

Cranfield





Pioneers choose Cranfield

“What if?”

Every pioneer asks that question.

Choosing Cranfield is choosing to be a pioneer. It is recognising that you want more than to merely understand the world, you want to shape it. To solve challenges. To drive human progress.

I believe that the purpose of education is to create impact. Cranfield will equip you with the mindset and capability to thrive at that most critical of spaces: the boundary of now and next. The place where the future can be shaped while it is still emerging.

Our University will help you map your own path. You'll work with expert scholars who are global leaders in their fields.

You'll learn alongside entrepreneurs, professionals, and leaders. You'll apply yourself to live, real-world challenges. You'll have access to near-industrial-scale testing facilities and opportunities to work with some of the world's leading companies.

Above all, you'll join a lifelong community. People who share your ambitions. Pioneers who study at Cranfield build start-ups with us, research with us, transform their organisations with us, and draw upon our deep expertise to tackle the world's most critical issues.

Cranfield is powering pioneers every day. I hope you will choose to be one of them.

PROFESSOR DAME KAREN HOLFORD
DBE, FRENG, FIMECHE, FLSW, FWES

CHIEF EXECUTIVE
AND VICE-CHANCELLOR

K. Holford.



An aerial photograph of Cranfield University. The campus is a cluster of modern and traditional buildings, including a large red-brick building and several glass-fronted structures. It is surrounded by a mix of green fields, some of which are golden-brown, suggesting a late summer or autumn setting. In the distance, a line of wind turbines is visible against a clear blue sky. A runway and taxiway are visible to the right of the main campus area, with a small white aircraft parked on the tarmac.

Our University is like no other

At Cranfield, we are proud to stand as a vital innovation partner to society, government, businesses and entrepreneurs. We work hand-in-hand with global industry leaders, pioneering startups, and policymakers to solve the most pressing challenges of our time. We nurture talent, shaping founders and leaders of the organisations that are transforming our world, and Cranfield's diverse practices support them as their needs evolve.

APPLIED RESEARCH

Adding to the integrity of research, we connect the conceptual to the applied, through analysis, testing and monitoring real-world impact.

INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS

A global centre, with 23 strategic capabilities, where our leading experts work to explore, understand and innovate on real-world challenges.

VENTURE BUILDING

We want you to explore your career interests in the way that suits you. Although our graduate employability results are excellent, this may also be the opportunity to test yourself in the entrepreneurial space.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Your learning journey within Cranfield may begin with your postgraduate study and as your career matures and you develop, you may want to review our professional learning, including open programmes, CPD and executive education, bespoke and customised short courses. All designed to help you refresh and gain new skills, behaviours and capabilities.

The UK's only specialist postgraduate university in science, technology, engineering, and management

Different by design. Where most universities are designed primarily for undergraduate education, Cranfield focuses almost entirely on postgraduate study, research, consultancy, and professional development. Students join a community with a shared commitment to professional development, specialist expertise and applied knowledge. Our learning environment is shaped

by ambition, curiosity and purpose. These specialisms allow us to concentrate investment, facilities, teaching and partnerships around sectors tackling significant global challenges. This focus provides students with opportunities to engage directly with the technologies, organisations and research that are shaping the future.





Where study is driven by real-world application

At Cranfield, learning is designed to help students apply knowledge, not simply acquire it.

We work with more than 1,500 organisations in over 40 countries. These relationships help create opportunities for students to engage directly with professional practice through:

INDUSTRY-SPONSORED PROJECTS

EMPLOYER-LED DISSERTATIONS

INTERNSHIPS AND PLACEMENTS

GUEST LECTURES

SITE VISITS

PROFESSIONAL NETWORKING EVENTS

Our courses, which are shaped by industrial practitioners and advisory panels, help ensure that our teaching reflects the challenges organisations face today. You will be encouraged to connect theory with practice through applied projects, specialist facilities and real-world problem solving.

The signature component of many Cranfield MScs is the Group Project, where a corporate partner shares real data and a novel operational problem, one they have not solved internally. Many degrees feature smaller, rapid-fire practitioner modules to apply lecture concepts directly to local businesses or real-life situations.

Our approach isn't driven purely by 'employability'. The problems you will solve. The networks you will build. These are the tools that will equip you for influence and impact. With Cranfield you will lead, shape, found and build the future.

