

Welcome to QMUL

QMUL 1st September 2026

Professor Adrian Bevan
Head of the School of Physical and Chemical Sciences

QMUL: Opening the doors of opportunity for excellence since 1785

- Welcome to one of our London campus locations
- We have over:
 - 32,000 students
 - 5,700 staff
- Next year marks the 140th anniversary of Science and Engineering at QMUL



Our origins

- Four Founding Colleges
- Merged over the years into our world leading university



St Bartholomew's Hospital
Medical College, 1843



Westfield College, 1882

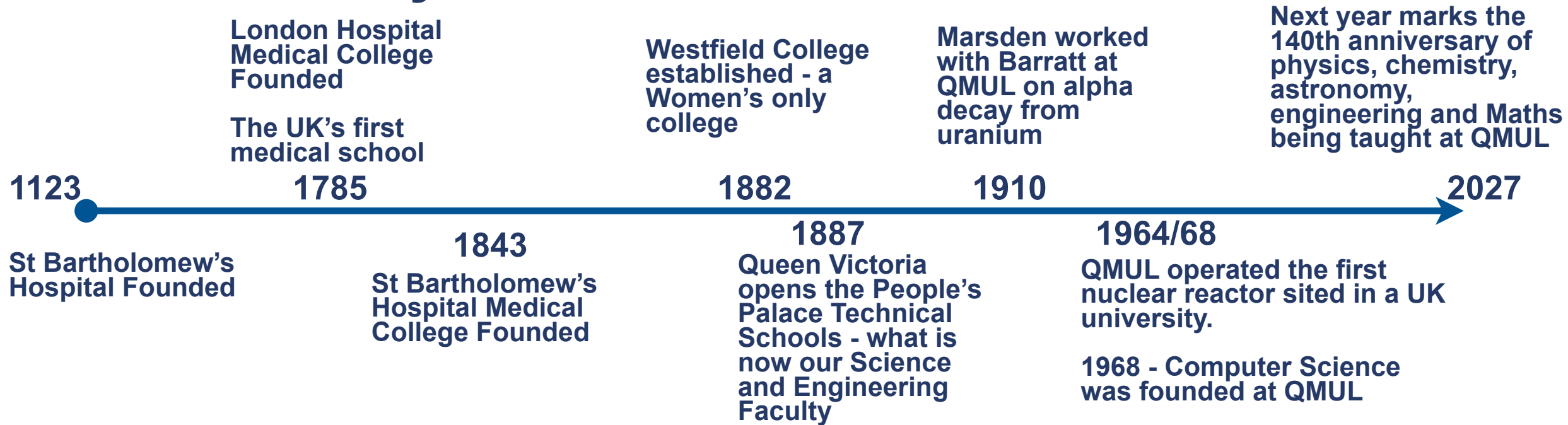


London Hospital Medical
College, 1785



Queen Mary College, 1887

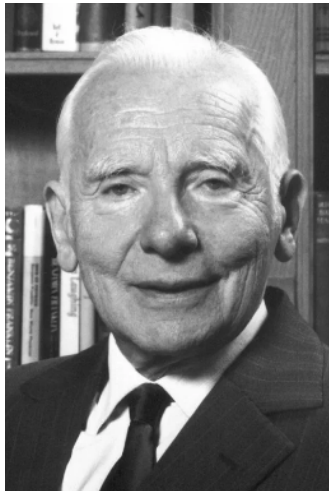
A brief history



- The QMUL mission is to open the doors of opportunity for excellence
- We have been doing that since 1785
- Our roots are embedded in history dating back to the 11th century

A brief history

- QMUL celebrates our 9 Nobel Prize winners
- The 3 most relevant to Science and Engineering worked to change our lives for the better through peace, medicine and physics - we have all benefitted from their great work



Joseph Rotblat

Nobel Prize for Peace in 1995

For their efforts to diminish the part played by nuclear arms in international politics and, in the longer run, to eliminate such arms



Peter Mansfield

Nobel Prize for Medicine in 2003

For their discoveries concerning magnetic resonance imaging



Charles Kao

Nobel Prize for Physics in 2009

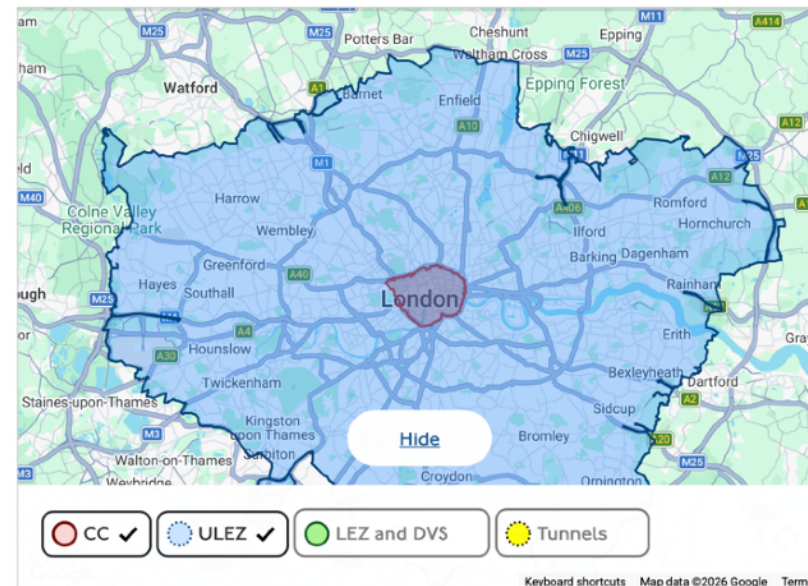
For groundbreaking achievements concerning the transmission of light in fibers for optical communication

