring alignment between departments and schedules. Engaging across internal and external teams and implement strategies to ensure effective communication. Lead on progressing actions.
- **Programme Timeline:** Coordinate and monitor project schedules and flag risks to proactively keep programmes on track. Can lead in finding solutions when project timelines change.
- **Business Planning:** Collaborate with executive to produce a costed business plan and the translation of institutional strategic objectives via a detailed project activity plan. Produce detailed and accurate documentation and maintain efficient document management systems.
- **Operational Oversight:** Coordinate project activity to ensure business continuity and operational readiness on project completion, minimising disruption to public programmes and staff workflows throughout the project.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Act as a key liaison between internal teams, external contractors, consultants, and institutional partners to facilitate collaboration and ensure clear communication.

THE ROLE (CONTINUED)

- **Budget & Resource Management:** Support financial planning and reporting, ensuring expenditures remain within approved budgets.
- **Benefits Management:** can identify, plan, measure, and track benefits from the start of the project until completion, arranging stakeholder evaluation to inform future improvements.
- **Institutional Representation:** Represent the Sainsbury Centre in strategic meetings, advocate for operational needs, and deputise for the Directorate when required.
- **Cross-Departmental Collaboration:** Facilitate coordination between curatorial, collections, learning, conservation, technical, front of house, and media teams to ensure seamless integration of activities and to facilitate productive and constructive relationships with all departments. Supporting staff through change and promoting a culture of shared ownership and resilience.
- **Documentation & Reporting:** Maintain accurate records of project progress, decisions, and operational impacts; prepare reports and briefings for senior leadership and stakeholders.

THE PERSON

EDUCATION, EXPERIENCE AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- A relevant degree or professional qualification in museum studies, project management, or heritage management (E)
- Proven experience in museum or cultural institution operations (E)
- Proven experience of capital projects, refurbishments, or other complex project (E)
- Practical experience of representing institutional interests in high-level forums (E)
- Practical experience of coordinating multi-stakeholder initiatives (E)
- Experience of managing budgets effectively (D)

SKILLS & KNOWLEDGE

- Strong project management skills from planning through to delivery (E)
- Excellent oral, written and interpersonal and communication skills with ability to deal face-to-face, via telephone and email with staff and students from a variety of backgrounds, cultures and nationalities (E)
- An understanding of heritage buildings and conservation environments (D)
- Ability to liaise with cross-functional teams and maintain momentum across long-term projects (D)
- Familiarity with risk management, compliance, and health and safety protocols (D)

PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES

- An ability to thrive in complex environments (E)
- Detailed, consistently deploying a hands-on approach (E)
- Able to demonstrate a strong combination of strategic thinking, operational expertise, and collaborative working. (E)
- A practical proactive approach, calm under pressure clear and an understanding of the processes required to get something done (D)
- An interest in the Arts (D)

Essential Requirements (E) are those, without which, a candidate would not be able to do the job.

Desirable Requirements (D) are those which would be useful for the post holder to possess and will be considered when more than one applicant meets the essential requirements.

FURTHER INFORMATION

This full-time post is available on a fixed-term basis from 17 August 2026 to 31 July 2028.

Salary will be £31,236 to £37,694 per annum on Grade 6 on the single salary spine.

Place of Work - The University is strongly committed to providing an excellent student experience and research environment, and it is expected that all staff will be available on campus to carry out their duties during their working week in support of these goals.

If successful you will be asked to show evidence of right to work in the UK prior to any formal offer being made. Non-British and non-Irish nationals entering the UK to undertake employment or who are currently in the UK will have to meet eligibility criteria under the points-based immigration system. The University may be able to provide sponsorship under the Skilled Worker route if relevant criteria are met. Please note, due to the complexities of the immigration system, Skilled Worker visa sponsorship is not guaranteed for every role. If you would like further information about whether this role is eligible for visa sponsorship, please contact staff.visacompliance@uea.ac.uk

The post is superannuable under the Group Personal Pension and there is an annual holiday entitlement of 25 days plus statutory (8 days) and customary (6 days) holidays. The University is committed to creating an environment where the health, welfare and safety of all students and staff is of paramount importance. The University's Safeguarding Policy addresses both child protection and safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults within the work of the University. Appointment will be subject to satisfactory pre-employment checks, which may include an Occupational Health assessment.

Information on the benefits of working at UEA can be found at <https://www.uea.ac.uk/about/working-at-uea>.