Knowledge put to work



FAST-TRACK CROP IMPROVEMENT

Cranfield researchers are developing new pollen and seed transformation methods to genetically engineer crops without tissue culture, a major barrier to plant innovation. The project could accelerate crop breeding, improve yields and resilience, and make advanced genetic engineering faster, more scalable and accessible across a wider range of species.

3D PRINTING IN SPACE

Cranfield and Airbus Defence and Space developed a metal 3D printer that works aboard the International Space Station. It involved groundbreaking work to understand the effects of microgravity on 3D metal printing. In August 2024, as part of the Cygnus NG-20 mission, the printer successfully produced the first ever 3D printed metal object in orbit. If humans are to build a research station on the moon, or even visit Mars, it will be moments like this that paved the way.

THE WORLD'S BIGGEST CRASH TEST

Cranfield helped design the world's biggest crash test involving 94 cameras, eight cars and a 30-tonne HGV for the TV programme, Pile Up – The World's Biggest Crash Test. Experts and students from Cranfield created a dramatic, full-scale multiple vehicle accident, with real cars driven at motorway speeds by novice drivers, who were totally immersed in the scene but operating the cars remotely, all while capturing data to provide rich, authentic material for analysis.

USING HYDROGEN TO LOWER AVIATION EMISSIONS

Cranfield researchers are conducting hydrogen combustion tests aiming for major fuel and CO2 reductions in aviation. The technology could transform aviation and other transport sectors with ultra-efficient, low-emission engines.



Work directly with

leaders in your field

Programme modules are designed, managed, and delivered directly by world-class experts, people who are actively solving applied challenges and advising businesses and governments. Our academic staff to student ratio is one of the best in the UK (1:6.6) ensuring personalised learning and meaningful engagement.

Unique facilities

Our facilities are built to commercial standards and at near-industrial-scale. From testing rigs to digital labs, an airport to a Formula 1 FIA approved test house, Cranfield gives you the tools and facilities to test hypotheses and turn knowledge into impact like no other.

AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION AT PILOT SCALE

Students studying agrifood and environmental disciplines gain access to facilities supporting advanced crop science, agritech innovation and sustainable food production. These environments help students explore solutions to some of the biggest challenges facing agriculture and environmental sustainability.

ADVANCED MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY

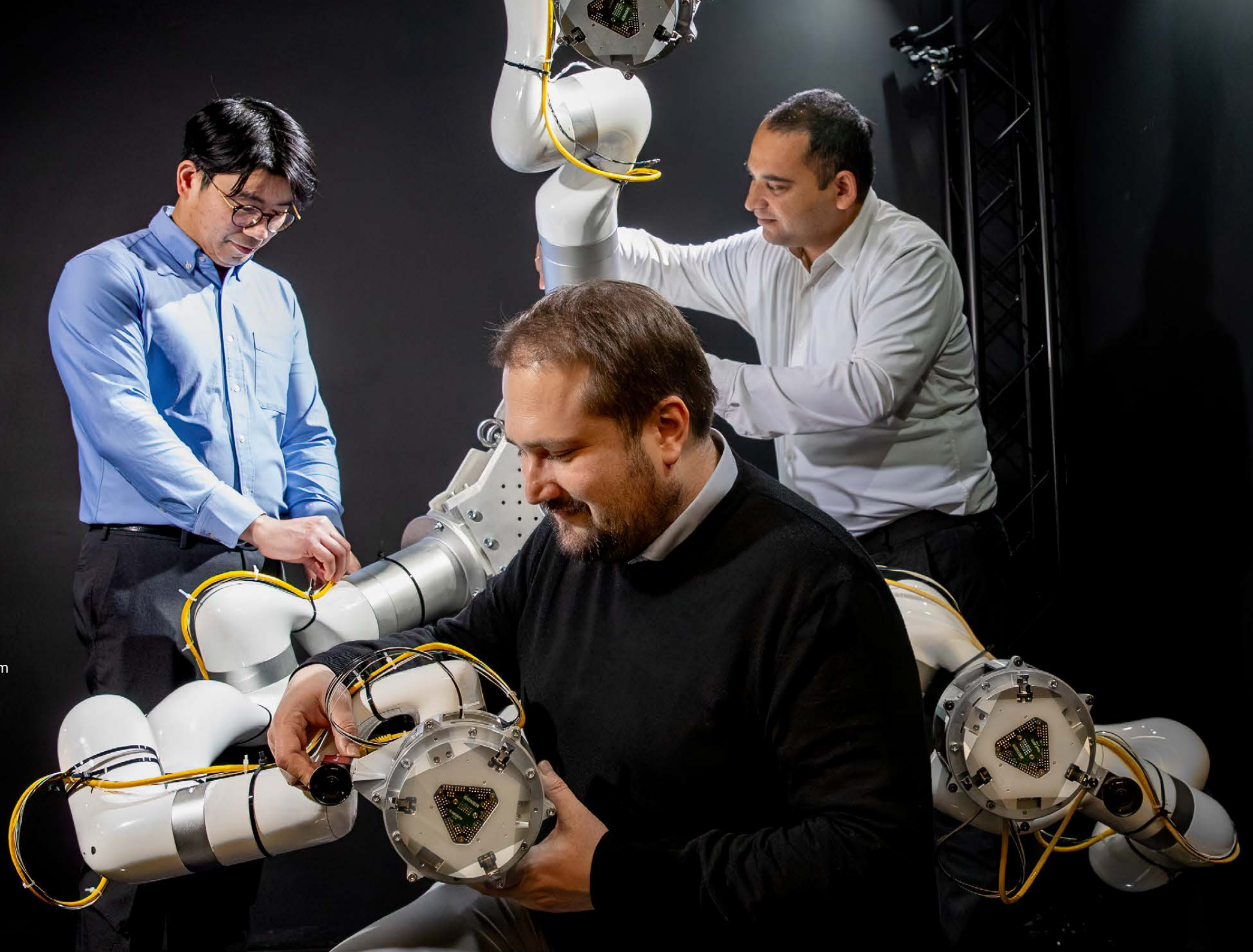
Students work with technologies shaping the future of manufacturing, including robotic welding systems, laser processing and additive manufacturing. These facilities support collaboration with global organisations while exposing students to genuine industrial challenges.

