



Glasgow City Innovation District



Welcome to Scotland's first innovation district

Glasgow City Innovation District is a hub for entrepreneurship, innovation and collaboration, building on Scotland's rich tradition of scientific excellence and industrial ingenuity.

The District is the result of a successful partnership between Glasgow City Council, the University of Strathclyde, Scottish Enterprise, Glasgow Chamber of Commerce and Entrepreneurial Scotland, and brings together ambitious, forward-thinking people focused on tackling societal and global challenges and driving inclusive economic growth.

Located in the heart of Glasgow City Centre, the District is home to innovative companies and organisations, who locate here to nurture and accelerate growth, improve productivity, and access world-class research and technology from the University.

With its world-class skills and talent base, excellent transport links, and reputation as a desirable city to 'live, work, play, innovate', Glasgow is the ideal place to create a thriving community of companies, researchers and innovation support organisations – key principles of a successful innovation district.

Live * Work * Play * Innovate

“The Innovation District accelerates the impact of creativity and new ideas by crystallising an exciting, co-located, community of business people, investors and academics – it puts the right infrastructure in place to help people and organisations grow. The combination of talent, collaboration and focus on success is unbeatable.”

Professor Sir Jim McDonald,
Principal & Vice-Chancellor of the University of Strathclyde





A track-record for innovation

For centuries, Scotland has been home to great innovators, from John Logie-Baird, inventor of the television, to Henry Faulds, the scientist behind fingerprint identification. It's a tradition that continues to burn brightly in Glasgow, where businesses and academia work side-by-side to create research with impact.

Since 2011, the University of Strathclyde and partners have invested more than £100 million in the pioneering Technology & Innovation Centre and neighbouring Inovo building, enabling co-location of businesses, academia and research groups.

The area already hosts three industry-focused research clusters in energy, enabling technologies and pharmaceutical manufacturing; four Catapults – the UK's centres designed to transform capability for innovation; and three Scottish Innovation Centres.

This environment has brought in new jobs, inward investment and organisations with innovation at their core – from The Weir Group's Advanced Research Centre to the UK headquarters of Europe's largest contract research organisation, Fraunhofer.

At the same time, significant investment has been made in the creative sectors, including the development of Barras Art and Design in the East End.

By capitalising on the critical mass of leading, industry-relevant research, innovative companies and innovation support organisations, the District is delivering benefits to companies, the community and the economy.

Investing in the future

With over 89,000 businesses operating in Glasgow, Glasgow City Innovation District has a thriving and entrepreneurial ecosystem. It's already attracting significant investment in its business, culture and leisure infrastructure making it the ideal place to "live, work, play and innovate".

The District is being transformed through a number of property developments including Love Loan by the Chris Stewart Group on George Street. This will combine the refurbishment of heritage buildings with a new build to create a mixed-use space. Bruntwood SciTec is also redeveloping the Met Tower and transforming it into a dedicated digital and tech hub offering coworking, serviced, and leased office space.

To meet demand from companies looking to co-locate, the University of Strathclyde is developing the Technology & Innovation Zone at the heart of the District, with proposals to construct two additional buildings at an estimated cost of £150 million. Money from university alumnus Dr Charles Huang will be used to build the Charles Huang Advanced Technology & Innovation Centre. This will transform the way academia, business, industry and the city collaborate and become a UK hub for nurturing new start-up and scale-up companies, generating new jobs and skills.

Development of additional space in the area will allow for the growth of six new industry-led clusters – 5G & Advanced Communications, FinTech, HealthTech, Industrial Informatics, Quantum and Space – as well as supporting existing clusters and opportunities in many growing sectors. It will also host a world-class Innovation and Entrepreneurship Hub that will showcase new technologies and provide support to companies and individuals in the District.

There is also a commitment to create a Social Innovation Hub, with dedicated and accessible community engagement spaces and related programmes of activity, and to pursue a UK innovative-at-scale Passivhaus standard.

Meanwhile, work has begun on two new hotels in the area, and planning permission has been granted for a 7.5 acre neighbourhood of more than 700 rental homes in tree-lined space behind High Street railway station.



"The District represents the heart of high-tech innovation in Glasgow and the UK more broadly. M Squared already holds a presence and working relationship with the University of Strathclyde – and having completed my PhD there – I understand first-hand how invaluable access and close proximity to the research facilities can be."

