

University of Leeds

United Kingdom · Europe · measured over co-authored research published 2021 to 2025

#59 in the world

Platinum standing

#31 in Europe

#3 in the world for Earth and Planetary Sciences

48,991

co-authored works, 2021 to 2025

1,166

partner universities

80

partner countries

1,030

sustained deep ties

3.21

citation impact of the joint work

93%

of partners non-redundant

What this document is

The index measures **collaboration, not reputation**: how central University of Leeds is in the global research network, computed from the open research record rather than from any survey. This dossier takes the same evidence further than the public page can. It reads the whole cohort of 1,195 ranked universities on your behalf and answers the questions you cannot answer from inside one institution: how your pillars compare with the peer group the index itself assigns you, where your published subject standing is strongest and weakest across all 26 ranked fields, how exposed your network is to a small number of partners, and which specific universities you are not yet anchored to that the data says you should be.

Every figure is traceable. Each visual carries what it shows, what it means and the source it came from, and the final page lists every source with the place you can check it for yourself. **GRP is independent and the index is free and public. No commercial relationship with GRP changes any university's score or position, and none ever will.**

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Where University of Leeds stands, and what to do about it

Three strengths to lead with, three problems to manage and three moves to make, each drawn from a specific figure later in this document.

The finding. University of Leeds is a world top-3 university in Earth and Planetary Sciences, with 14 of its 26 ranked fields inside the world top 100. The gap that matters is impact, where it sits 5.8 percentile points behind its own peer group. The largest single move available is University of Calgary, ranked #1 in Veterinary against your #219, and not currently an anchor partner.

Strengths Earth and Planetary Sciences is the anchor field. World #3 of 1,112 ranked universities, with Environmental Science at #16, Business, Management and Accounting at #19 behind it. These are the fields a consortium should be built around. Strong on reach and sustained. University of Leeds sits in the 97th percentile for reach and the 95th for sustained. A bridge, not only a hub. 197 of 212 partners (93%) are non-redundant, so the network connects communities that would not otherwise meet.	Challenges Impact is the softest pillar. At the 83rd percentile it sits clearly below the others, and it is the single clearest place to build. Behind your own peer group on impact. Your impact percentile is 83 against a peer-set mean of 88.8, a gap of 5.8 points. Concentrated network. 66% of collaboration volume sits with just two partner countries, United Kingdom and United States.	Opportunities Lift Wageningen. They rank #1 in Agricultural and Biological Sciences against your #44, and they are not among your 15 anchor partners. Route: a Horizon Europe collaborative call, or a bilateral programme linking UKRI and NWO. Close the gap with University of Calgary. They rank #1 in Veterinary against your #219, and they are not among your 15 anchor partners. Route: Horizon Europe association or third-country participation, or a bilateral link between UKRI and NSERC. Lift PolyU Hong Kong. They rank #1 in Business, Management and Accounting against your #19, and they are not among your 15 anchor partners. Route: Horizon Europe association or third-country participation, or a bilateral link between UKRI and the RGC.
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The peer group this dossier measures you against

The five universities the index places closest to University of Leeds on the standing score. Every peer comparison in this document uses this set, not a group chosen to flatter.

The University of Adelaide Australia, world #54	University of Oslo Norway, world #57	Utrecht University Netherlands, world #58	Radboud University Nijmegen Netherlands, world #60	University of California, San Francisco United States, world #61
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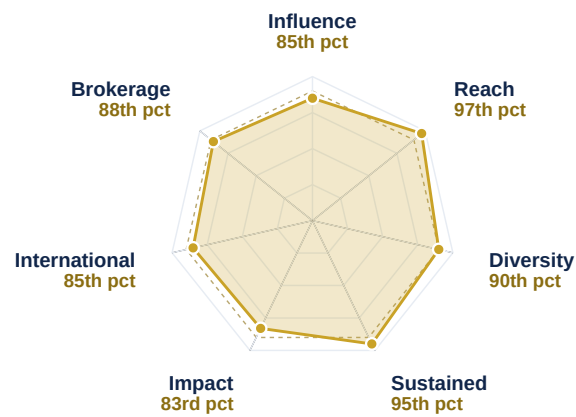
Source: Research Collaboration Index 2026, published master record and RCI subject indices, 26 fields, 2026 edition.

VISUAL 1 AND VISUAL 2

Your collaboration profile, and how it reads against your peers

Visual 1. Six scored pillars and brokerage, as global percentiles

Each axis is a percentile against all 1,195 ranked universities. The dashed ring marks the top decile, so anything touching it is a top ten per cent position.