SIMULATING ORBIT

The Advanced Space Technology for Robotics and Astronautics Laboratory (ASTRA-Lab) simulates orbital-like conditions allowing researchers to design, programme and test space robotics and guidance, navigation and control. It gives invaluable hands-on experience for students, and a cutting-edge facility for those developing the next generation of space robotics.

ENGINEERING IN THE SKY

Each year, thousands of aerospace students gain experience through Cranfield's National Flying Laboratory Centre. The Saab 340B flying classroom transforms the cabin of an aircraft into a live engineering laboratory where students can work with real flight data while experiencing aerospace systems in action. Few universities offer access to learning opportunities quite like this.



POWERING

Pioneers choose Cranfield

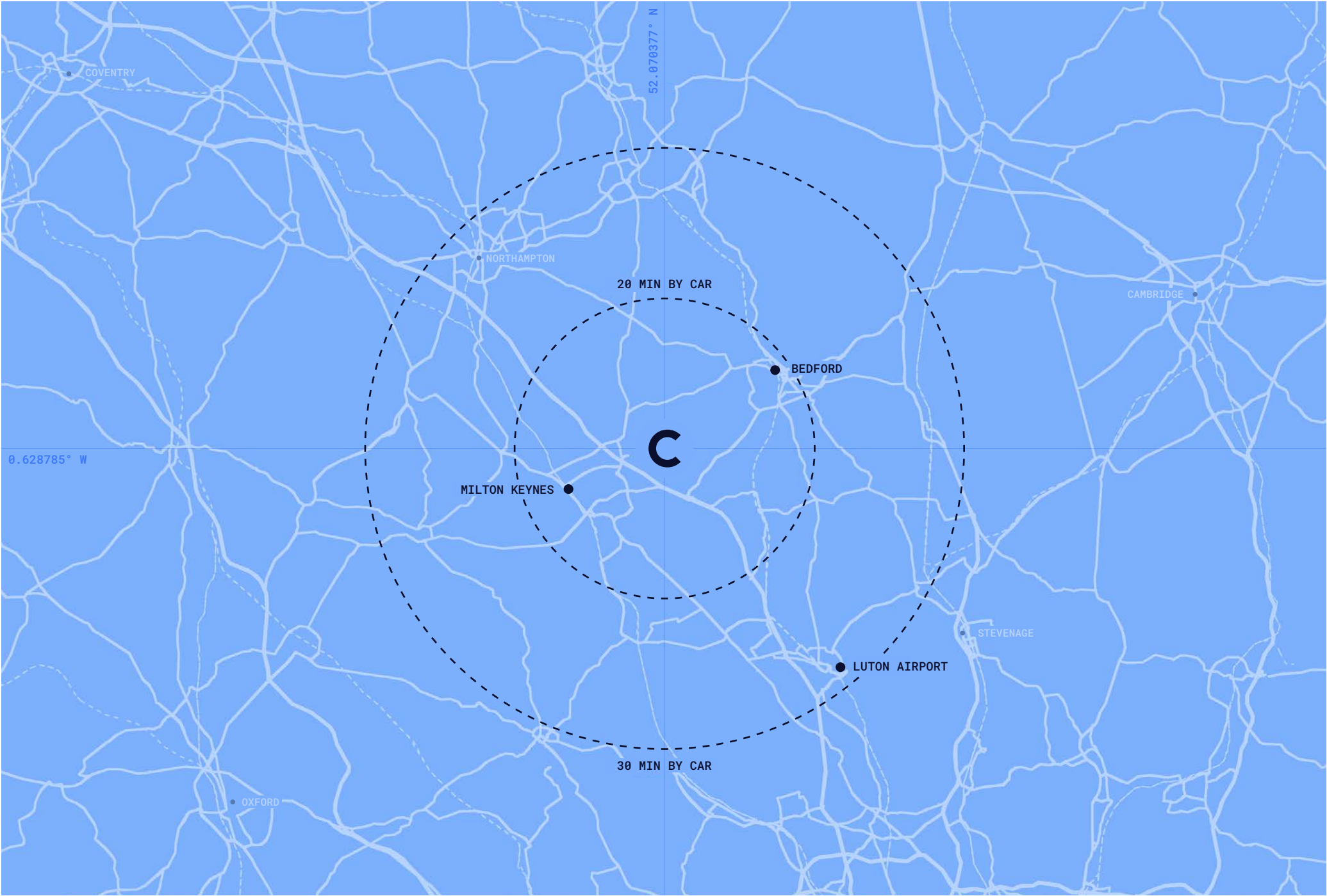
PIONEERS

A woman with dark hair tied back, wearing a bright yellow button-down shirt and a grey skirt, stands at a dark podium. She is gesturing with her right hand while speaking into a microphone. In the foreground, the blurred backs of several audience members' heads are visible, looking towards her. The background consists of large windows with a warm, orange-toned light filtering through.

Make an impact

Cranfield alumni are pioneers creating and harnessing the future. If you travel on a commercial airline, track a global logistics supply chain, watch a Formula 1 race, or want to trust that businesses are run well, you are interacting directly with systems designed and engineered by Cranfield graduates.

