



Highlights 2025



water@leeds highlights 2025



Live grants: £40.2 million (price to UoL) /£49.6M (FEC)



Successful grants in last year: £23.8M (price to UoL)/£25.4M (FEC)



Our KPI target transitions from £10M to £20M/yr by 2028 !



~1000 publications per year with 66% of these including international co-authors. (KPI target = 50% internationally co-authored by 2028). Looking at agenda setting publications driven by water@leeds

January

Corals, communities and climate change



How can we know which corals around the world are going to cope best with climate change? One idea is to spot them from space. An international research project called Climate REEFS maps the properties of adaptive reefs in the Philippines and Indonesia, identifying reefs with similar characteristics using satellite imagery. [Read the full research story.](#)

February

Water Woman Award winners 2025



The Water Woman Award, now in its fourth edition, celebrates outstanding achievements of women at the University of Leeds advancing water-related research, securing competitive funding, producing impactful publications, and creating societal benefits—all while inspiring and empowering other women through their leadership

February

International workshop on Stakeholder on Flood Risk and Climate Change –Mexico Chapter

Miércoles 9 de abril 9:00 - 17:00 hrs



Taller Internacional sobre Riesgo de Inundaciones Urbanas y Cambio Climático

Te invitamos a explorar estrategias innovadoras para la gestión de riesgos de inundaciones frente al cambio climático que integren enfoques tanto de ingeniería como impulsados por la naturaleza.

 Centro del agua   UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

| CEDES, Tecnológico de Monterrey Campus Monterrey

 Health for people  Climate & Sustainability for the planet  Industrial Transformation for prosperity 



This initiative is part of a larger effort to bridge academic research with real-world action, bringing together local stakeholders, researchers, and policymakers to co-develop practical solutions for one of the most pressing global challenges—flood risk and climate resilience.

March

Leeds researchers lead global efforts to save glaciers



21 March 2025 marks the first-ever World Day for Glaciers. Launched by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, this pioneering initiative aims to raise awareness of the vital role glaciers, snow and ice play in the climate system and water cycle.

Researchers from water@leeds are leading the field in the study of what represents some of the most iconic landscapes on the planet. They're hoping increased efforts to investigate the effects of rising global temperatures on some of the most extreme locations on Earth will reveal crucial clues as to the potential fate for communities living across the world.

March

Royal Society Pairing Scheme

In March Dr Megan Klaar (right) along with Professor Cathryn Birch, Dr Jim McQuaid, joined 27 other scientists in shadowing politicians and civil servants to explore the world of policymaking.

The scheme runs in partnership with the Government Office for Science's GSE Profession Team, and aims to strengthen relationships between scientists and policymakers, ensuring that decisions are informed by the best scientific evidence.



April

water@leeds: Translating Research into Water Solutions

smart classes

Your search que

WATER MANAGEMENT Smart Class 2025

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water@leeds team members shared their collaborative experience in water research, flooding and peatlands at the WATER MANAGEMENT Smart Class 2025 (Nexus, Leeds University).

May

WaterLANDS General Assembly 2025: A Week of Collaboration and Creativity in Leeds

From Monday 12th to Friday 16th May, the WaterLANDS project brought together partners, artists, scientists, policy experts and site coordinators from across Europe for its annual General Assembly in Leeds, UK.



May

UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Water and Sanitation: Public Lecture



water@leeds was privileged to host Mr Pedro Arrojo-Agudo United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation at University of Leeds on 21 May 2025.

June

International Collaboration for Clean Water



14 international participants attended the workshop "Enhancing Global Cooperation for Clean Water: Strategies to Manage Contaminants and Sustain Ecosystem Services."

The event aimed to foster collaboration and develop a shared vision for sustainable water quality management on a global scale. Participants took part in meaningful discussions, shared their expertise, and worked towards common goals in managing water quality regionally and globally.

July

Empowering Citizen Science Partnerships

water@leeds and the Meanwood Valley Partnership were delighted to host the Empowering Citizen Science Partnerships event at the University of Leeds on June 11th.

The event brought together eight local groups involved in water quality monitoring across the Leeds area, alongside other environmental stakeholders.



August

Saving the Dead Sea

As the Dead Sea shrinks at an alarming pace, environmental experts from the Middle East and UK are calling on regional policymakers to take urgent action.

The event explored innovative, cross-border solutions for mitigating the continuing drop in water level and encouraging rehabilitation of the lake and its chief tributary, the Jordan River.



September

Early career grant development group

Early career researchers from multiple disciplines participated in a programme designed to develop their skills as researchers and in grant writing.

This year, as well as sessions on grant writing, this year we were joined by previously successful fellows and a science communications specialist and a member of NERC's Peer Review College.

We have welcomed over 30 water researchers since the grant development group began and previous members of the group have secured Future Leader Fellowships, Defra research fellowships and applied to multiple funding schemes.



October

Confluence 2025

With 30 presentations showing the breadth and depth of water research taking place across the University, there was a lot of energy in the room!

We welcomed 80 delegates keen to discover potential collaborations and discuss their research.

Also on display was the water@leeds Virtual Museum showcasing poems, videos and artwork from different projects.



November

Hi-RISE: Himalayan glacier-fed River and Stream Ecosystems

The Hi-RISE project field team spent over 16 days in the Sagarmatha/Everest region of the Himalayas, sampling rivers to gain insight into the biodiversity, ecosystem functioning and effects of glacier retreat in Nepal.

They have now returned home to the lab to process all the samples.



December

EIT Water

water@leeds are delighted to announce their key role in EIT Water, a new Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC) dedicated to water, marine and maritime ecosystems, funded by the European Institute of Technology (EIT). This was made possible through our international reputation for water excellence, water stakeholder curation and project co-design and our central role in the bid development.

EIT WATER

Meet the winning consortium



European Institute of
Innovation & Technology

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major water issues