If you require the information contained within this candidate brochure in a

different format please email staff.recruitment@uea.ac.uk

HOW TO APPLY

To apply for this vacancy, please follow the online instructions at: <https://vacancies.uea.ac.uk>

The closing date for this role is 11:59pm on **3 July 2026**.

Please note that the application form contains an Equal Opportunities section which must be completed. The Equal Opportunities information will not be made available to the selection panel and will not form any part of either the short-listing or decision making process.

It is anticipated that interviews will take place in person on **22 July 2026** and we will inform you of the outcome of your application via email.

Candidates should note that travel and incidental expenses incurred in attending an in-person interview will not be reimbursed.

RADICAL AMBITION

Sir Robert and Lady Sainsbury loved art and during their lives created one of the most sought after yet non-conformist art collections in the world. They believed in the power of art to connect people across time and space. They said that a person's relationship with a work of art was more akin to the relationship with another person than with an inanimate object. They believed so deeply in the power of art to change society they decided in 1973 to donate their collection to help shape and influence the next generation of thinkers and leaders. 2023 is the fiftieth anniversary of this mission to enable art to empower people and timely for a reinvigoration of their vision and radical ambition.

ROLE OF THE CENTRE

The Sainsbury Centre staff has an enormous responsibility to not only care for the collection but also create imaginative ways to foster that relationship between art and people, between idea and imagination, between the physical and the emotional. The role of the Centre has always been to allow people to spend quality time with some of the most remarkable works of art ever created in an environment that fosters intimacy and a personal relationship. A place that is happy to break rules to enable works of art to intrigue, inform and inspire. This required designing an entirely new museum 'taking art off the walls' and creating a museum environment like a living room bringing art into people's lives in the 1970s. Fifty years on we now have an amazing opportunity to capitalise on the opportunities of revolutions in technology and communication to capture the essence of these founding principles and re-invent them for the 21st Century.



VISION

In 2023 the Sainsbury Centre relaunched itself with a new Living Art Sharing Stories vision and became the first museum in the world to understand art as living entities. This new understanding of the role art can play in society includes a new approach to exhibition programming that attempts to help visitors engage with some of the fundamental societal challenges we all face. We now plan our future around six-month seasons which each attempt to answer a single question of pressing interest to anyone in the world. This new approach extends across the whole arts landscape of the Sainsbury Centre with an interconnected series of exhibitions, interventions, collection displays, artist residencies and public programme to engage people with:

Autumn 2023: How do we adapt in a transforming world?

Addressing the urgent issues of climate crisis and environmental pollution, this season aims to raise awareness and cultivate a greater sensitivity to our surrounding environment and its ecologies.

Spring 2024: What is truth?

How do we understand what is true? What does truth mean to different people? How do we know our true self? Exploring all facets of truth, this season will have a particular focus on image and representation.

Autumn 2024: Why do we take drugs?

This season explores why we take intoxicants – including for spiritual, medicinal, and recreational use – and why and how they are accepted in some cultures and not others.

Spring 2025: How do we resuscitate a dying sea?

Exploring humanity's relationship to the sea, this season looks at how we live alongside the sea in coastal communities, how we have a bodily relationship to the sea, or how the sea has been used in constructing a global society.

Autumn 2025: Why do humans still kill each other?

This season explores the circumstances in which people are led to kill and notable moments from history that have seen murder.

Spring 2026: What is the meaning of life?

Taking the age-old question of the meaning of life, this season asks how do we live a meaningful life? It will examine the structures that cause us to live by societal rules that see us following established roles or lifestyles.



WHAT MAKES UEA SO SPECIAL?

The University of East Anglia is a publicly funded major UK research and teaching university. It was built to embody a radical new vision for higher education, where interdisciplinarity is crucial and excellence in both research and teaching is valued. UEA consistently ranks within the top quarter of universities in the UK for the quality of research and teaching.

As a major regional employer and cultural centre, we take our regional civic responsibilities very seriously and have kept our sights on the people and place we call home. In fact, we launched our University Civic Charter in October 2023; created from in-depth community engagement, renewing our commitment to the region as part of our 60th anniversary.

There are many things which make UEA special, not least of which is the community of staff and students that work and study here. UEA includes three Nobel prize winners, including Sir Paul Nurse and Sir Michael Houghton, and many fellows of the Royal Society and British Academy amongst our alumni and current staff.

Our campus is home to Sir Denys Lasdun's iconic brutalist architecture set in hundreds of acres of beautiful country park that includes a large broad (lake). In the spirit of Lasdun's ambition to inspire an anatomy of ideas, today, UEA is tackling some of the key challenges of the changing world. UEA's research combines disciplines and breaks new boundaries across its priority

research themes of climate, creative and health.