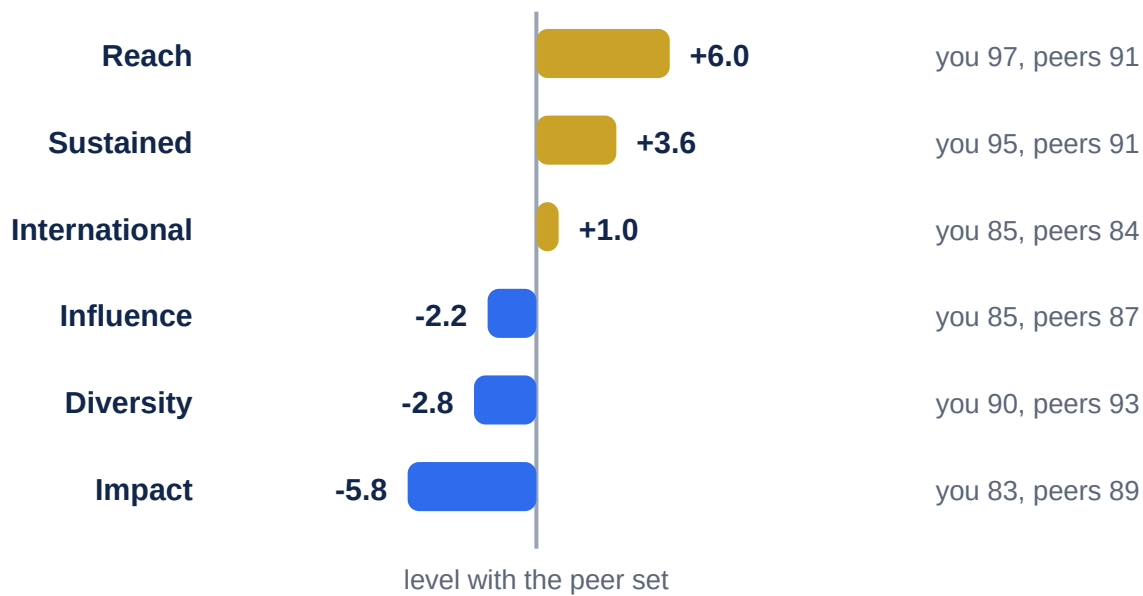


University of Leeds is strongest on **reach, at the 97th percentile**, then sustained (95th) and diversity (90th). The dashed ring is the top decile, so anything touching it is a defensible strength. Brokerage is shown alongside the six scored pillars but is deliberately not part of the score: **197 of 212 partners (93%) are non-redundant**, which is a measure of whether you connect communities that would otherwise stay apart, not of how widely you publish.

Source: open scholarly record (OpenAlex), co-authored works 2021 to 2025. Verify at [the methodology page at globalresearchpartnerships.com/rci/methodology](https://globalresearchpartnerships.com/rci/methodology).

Visual 2. The same pillars, measured against your own peer group

Your percentile minus the mean of your five index-assigned peers. Gold is ahead of the peer set, blue is behind it.



Against the five universities the index places closest to you, University of Leeds is furthest **ahead on reach**, by +6.0 percentile points, and furthest **behind on impact**, by -5.8. This is the comparison a university cannot make for itself: it requires the cohort's percentiles, not its own. The peer set is The University of Adelaide at #54, University of Oslo at #57, Utrecht University at #58, Radboud University Nijmegen at #60, University of California, San Francisco at #61.

Source: Research Collaboration Index 2026, published master record.

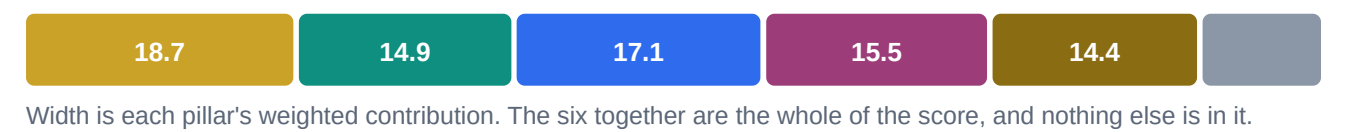
VISUAL 3

Exactly what your standing is built from

Nothing is hidden and nothing is discretionary. This is the entire calculation.

Visual 3. The anatomy of the standing index

Each block is one pillar's weighted contribution. The blocks together are the score.



Width is each pillar's weighted contribution. The six together are the whole of the score, and nothing else is in it.

The index is a weighted sum of six field-normalised percentiles and nothing else. For University of Leeds, **influence contributes the most at 18.7 of 89.2 points**. Reading the table with the bar tells you where a point of improvement is actually worth most: influence carries the heaviest weight at 22%, so a percentile gained there moves the standing more than a percentile gained on international share, which carries 10%.

Source: Research Collaboration Index 2026, published master record.