Dr Graeme Malcolm OBE,
CEO and co-founder of M Squared



Why locate here?

The Innovation District model is increasingly viewed around the world as an effective way of developing new ideas, technologies and business practices. Bursting with energy, passion and creativity, Glasgow is perfectly placed to benefit from this model.

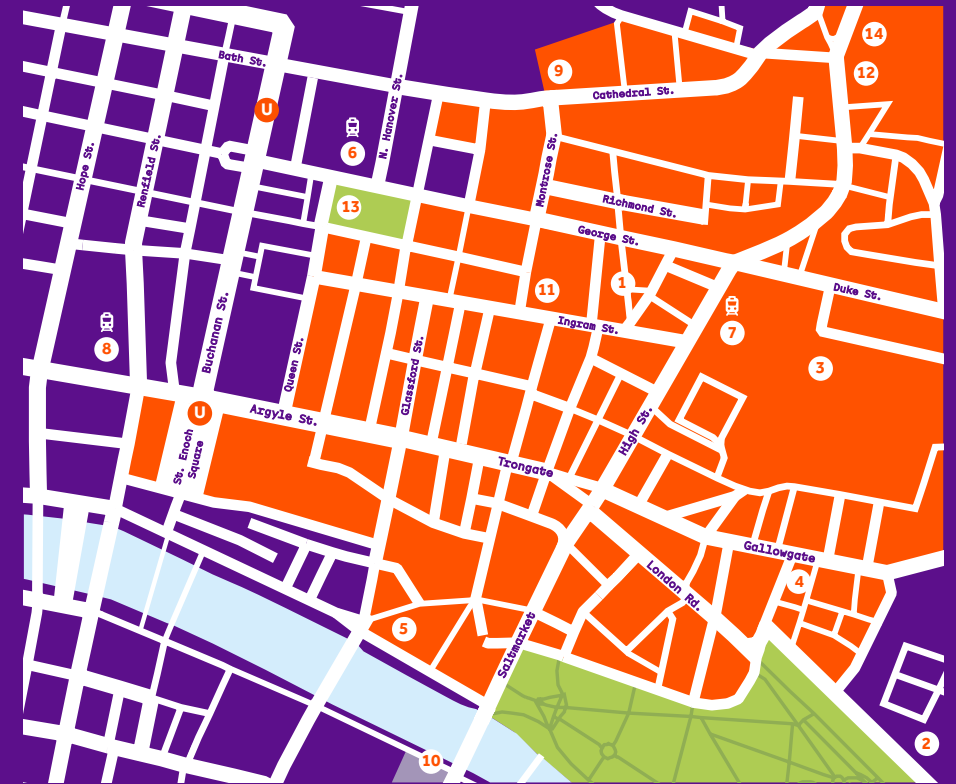
Proximity to the University of Strathclyde means companies benefit from access to a talented, highly-skilled workforce, as well as close links with the University's dedicated team for industry-academic interaction.

The District boasts well-established business, education and cultural communities and assets, alongside an existing concentration of innovation organisations and companies working to develop new technologies and designs, while showcasing creative talent.

And with a growing innovation community plus technology and creative strengths, more and more businesses are choosing to locate in Glasgow City Innovation District.

Creating a Climate Neutral Innovation District

As part of the development of Glasgow City Innovation District, the University of Strathclyde is leading an ambitious project to a 100% renewable climate neutral and climate resilient area within the district. The project aims to integrate heat, power, transport, climate adaptation and wellbeing solutions that will benefit everyone in the area of the Innovation District.



Glasgow City
Innovation
District

Glasgow City Innovation
District Landmarks

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 1 University of Strathclyde | 9 City of Glasgow College
City Campus |
| 2 Templeton Business Centre | 10 City of Glasgow College
Riverside Campus (across the river) |
| 3 Collegelands | 11 The Garment Factory |
| 4 Barras / BAAD development | 12 Glasgow Cathedral |
| 5 Briggait | 13 George Square |
| 6 Queen Street Station | 14 Glasgow Royal Infirmary |
| 7 High Street Station | |
| 8 Glasgow Central Station | |



The District offers:


- An exciting and inspiring environment that is seeing significant investment, providing companies with room to grow, thrive and collaborate
- A proud history of innovation and translating cutting-edge research into benefits for business, the economy and society
- Excellent connectivity, with direct access to the UK motorway, national & suburban rail network, and Glasgow and Edinburgh International Airports
- Highly desirable living accommodation
- Easy access to leading-edge research expertise and first-class facilities at the University of Strathclyde and partner universities internationally
- International events capability and social learning spaces
- A highly-educated workforce, graduate pool and skills base
- Vibrant urban living and social life – Merchant City, cultural venues, pop-up shops, restaurants and visitor attractions
- A city with multiple knowledge sectors and an ability to scale expertise around your needs
- A culturally-rich, creative and artistic environment – including The Briggait, Trongate 103, Barras Art & Design, Tron Theatre
- Opportunities to build a strong, knowledge-sharing, collaborative community through a growing calendar of events
- Proximity to the emerging Advanced Manufacturing Innovation District Scotland at Inchinnan.

“Relative to other parts of the city centre, the Innovation District is very cost-effective – the quality of space we were able to afford here was way beyond similar spaces elsewhere in the city.”

Neil Logan,
Founder, Incremental Group


Innovators: who's here already?

- Add Jam
- AND Digital
- ARBNCO
- Bellrock Technology
- Broadway Partners
- BVG Associates (BVG)
- Centre for Continuous Manufacturing and Crystallisation
- Channel 4
- Connected Place Catapult
- Digital Health & Care Innovation Centre
- Electricity Supply Board (ESB)
- Energy Technology Partnership
- Fraunhofer UK and Fraunhofer Centre for Applied Photonics
- Graven
- Haelo
- High-Value Manufacturing Catapult
- Huli
- Hunter Centre for Entrepreneurship
- INCH Architecture
- Incremental Group
- Industrial Biotechnology Innovation Centre (IBioIC)
- Innovation Centre for Sensor and Imaging Systems (CENSIS)
- Katrick Technologies
- Lean IP
- National Physical Laboratory
- Nude
- Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult
- Pressure Profile Systems Inc (PPS)
- Renewables Consulting Group
- Rolls-Royce University Technology Centre
- Scottish Centre of Excellence in Satellite Applications
- Scottish Chambers of Commerce
- Scottish Research Partnership in Engineering (SRPe)
- Seawater Solutions
- Smartest Energy
- Spartan Solutions
- Spreng Thomson
- Technology Scotland
- Trade in Space
- The Data Lab
- The Media Shop Scotland
- The Scottish Space Incubator
- The Weir Group
- Two Rivers Media
- Workplace Innovation Europe



“This is the most amazing part of the city to work in. It’s a proper place with a distinguished history, good architecture, cafes, bars and shops. It’s walkable, train-able, and park-able.”

Professor Janice Kirkpatrick OBE,
Director, Graven





Technology & Innovation Zone

The Technology & Innovation Zone, centred on the University of Strathclyde, forms the core of the District. The zone has a high concentration of innovative organisations, from UK Catapult centres to Scottish Funding Council innovation centres.

Strathclyde's well-known strengths in energy, enabling technologies and pharmaceutical manufacturing are being enhanced with a focus on a number of newer clusters of research capability and organisations in:

- **5G & Advanced Communications:** enabling technologies to make the Internet of Things a reality and transform diverse fields from health to manufacturing.
- **Financial technologies (FinTech):** innovating new technologies and business models that will help secure the future of our financial sector, and make money more accessible and secure.
- **Health technologies (Heath Tech):** from medical devices for monitoring and diagnostics to digitally enabled patient care that will help transform our health services.
- **Industrial informatics:** innovating asset management and industrial operations through the use of data, sensing and modelling.
- **Quantum:** harnessing the behaviour of physics at an atomic scale to develop next-generation sensing, imaging, computing and communications.
- **Space:** satellite design and manufacturing, and satellite-enabled data approaches to tackle environmental challenges and create innovative business applications.

“We love the history of the Merchant City area – there is literally inspiration in every street.

It's a welcoming place for our clients too. So, whether we're helping them to grow their brands, expand into new markets, forge new partnerships or take on complex challenges – being in the District creates an environment that helps us raise our game.”

Lesley Thomson,
Spreng Thomson,
Managing Director

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GLASGOW
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