Join them.



The future is here

Located at the heart of the Oxford-Cambridge Growth Corridor, one of Europe’s leading innovation regions. Cranfield is well-centred.

The city of Milton Keynes and the historic market town of Bedford are just 20 minutes away. The M1 motorway connects us to the north of England. London is just over 30 minutes by train from Bedford or Milton Keynes.

We have our own business commercial airport on campus, and we’re close to major passenger airports including Luton, Heathrow, and Birmingham.

FROM CRANFIELD TO	JOURNEY TIME
CRANFIELD VILLAGE	10 MIN CYCLE / 5 MIN BUS
MILTON KEYNES	~20 MIN BY CAR
BEDFORD	~20 MIN BY CAR
M1	~10 MIN BY CAR
LONDON ST PANCRAS / EUSTON	DIRECT TRAINS, ~30 MINS
LUTON AIRPORT	~30 MIN BY CAR
HEATHROW AIRPORT	~60 MIN BY CAR
STANSTED / EAST MIDLANDS / BIRMINGHAM AIRPORTS	<90 MIN BY CAR
SHRIVENHAM	~100 MIN BY CAR

Culture-forward

Feed your soul while you change the world.

Milton Keynes Public Art Collection runs to more than 230 pieces, including work by Elisabeth Frink and a Turner Prize winner. There's a 1,400-seat theatre, an award-winning contemporary gallery, a football stadium, and the National Bowl – one of the largest outdoor dedicated music venues in the UK.

Ten minutes in the other direction, Bedford hosts the river festival (one of Europe's biggest free outdoor events) and a ten-day fringe festival every July. It is home to prominent Italian, South Asian, Caribbean, and Eastern European communities.