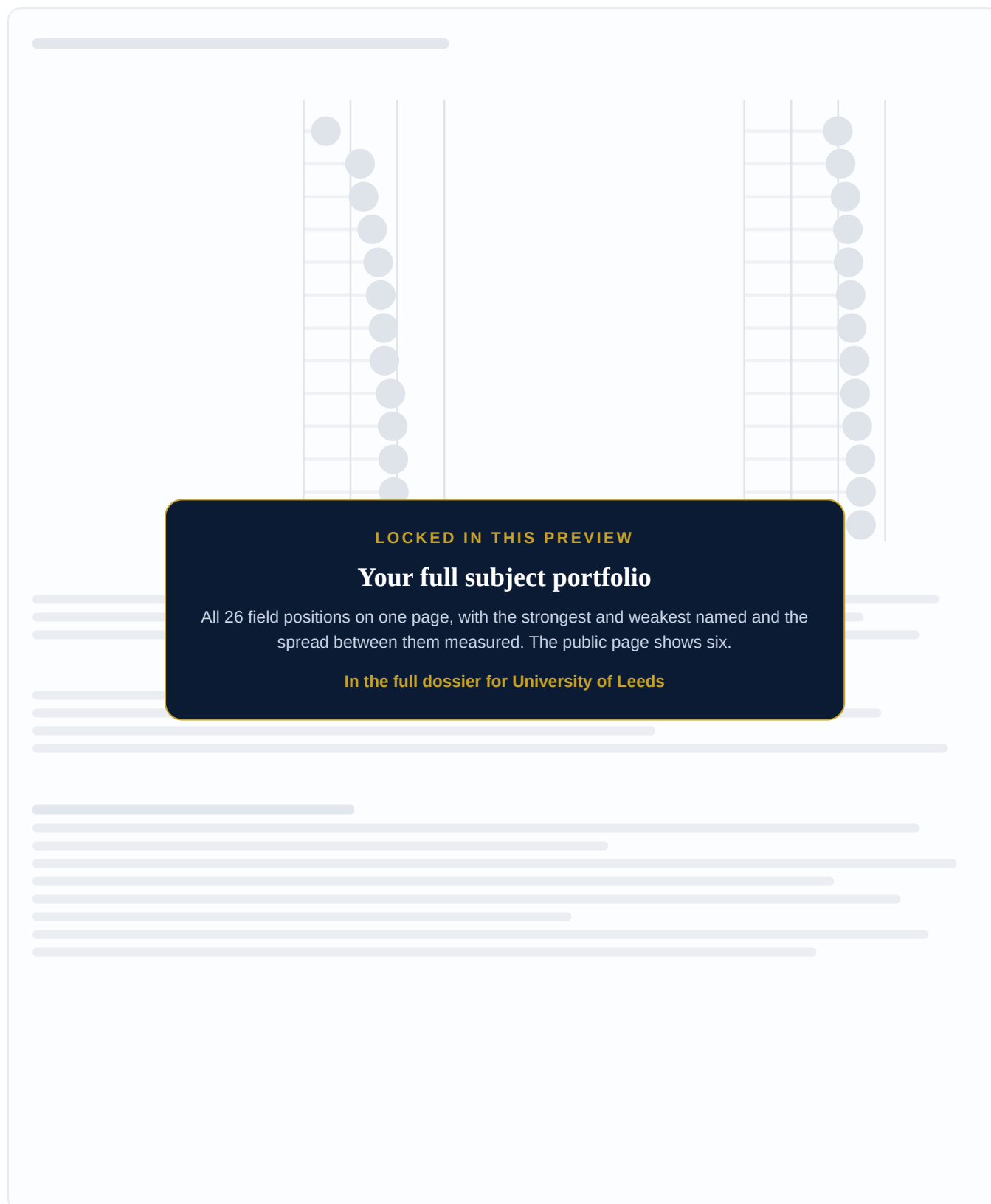
PILLAR	WEIGHT	YOUR PERCENTILE	POINTS CONTRIBUTED
Influence	22%	85th	18.7
Impact	18%	83rd	14.9
Sustained	18%	95th	17.1
Reach	16%	97th	15.5
Diversity	16%	90th	14.4
International	10%	85th	8.5
Standing index			89.2

University of Leeds ranks **#78 in the world for collaboration efficiency**, the citation impact returned per partnership, against #59 on the overall index. That is 19 places worse than the headline standing, so the network is carrying partnerships that do not return impact in proportion to their volume. The partner yield chart later in this dossier names them.

Brokerage is reported, never scored. It is a diagnostic of whether you join communities that would otherwise stay apart. Folding it into the score would let a university raise its standing simply by publishing more widely, so GRP keeps it out and prints it beside the score instead.