QMUL - a world leading university

- One of the elite Russell Group of top-tier UK universities
- 7th in the UK for research excellence: THE World University Ranking 2026
- 31st in the world for quality of research: THE World University Ranking 2026
- Climbed 35 places in the QS world rankings in the past 2 years - fastest rising Russell Group university in the QS
- Shortlisted for the University of the Year award in the 2025 Times Higher Education Awards

Recent scientific highlights from QMUL include

- Air quality research by Jonathan Grigg and Chris Griffiths: Air pollution is the top environmental risk to human health in the UK.
- 1/2 of London's air pollution comes from road traffic
- Air quality in London regularly breached legal limits
- Since 2008 these scientists have studied the effects of air quality on the population, most recently completing a multi-year study on lung function in London and Luton schools
- Their work has helped understand the medical benefits of the low emissions zone and inform policy including the creation of the ultra low emission zone



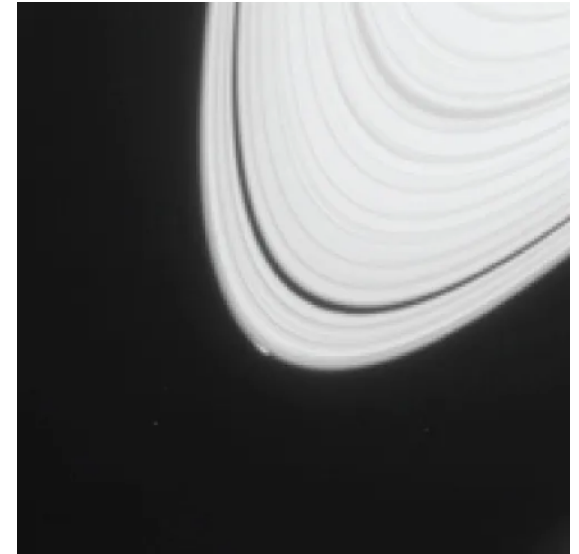
Benefits include:

Up to 54% reduction in NO₂

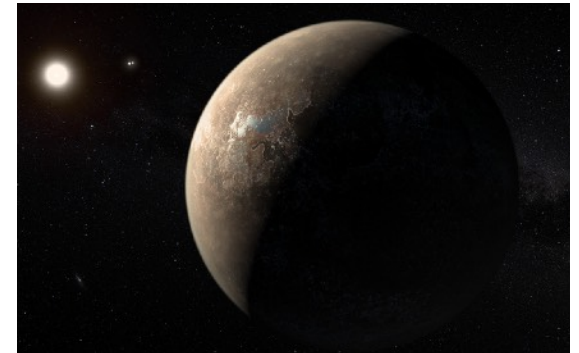
31% drop in PM2.5 levels

Recent scientific highlights from QMUL include

- Detailed studies of data from sensor arrays leading to:
 - Deeper understanding of the Sun via the Parker Solar Probe
 - Detailed understanding of Saturn's rings, and the discovery of a new moon "Peggy" via the Cassini project
 - Discovery of Proxima B using the European Southern Observatory
 - Culmination of 41 years of work on the ATLAS experiment at CERN, leading to the discovery of the Higgs boson, and over 18 years of work on the design and construction of the ATLAS tracker upgrade



NASA, Cassini Imaging Team



By ESO/M. Kornmesser - <https://www.eso.org/public/images/ann16056a/>, CC BY 4.0

Working with radiation

- Our long history of working with radiation turned from Nuclear to Particle Physics in 1960 when Alick Ashmore joined QMUL.
- Peter Kalmus's group, with RAL and Birmingham group's joined the UA1 experiment and contributed a hadronic calorimeter to that experiment.
- UA1 went on to discover the W and Z bosons - gateway particles to underpin our understanding of the standard model of particle physics, and signpost the Higgs boson.
- Since that time the QMUL particle physics group has worked on measurements related to many of the major discoveries in the field, including CP violation in B decays, detailed understanding of the proton structure, neutrino oscillations and the Higgs boson discovery.
- Today our scientists and engineers work with radiation from the fundamental theory to applications in nuclear security and medical technologies.



PIPK 1993-2026

Your week

- It is a privilege to be able to welcome you all to QMUL for the 14th Position Sensitive Detectors conference.
- I hope that your time here at QMUL is an enjoyable one, where you learn, network and are able to convey the latest work from your groups and research collaborations.
- I look forward to hearing your talks throughout the week, and apologise in advance to those of you that I will not be able to hear speak due to a few immutable commitments over the coming days.