UEA is the place where global warming was first documented. Since the 1970s, UEA's Climatic Research Unit, and more recently Tyndall Centre for Climate Change (Headquarters hosted at UEA), have played a pivotal role in developing temperature records and climate models, contributing to the understanding of climate change, and informing global policy. Many UEA scientists have played significant roles in the Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC), which was jointly awarded the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize for its efforts to increase public knowledge of anthropogenic climate change. Environmental Science and Global Studies at UEA continue to be a major powerhouse for research and teaching.

UEA is widely regarded as a pioneer in creative writing, having established the UK's first Creative Writing Masters programme in 1970. This renowned programme has since attracted and produced numerous successful writers, including Booker Prize winners such as Ian McEwan and Anne Enright, and Nobel Prize Winner Sir Kazuo Ishiguro. In recent years, UEA academics have played a pivotal role in the discovery and presentation of the Gloucester Royal shipwreck (Norfolk's Mary Rose). Our iconic Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts is a major museum and arts research facility.



Health research at UEA not only embraces the Faculty of Medicine and Health but draws in research from both social and natural sciences. Research under this theme has made major contributions in the fields of healthy ageing, epidemiology and involving citizens (via our innovative Citizens' Academy) in improving health care outcomes. This theme benefits from close association with the other major research institutes on the Norwich Research Park; notably the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital and the Quadram Institute. The Norwich Cancer Research Network, and Norfolk Institute for Healthy Ageing, are examples of key mechanisms for delivery of real impact from health research at UEA.

UEA has been a major success over the last 60 years and looks forward with confidence to the next 60 years.

UEA is part of the Norwich Research Park

Norwich Research Park (NRP) membership locates UEA in one of the largest concentrations of research institutes in the whole of Europe – four independent internationally-renowned research institutes: John Innes Centre, Quadram Institute, Earlham Institute and The Sainsbury Laboratory; with the University of East Anglia and Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, supported and funded by The John Innes Foundation, The Gatsby Foundation, and UKRI Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council.

The NRP provides an ideal environment for collaborative use of infrastructure and facilities, with a single portal for academics and businesses to access the specialist facilities across the Park.

The Enterprise Centre is a regional business, knowledge and innovation hub, with workspace provision and supports over 80 businesses working alongside UEA staff and students in a dynamic and vibrant entrepreneurial community. On the wider NRP, there are dedicated laboratory and office spaces in the Innovation Centre and Centrum hosting over 600 staff within a total of 115 businesses and spinouts.





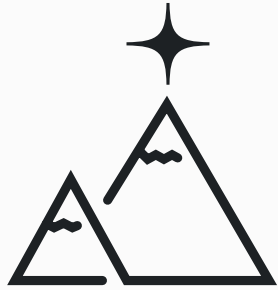
OUR VALUES

Shaped by staff, our UEA values represent a core set of standards for how we behave as an employer, drive excellence in teaching, learning and research, and collaborate as an anchor institution in our local community.

From tackling global challenges, striving for student and staff success, and creating a vibrant inclusive environment, our values are what unite us.

- ✦ AMBITION
- ✦ COLLABORATION
- ✦ EMPOWERMENT
- ✦ RESPECT

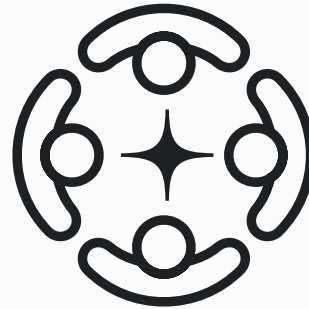
OUR VALUES (CONTINUED)



AMBITION

We are ambitious for our future success.

We are forward-thinking and brave in our approach and decisions. We make space for innovation and creativity, seizing opportunities that are responsible and sustainable. We are ambitious for the advancement of education and research.



COLLABORATION

We are collaborative in our approach.

We work together with shared purpose. We build connections, share ideas and develop new networks. We champion our regional, national and global relationships and demonstrate that together we can achieve greater goals and positively influence the world around us.



EMPOWERMENT

We empower ourselves and each other.

We develop ourselves and others, trusting people to make decisions based on their expertise and knowledge. We continually improve systems and processes to support us in working in an agile and efficient way.



RESPECT

We respect each other.