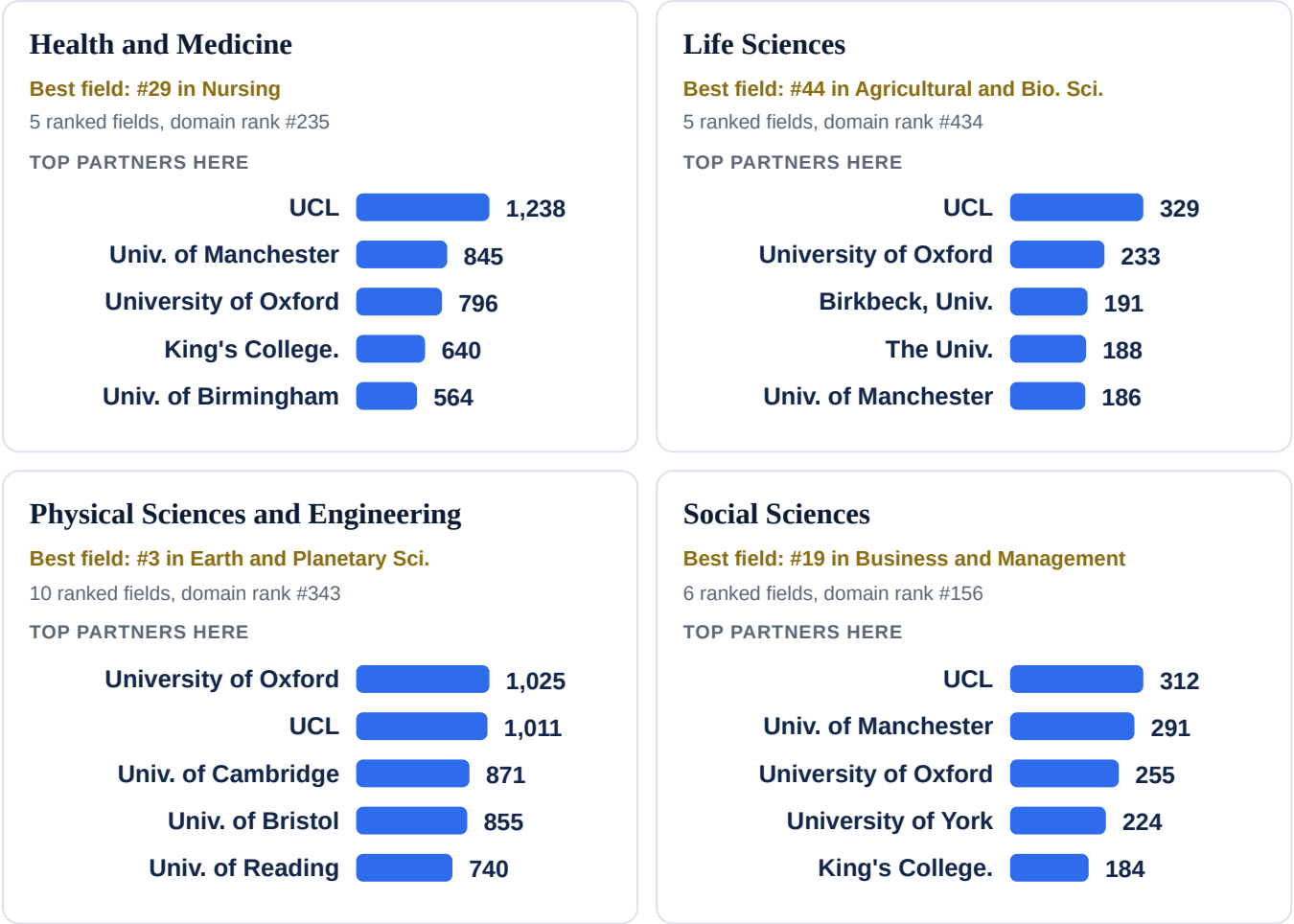
Your entire published subject portfolio

Every field the index ranks you in, not the handful the public page has room for.



How you collaborate, faculty by faculty

The same network divided into its four broad domains, with the partners each one actually leans on.



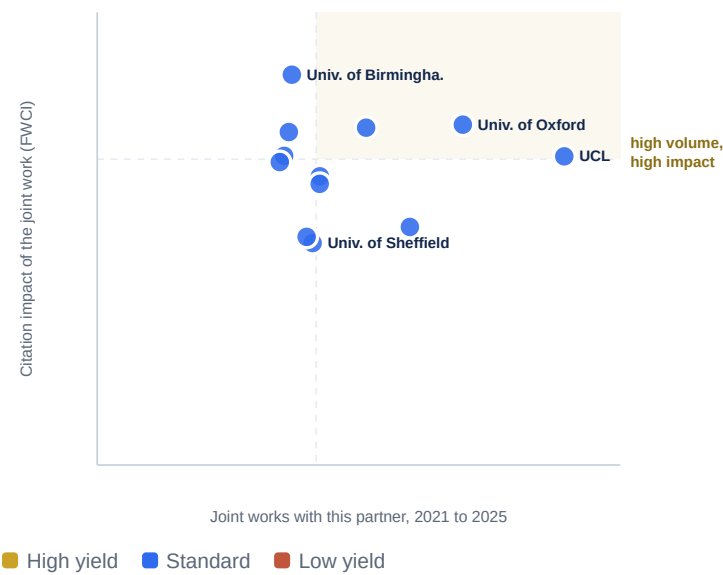
VISUAL 5

Which partnerships actually pay off

Volume is not value. Every anchor partner plotted by how much you publish together against how much that joint work is cited.

Visual 5. Collaboration volume against citation impact

Each dot is one anchor partner. The dashed lines are this set's medians; the shaded quadrant is high volume and high impact.



University of Birmingham returns the highest citation impact of the set at FWCI 6.3 on 998 joint works. That is a consortium waiting to be formalised: the relationship already produces the impact, it simply is not funded as a programme. **University of Sheffield** is the opposite case, 1,105 joint works at FWCI 3.6. That volume is worth a question: what is it buying, and would the same academic time spent on the high-yield tie return more.

Source: open scholarly record (OpenAlex), co-authored works 2021 to 2025, with field-weighted citation impact.

