

# Welcome to Loughborough University

by [Kevin Lomas](#)

Loughborough<sup>1</sup> is in the heart of England in the Borough of Charnwood, in the county of Leicestershire. It has a population of over 60,000, vibrant twice-weekly markets and a fair held annually since 1221.

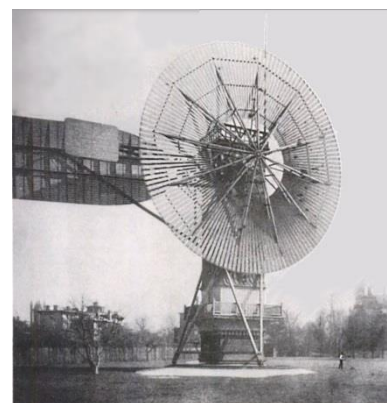
The town is set in the beautiful Charnwood forest, which is a fantastic area for walking, running and cycling. The fossil *Charnia* was discovered in the ancient Precambrian rocks resetting by millennia our understanding of the origins of life on Earth.

The town expanded in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century as engineering and textile industries were established. The electrical engineering firm, established in 1879 by an inventor from Ohio, Charles Brush, continues to thrive. Brush built the world's first wind turbine.

The University grew out of the Technical Institute which was established in the town in 1909. The College of Technology as it became, had a strong focus on engineering and physical education, to provide health skilled young men to support the war effort. Engineering and Sport remain key strengths of the University.

Loughborough became a University in 1966 and is located in a huge 437acre, green campus. The University now has 16,000 students and a new campus was opened in London in 2013. Loughborough was voted UK University of the year in 2008 and has been voted Best Student experience many times.

Building energy research and education is a key strength of the School of the Built Environment, which provides the UK's best research environment<sup>2</sup>. The Building Energy



<sup>1</sup> Pronounced luff/buh/ruh <sup>2</sup> Architecture and the Built Environment, Research Excellence Framework, 2014.



Research Group has access to excellent laboratory and full-scale field test facilities. The University's engineering excellence has won seven Queen's Anniversary Prizes, a feat equalled only by Oxford.

The University is pre-eminent in sport and visitors can make use of the many sports pitches, gyms and the 50m pool. Loughborough hosts many national teams and has won the all-round British Universities Championships for 34 consecutive years. Numerous past and present students, such as Sebastian Coe and Paula Radcliffe, have represent Team GB in major championships - over 80 in Rio alone.



Off campus, The Great Central Railway - the UK's only main line heritage railway runs from Loughborough to Leicester. Many filmmakers have taken advantage of the period features with notable appearances in film and television. Thomas Cook famously organised the first ever railway excursion here in 1841. You can enjoy a steam train outing and evening meal in the restaurant car.



The world famous bell maker Thomas Taylor is based in Loughborough. The company's bells hang in hundreds of churches and cathedrals across the world, including St. Pauls London; St Andrew's in Sydney, National Cathedral in Washington DC and at Yale and Hartford Universities. Open to visitors, you may even get to see bells being cast using centuries old methods.



Loughborough's location is ideal for exploring the cities of Nottingham, Leicester and Derby, as well being close to a variety of tourist attractions such as the Peak District, Sherwood Forest and the National Space Centre. Close by is Bradgate Park (dating from at least 1240). The Park will be forever associated with England's 'Queen for Nine Days', Lady Jane Grey, who lost her crown and her head to Mary Tudor, eldest daughter of Henry VIII.



Loughborough is an easy 90 minute train journey from London. Trains run frequently from Loughborough directly into London St Pancras allowing you the opportunity to visit many of Great Britain's famous attractions such as Tower Bridge, Big Ben, Houses of Parliament, Buckingham Palace, and many, many more. International flights use East Midlands airport which is just 20 minutes away and Birmingham, about an hours' journey.



We are sure that you will find much to do, and will enjoy your stay at Loughborough University.



For further information on the local area, eating out, leisure and the social activities in Loughborough and Leicestershire, please visit <http://www.goleicestershire.com>