Explore

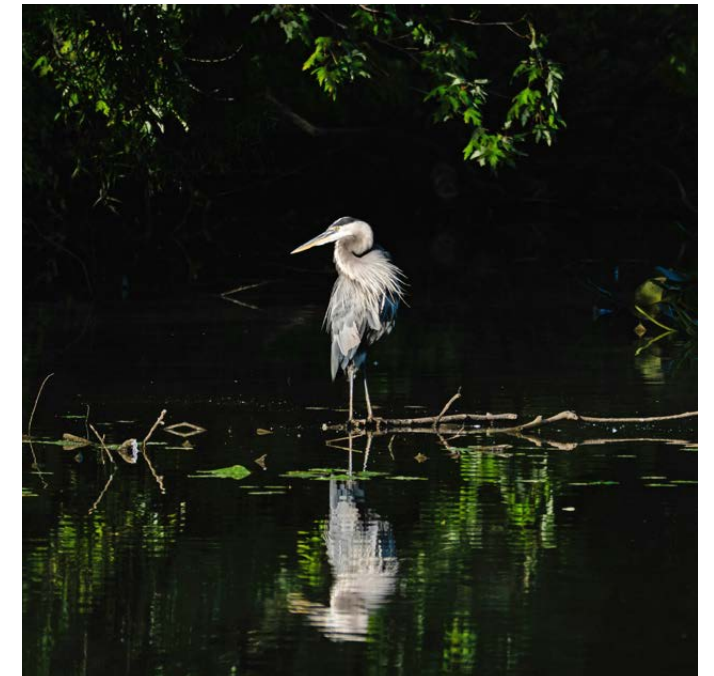


The landscape here turns green fast.

The Forest of Marston Vale's old brickworks are now wetlands, home to herons, kingfishers and trail-walkers.

Sailors, kayakers and paddleboarders head for Willen Lake and Caldecotte Lake, the Grand Union Canal towpath runs for miles through open country, and further along the Great Ouse there's a proper local wild-swimming culture.

This is classic English countryside: wide skies, quiet water – and it starts about five minutes past the campus gate.





A village for thinking

Cranfield is an immersive,
collaborative experience.

A peaceful, surprisingly large campus
is centred around the award-winning
Kings Norton Library, designed by
Sir Norman Foster.

Our aviation heritage is honoured in
the design of many of our buildings.
A constant reminder always to look
up and, for those seeking inspiration,
to reconnect with our motto 'After
clouds, light'.



Living at Cranfield



Set in beautiful, scenic landscape, there is accommodation available on our campus to suit everyone. Choose from individual or shared houses, apartments for couples or family houses.

For students preferring to live off campus, there are options in Bedford, Milton Keynes and surrounding villages.

The Cranfield, Bedford and Milton Keynes area offers excellent educational options for families.



Take it further



APPLYING TO CRANFIELD

1. Apply
2. Admissions review
3. Academic review
4. Offer to study
5. Acceptance of your offer
6. Pay deposit
7. International applicants – visa requirements
8. Pre arrival
9. Arrive at Cranfield

WHAT WE LOOK FOR

Admissions decisions consider academic preparation, English language proficiency, programme suitability and, where relevant, professional experience. Requirements vary between programmes.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

International qualifications are considered alongside those from the UK. For most international students, studying in the UK requires a Student Route visa. Guidance is available throughout the process.

This document was published in September 2026 and information was correct at the time of publication. We regularly review and enhance our courses and services, and details may change after publication. Where material changes are made after an application or offer has been made, we will communicate this in accordance with our terms and conditions. The most up to date course information, terms and conditions, and details of our Student Protection Plan are available on our website. At the time of publication King's College London and Cranfield University have proposed to merge in August 2027.

Measured by what we achieve

88%

of Cranfield research is “world-leading”
or “internationally excellent”

2021 RESEARCH EXCELLENCE FRAMEWORK

88%

of graduates enter professional employment
or further study within 15 months of course
completion

HESA GRADUATE OUTCOMES SURVEY
PUBLISHED JUNE 2026

3x

accredited School of Management

AACSB | AMBA | EQUIS

100K

Our alumni community extends to
over 100,000 professionals across
170 countries

CENTER FOR WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS

Top 20

in the UK for Environmental Sciences,
Materials Sciences and Business

QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS 2026

Top 5

in the UK for Mechanical, Aeronautical
and Manufacturing Engineering

QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS 2026

No. 3

in the UK for our
open executive programmes

FINANCIAL TIMES
EXECUTIVE EDUCATION 2026



Everything you need to know about
how to apply is on our website:

CRANFIELD.AC.UK/PIONEERS-WANTED