ANCHOR PARTNER	COUNTRY	JOINT WORKS	FWCI	YIELD
University College London	United Kingdom	2,395	5.0	Standard
University of Oxford	United Kingdom	1,875	5.5	Standard
University of Manchester	United Kingdom	1,603	3.8	Standard
University of Cambridge	United Kingdom	1,379	5.4	Standard
Newcastle University	United Kingdom	1,142	4.6	Standard
University of Liverpool	United Kingdom	1,141	4.5	Standard
University of Sheffield	United Kingdom	1,105	3.6	Standard
University of York	United Kingdom	1,074	3.7	Standard
University of Birmingham	United Kingdom	998	6.3	Standard

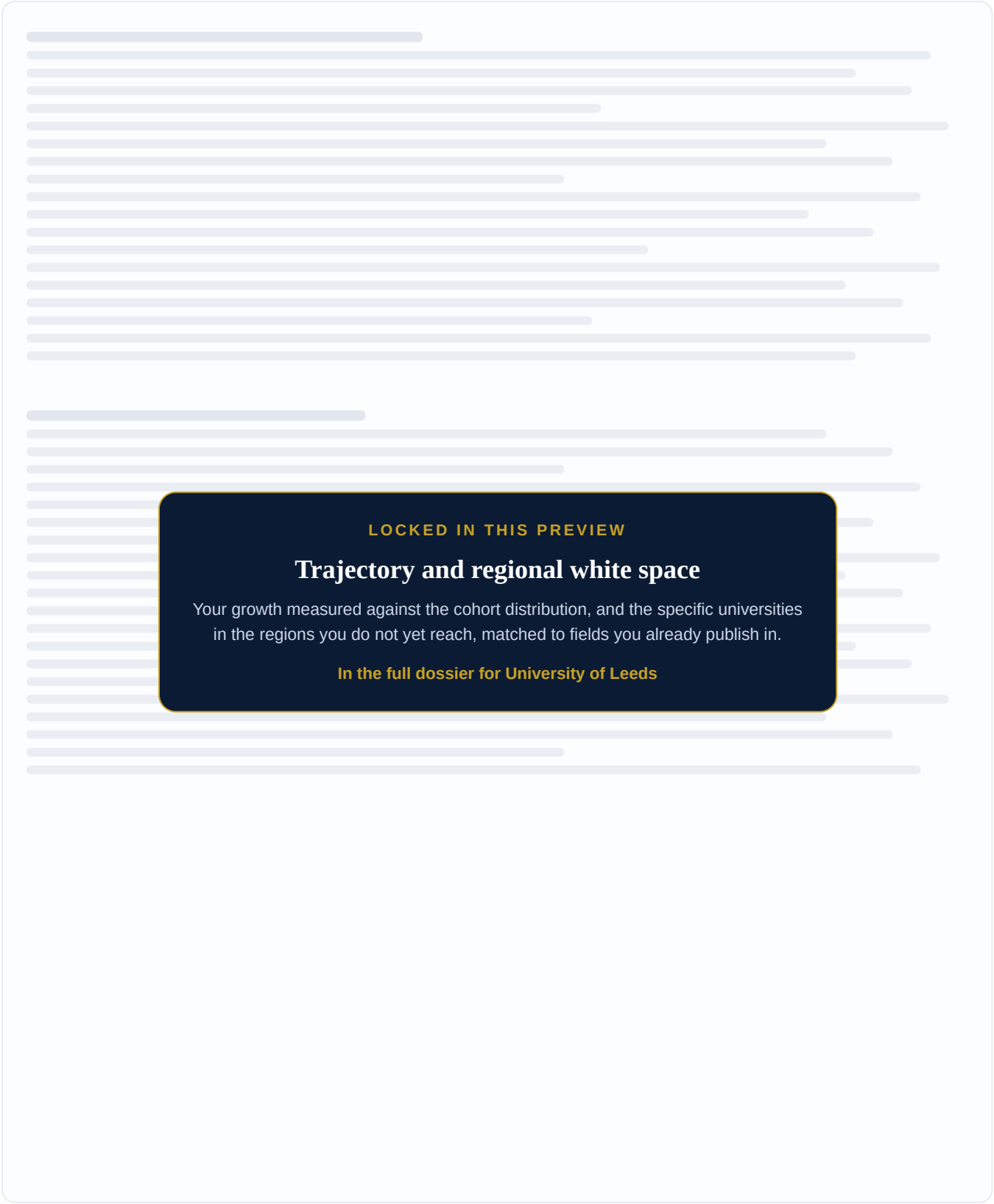
How concentrated your network really is

A number no university computes for itself, because concentration looks like strength from the inside.



Your trajectory, and the regions you do not reach

Growth is only meaningful against the cohort, and a gap is only useful once it has names in it.



FUNDING

The funding behind the network, and the routes that pay for the next one

What GRP can evidence, stated plainly, and nothing beyond it.



■ Horizon Europe ■ Horizon 2020

University of Leeds holds **401 awards** across the funders listed, every one of them published by the funder itself and searchable by anyone. The split between Horizon Europe and Horizon 2020 matters for planning: the Horizon 2020 share is closing, so a partnership built on that record needs a Horizon Europe successor call, not a renewal.