We treat everyone with respect and dignity. We value diversity and foster a community where people can express different thoughts and views. We are open to challenge, so we can learn and improve. We encourage a positive, inclusive environment where everyone has opportunities to fulfil their potential.

ACCOLADES

- Queen's Anniversary Prizes for Higher and Further Education have been awarded to UEA for international development studies (2009), creative writing (2011) and environmental sciences (2017). Notable alumni include Sir Paul Nurse (1973, Nobel Prize for Medicine 2001), Sir Kazuo Ishiguro (1980, Nobel Prize for Literature 2017), Sir Michael Houghton (1972, Nobel Prize for Medicine 2020) and Sarah Gilbert (1983) who led the Oxford University team to develop a COVID-19 vaccine, approved in 2020.
- Our Doctoral College, established in 2018, hosts six Doctoral Training Partnerships and integrates Faculty and School provision for 1600 Postgraduate Research Students (including those from across the Norwich Research Park), enabling collaboration and innovation.
- We recognise our global impact and were one of the first universities to declare a climate and biodiversity emergency in June 2019. Our sustainable campus, including over 50 acres of environmentally valuable parkland, is constantly evolving with ambitions to be 100% net zero by 2045 or sooner.
- UEA is a University of Sanctuary, an accreditation given to universities that show an ongoing commitment to creating a welcoming culture of inclusivity and awareness.
- UEA was awarded the Silver Athena SWAN Award in 2019, and all our Schools hold awards at Bronze or Silver.

A vibrant place to study, learn and work, UEA is a very special place.



A SUSTAINABLE UNIVERSITY

At UEA, we are now working to create a university that will be even better in the future, and we are working to achieve net zero carbon by 2045 (or earlier). Our Sustainable Ways vision is one of a resilient university – where consumption is efficient and self-generated energy supports low carbon goals, supported by a vibrant community of world-leading researchers and inspired graduates.

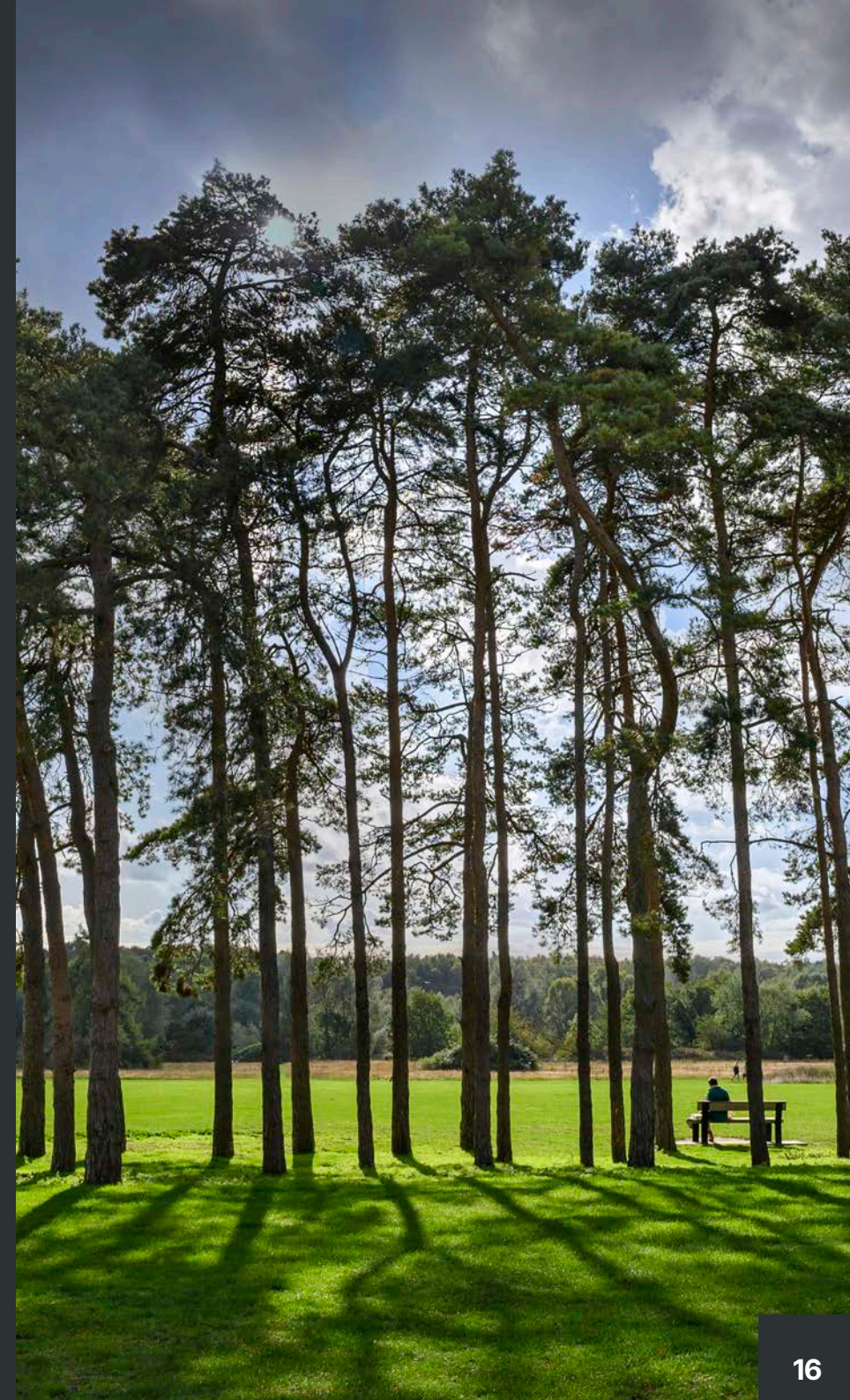
At a basic level, our sustainable development means that we try to balance the 'three pillars' of environmental, economic and social elements.

