



University of Manchester Act 2004

2004 CHAPTER iv

An Act to transfer to The University of Manchester all rights, properties, assets and obligations of The Victoria University of Manchester and University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology and to dissolve those bodies; to enact provisions with regard to The University of Manchester; and for other purposes. [8th July 2004]

WHEREAS—

- (1) The Owens College was founded in 1851 in the City of Manchester pursuant to the provisions of the will of John Owens who died in 1846. By the Owens Extension College, Manchester, Act 1870 (c. 2) the College became incorporated as the Owens College Manchester and regulated pursuant to the provisions of that Act as subsequently amended by the Owens College Act 1871 (c. cxlvii) and the Owens College Act 1899 (c. clxxv):
- (2) The Victoria University was founded and constituted in the City of Manchester by Royal Charter granted by Her late Majesty Queen Victoria on 20th April 1880 under the name of “Victoria University”:
- (3) By the said Charter of 1880 the Owens College Manchester was constituted a college of Victoria University and it was provided that other colleges might from time to time be admitted as colleges of Victoria University in the manner and subject to the conditions prescribed in the Charter. Royal Charters dated 20th March 1883 and 3rd June 1898 were granted supplemental to the said Charter of 1880:
- (4) In 1884 University College Liverpool was admitted as a college of Victoria University and in 1887 the Yorkshire College Leeds was also admitted as a college of Victoria University:
- (5) By Royal Charter granted by His late Majesty King Edward the Seventh dated 15th July 1903 Victoria University became known as “The Victoria University of Manchester” and it was provided by that Charter that on 1st October 1903, University College Liverpool should cease to be a college of The Victoria University of Manchester. It was further provided by that Charter that on the 1st October 1904 or on the grant of a Royal Charter establishing a university in Leeds or elsewhere in Yorkshire whichever should happen first the Yorkshire College should cease to be a

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college of The Victoria University of Manchester. A Royal Charter was also granted by His late Majesty King Edward the Seventh in 1903 establishing a university in Liverpool to be called the University of Liverpool:

- (6) By the [Victoria University of Manchester Act 1904 \(c.xiii\)](#) the Owens College Manchester became incorporated with The Victoria University of Manchester, all property and liabilities of the College were transferred to The Victoria University of Manchester, and the College ceased to exist as a separate corporation:
- (7) On 12th February 1973 a further Supplemental Charter was granted to The Victoria University of Manchester which revoked, except insofar as they related to the incorporation of The Victoria University of Manchester, the Royal Charters of 1880, 1883, 1898 and 1903:
- (8) In 1824 the Mechanics' Institution (“the Institution”) in Manchester was established to teach the basic principles of science, particularly mechanics and chemistry:
- (9) In 1883 the Institution was reorganised as a Technical School using the schemes and examinations of the City and Guilds' of London Institute:
- (10) The Institution’s building was commenced in 1895 and opened in October 1902 in Sackville Street, Manchester by which time the Institution had become the Manchester Municipal School of Technology (“the School”):
- (11) In 1905, in pursuance of a scheme approved by the court of The Victoria University of Manchester and by the Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Citizens of the City of Manchester, a faculty of technology was created for the co-ordination of the work of The Victoria University of Manchester and the School. In 1918 the School was renamed the Manchester Municipal College of Technology:
- (12) On 29th July 1955, a Royal Charter was granted incorporating the Manchester Municipal College of Technology as the Manchester College of Science and Technology (“the College”) with a duty to give effect to the scheme until otherwise agreed by The Victoria University of Manchester and the College. In April 1966 after all non-university courses had been transferred to other institutions, the College was renamed the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology (“UMIST”). Until 1994 under the terms of the scheme, degrees of The Victoria University of Manchester were awarded:
- (13) By agreement in 1994, the scheme was terminated in favour of a new alternative form of collaboration in educational provision and at which time an amendment to the Royal Charter was allowed, giving the College power to award degrees in its own name:
- (14) The Councils and Courts of The Victoria University of Manchester and UMIST have agreed that it is expedient that they should cease to exist and that the Royal Charters granted for each of those bodies should be revoked in accordance with the provisions of this Act; and that a new university should be founded as a centre of excellence for research, scholarship, learning and teaching with the name and style of “The University of Manchester” to perform the functions at present performed by The Victoria University of Manchester and UMIST:
- (15) The Victoria University of Manchester and UMIST have established a jointly owned company limited by guarantee under the name of “Project Unity” and The Victoria University of Manchester and UMIST have, through Project Unity, presented a petition to Her Majesty in Council to grant a Royal Charter founding The University of Manchester in their place:

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(16) It is expedient that the other provisions contained in this Act should be enacted:

(17) The objects of this Act cannot be attained without the authority of Parliament:

May it therefore please your Majesty that it may be enacted, and be it enacted, by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—