FUNDER	IDENTIFIED	AWARDS	CHECK IT YOURSELF
European Commission Horizon Europe and Horizon 2020	€162M	401	cordis.europa.eu , searchable by participant name

What our funding data does and does not cover. GRP states a funding figure only where the funder publishes the award itself. That is the European Commission for 417 of the 1,195 ranked universities and the US National Institutes of Health for 158. Where neither applies, this dossier names the funding route for each recommended partnership instead of quoting a total we cannot evidence.

Funding routes for the partnerships recommended in this dossier

The programme that would credibly fund each specific pairing, given both countries.

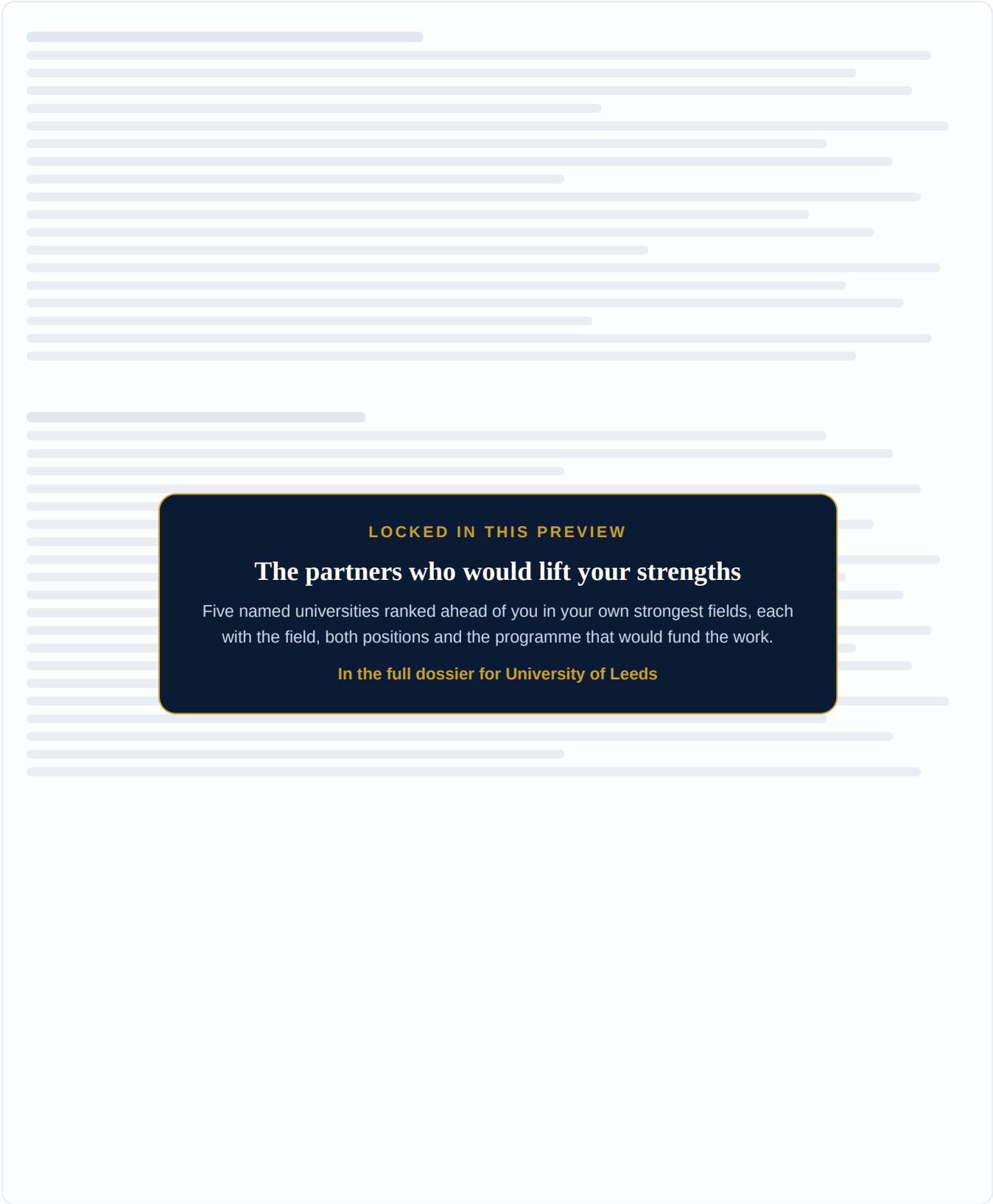
PARTNER	COUNTRY	ROUTE
Wageningen	Netherlands	a Horizon Europe collaborative call, or a bilateral programme linking UKRI and NWO
PolyU Hong Kong	Hong Kong SAR	Horizon Europe association or third-country participation, or a bilateral link between UKRI and the RGC
University of Calgary	Canada	Horizon Europe association or third-country participation, or a bilateral link between UKRI and NSERC
Aarhus University	Denmark	a Horizon Europe collaborative call, or a bilateral programme linking UKRI and the DFF

Source: GRP funder and programme mapping by country pair, with European Commission CORDIS project database, Horizon Europe and Horizon 2020.

Source: European Commission CORDIS project database, Horizon Europe and Horizon 2020 and US National Institutes of Health award records. Verify at cordis.europa.eu and reporter.nih.gov.