We challenge our environmental impact through on-site energy generation and a district heating and cooling network, reducing our reliance on grid electricity and therefore fossil fuels. We promote and use recycled and 'eco' products such as biological cleaning materials. We champion local suppliers and ethical causes, including Fairtrade and vegan products. We seek to ensure value for money in a holistic, whole-life costing sense in our new buildings and procurement contracts.

OUR INITIATIVES

Central campaigns, such as holiday shut-downs or awareness day events, support a whole-University approach to energy saving and other initiatives.

Follow us on X [@SustainableUEA](https://twitter.com/SustainableUEA)



OUR CAMPUS

UEA is based on a campus that provides top quality academic, social and cultural facilities to over 17,000 students.

Although located in 320 acres of rolling parkland, virtually no part of the campus is more than a few minutes' walk from anywhere else, so everything is close at hand – the library, nursery, health centre, supermarket (incorporating a post office) and restaurants. Amongst the striking buildings is the UEA's Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts, which contains the Robert and Lisa Sainsbury Collection – one of the greatest art collections formed in Europe during the 20th Century.

The University has invested in new learning and teaching and research spaces, including a celebrated new Enterprise Centre that underpins its commitment to promoting student enterprise and entrepreneurship.

Sport and Recreation plays a major part in the life of the University of East Anglia, centred around the major Sportspark facility which is one of the most successful community sport facilities in the UK. This accessible and affordable facility provides a diverse range of activities, and incorporates a 50m Olympic size swimming pool, indoor climbing wall, coaching resource centre and sports injury clinic.



LOCATION

Some cities you've heard of, others you have to discover. Norwich is one of the most beautiful, modern historic cities in Britain. It's a city that celebrates the independent, stimulates creativity, promotes change and encourages diversity.

UEA is a campus university located 3 miles from the centre of Norwich. Situated in the heart of Norfolk, which means it's an ideal location to explore Norwich and beyond.

BY RAIL

LONDON • 2 HOURS

CAMBRIDGE • 1 HR 15 MINS

BIRMINGHAM • 4 HOURS

Many European cities (including Paris and Amsterdam) easily accessible by train

BY ROAD

KINGS LYNN • 1 HOUR

CROMER • 45 MINUTES

SOUTHWOLD • 1 HOUR

BY AIR

NORWICH AIRPORT • 20 MINUTES

STANSTED AIRPORT • 2 HOURS

London is a major airline hub and all main international destinations are easily accessible



An internationally renowned university, UEA is ranked in the UK Top 25 (Complete University Guide 2025), UK Top 30 (The Mail 2025) and the World Top 100 (Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2024), where it ranks in the UK Top 20 for research quality (Times Higher Education Rankings for the Research Excellence Framework 2021) and World Top 20 for Health and Wellbeing (QS World University Rankings for Sustainability 2024), reflecting the international excellence of its research environment. The University holds UK Teaching Excellence Framework Silver status.

Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Wellbeing

The University is committed to diversifying its workforce and to the wellbeing of all our staff. For example, we already hold an Athena Swan Silver Institutional Award in recognition of our advancement towards gender equality. Further details on our broader Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Wellbeing work can be found on our [website](#).