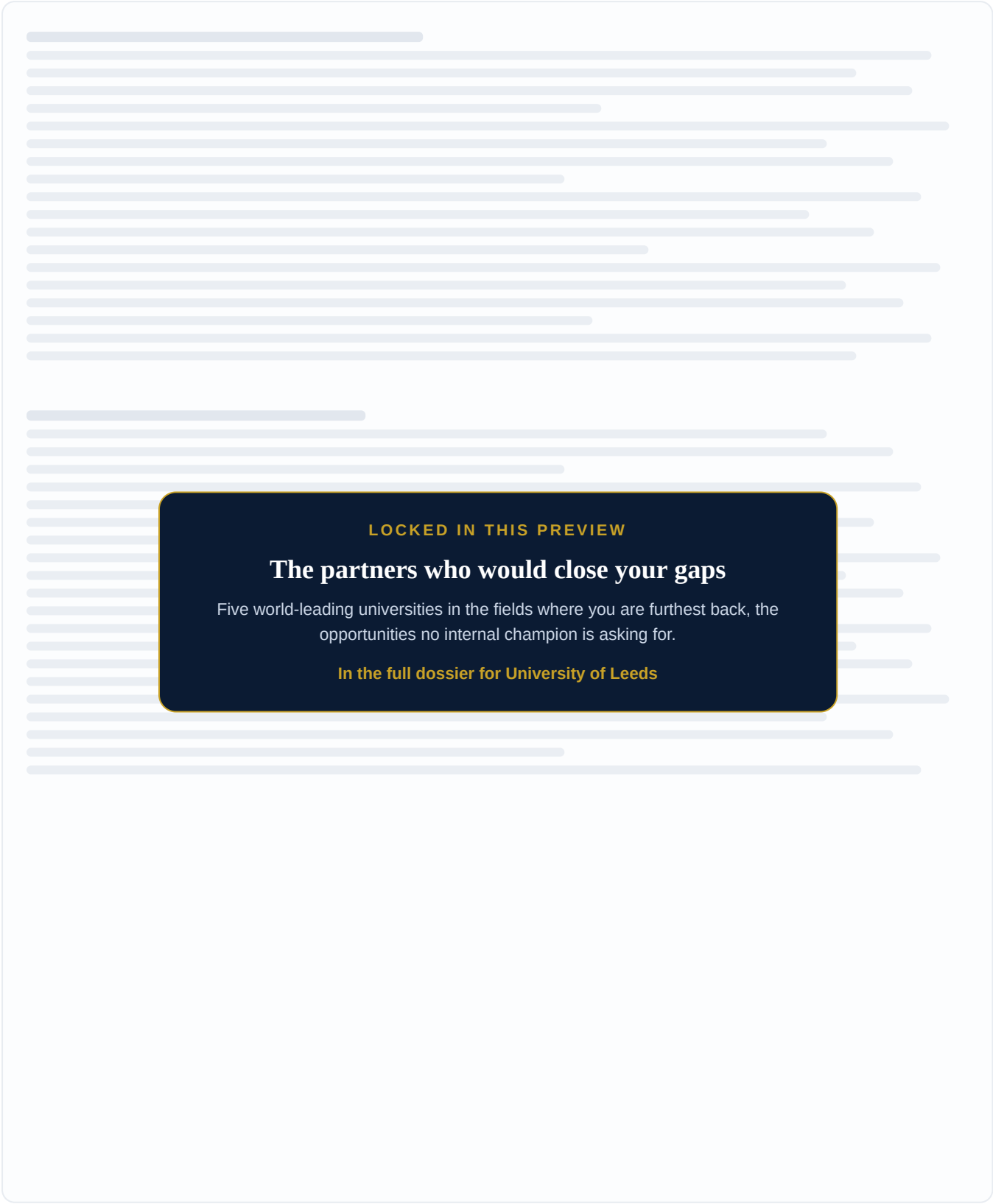
The partners who would lift what you are already good at

Universities ranked ahead of you in the fields you are already strong in, that are not among your 15 anchor partners.



The partners who would close what you are weakest at

World-leading universities in the fields where your published standing is furthest back.



Your standing in the Subject Awards

University of Leeds holds **1 Subject Award win** in the 2026 edition, decided by editorial review and announced on 15 September 2026. Each entry is anchored to a real, cited paper produced with a named partner, and a named academic appears only where our editorial team verified them against the public record.

EARTH AND PLANETARY SCIENCES · SUBJECT AWARD WINNER 2026
with University of Bristol (United Kingdom), 248 joint works

Piers Forster

Indicators of Global Climate Change 2022: annual update of large-scale indicators of the state of the climate system and human influence
2023 · 312 citations · <https://doi.org/10.5194/essd-15-2295-2023>

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE · SUBJECT AWARD CANDIDATE
with University of Oxford (United Kingdom), 239 joint works

Lead author under editorial review

The 2022 report of the Lancet Countdown on health and climate change: health at the mercy of fossil fuels
2022 · 1,625 citations · [https://doi.org/10.1016/s0140-6736\(22\)01540-9](https://doi.org/10.1016/s0140-6736(22)01540-9)

BUSINESS, MANAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTING · SUBJECT AWARD CANDIDATE
with University of Manchester (United Kingdom), 41 joint works

Lead author under editorial review

Circular economy business models and technology management strategies in the wind industry: Sustainability potential, industrial challenges and opportunities
2022 · 117 citations · <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rser.2022.112523>

Source: RCI Subject Awards, editorial review, announced 15 September 2026. Verify at globalresearchpartnerships.com/rci/awards.

Signature joint research

The most cited work produced with partners in the window, each one resolvable by DOI.

PAPER	YEAR	CITATIONS
Phanerozoic paleotemperatures: The earth's changing climate during the last 540 million years https://doi.org/10.1016/j.earscirev.2021.103503	2021	754
Projected land ice contributions to twenty-first-century sea level rise https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-021-03302-y	2021	610

Source: open scholarly record (OpenAlex), co-authored works 2021 to 2025. Verify at doi.org.

The research base behind the network

A partnership plugs into a base, not a name: the concentrations of joint work, and the affiliated institutes and hospitals.

Atmospheric chemistry and aerosols

Geology and Paleoclimatology Research

Leeds General Infirmary

Bradford Royal Infirmary

White Rose University Consortium

A 90 day plan, written from your own data

The dossier ends where a strategy meeting starts. Three moves, sequenced, each pointing back to a specific figure above.

0 to 30 days

Name the two targets

Put Wageningen and University of Calgary to the relevant deans as formal partnership targets, with the rank comparison from this dossier attached. The evidence is a published index position, not an opinion, which is what makes the conversation short.

30 to 60 days

Open the funding route

Scope the named programme for each target and identify the principal investigator on both sides in Agricultural and Bio. Sci.. Formalise the highest-yield existing tie into a funded consortium concept at the same time, so the effort produces two proposals rather than one.

60 to 90 days

Fix the soft spot and set the measure

Take the weakest pillar, impact, and the concentration figure on page 8 to the research committee with a target for the next edition. Set one measurable objective: a named new anchor partner outside your top two countries, with a submitted joint proposal.

What GRP does and does not do. We publish the index and we tell you what it says about you. We do not broker the introductions, and a partnership with GRP will never change your position, your band or any other university's. That independence is the only reason this document is worth reading.

SOURCES AND METHOD

Every figure in this dossier, and where to check it

GRP publishes its method and its sources because the index has to survive being checked. Nothing here rests on a proprietary dataset you cannot see.

WHAT	USED FOR	WHERE TO VERIFY
The index itself Research Collaboration Index 2026, published master record	Pillar percentiles, standing, band, region rank, partner list, growth series, brokerage.	globalresearchpartnerships.com/rci/methodology
Subject indices RCI subject indices, 26 fields, 2026 edition	Every field rank printed in this dossier, 26 of 26 for this university.	globalresearchpartnerships.com/rci/subjects
The research record open scholarly record (OpenAlex), co-authored works 2021 to 2025	Co-authorship, partner countries, citation impact, research themes, exemplar papers.	openalex.org , free and open to anyone
European funding European Commission CORDIS project database, Horizon Europe and Horizon 2020	Amounts and project counts for the 417 ranked universities the Commission publishes.	cordis.europa.eu
US federal funding US National Institutes of Health award records	Award totals and counts for the 158 ranked universities with NIH awards.	reporter.nih.gov
Subject Awards RCI Subject Awards, editorial review, announced 15 September 2026	Winner and finalist standing, the anchoring paper and the verified named academic.	globalresearchpartnerships.com/rci/awards
Attribution register RCI affiliation-attribution register, 2026 edition	The multi-campus affiliation check run before any subject strength is asserted.	stated on this page where it applies

How the score is computed

Six field-normalised pillar percentiles, weighted: influence 22%, impact 18%, sustained ties 18%, reach 16%, diversity 16%, international share 10%. Influence on the overall index is weighted eigenvector centrality on the giant component of the collaboration network. The subject indices use PageRank at alpha 0.85, because at field level eigenvector centrality localises onto the densest cluster and produces results that are mathematically correct and substantively wrong. Brokerage is computed as 60% Burt structural holes and 40% disparity-filter backbone betweenness, and is reported beside the score, never inside it.

What this measures, and what it does not

The index measures collaboration. It is not a measure of teaching, of research quality in the abstract, or of institutional prestige, and a university that collaborates less by deliberate strategy is not failing at anything this index can see. Attribution follows the affiliation string the authors wrote, so a multi-campus system can pool output across its siblings; where our register flags that, it is stated on page 2 rather than left for you to discover.

Corrections

If any figure here is wrong, tell us and we will check it against the source and correct it publicly. Write to factfile@globalresearchpartnerships.com. Corrections are free, they are not conditional on any commercial relationship, and the published scores for the 2026 edition are fixed until the next release, so a correction is recorded and carried forward rather than quietly changing a rank that others have already cited.

Independence. The Research Collaboration Index is free, public and independent. No university can buy a position, improve one, or remove one. Partnership with GRP changes what we can tell you about your own network and nothing whatsoever about where you sit in it.