

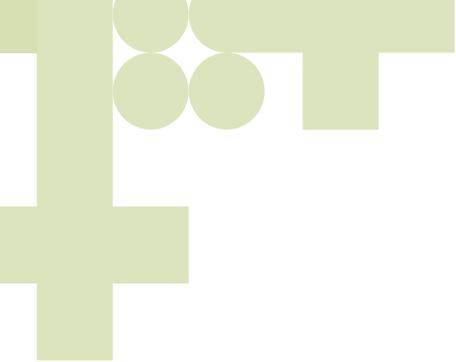
# MillionPlus

The Association for  
Modern Universities



A celebration of  
Modern Universities





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## 25 years and rising: A celebration of Modern Universities

Twenty-five years ago, on 22 March 1992, the Further and Higher Education Acts 1992 became law, heralding the rise of ‘modern universities’ which took up the opportunities to apply for taught degree awarding powers and university title available to the other established providers.

Today these modern universities are highly successful, internationally recognised, changing lives and creating opportunities for all. Modern universities comprise around half the UK’s higher education sector, and have contributed significantly to its strengths, successes and reputation, both at home and around the world.



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### Modern universities: changing lives

Modern universities have increased the opportunities for people from all walks of life to experience the transformative effect of higher education, opening the door to university for groups of people for whom those doors were once firmly locked.

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### Modern universities: developing new professions for new businesses

As the working world has rapidly changed, and continues to do so, modern universities are at the forefront of supporting business, industry and public services in their communities. They are flexible and adaptable to trends and have developed new degrees and apprenticeships for new professions fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce.

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### Modern universities: delivering expertise in enterprise and innovation

Researchers and academics in modern universities have been vital in ensuring that businesses – especially SMEs – across the UK are able to access expertise in enterprise and innovation to provide solutions to major challenges, and drive economic growth in all parts of the country.

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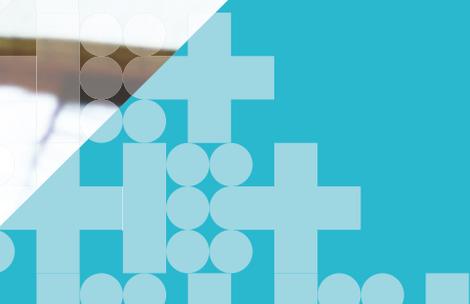
### Modern universities: creating global communities

Building on their strengths and expertise in the UK, modern universities have created global communities and partnerships resulting in an internationalised curriculum that prepares students for the urban-global, digital age, who from the outset can act as change makers.



CASE STUDIES

Changing lives





## UNIVERSITY OF BEDFORDSHIRE

The University of Bedfordshire's Refugee Legal Assistance Project (RLAP) was conceived in response to the cuts to legal aid funding that excluded family reunion cases from publicly funded legal aid.

Family reunion applications are complex for individuals who have no legal education and limited or no command of the English language. Most refugees struggle to afford the high fees which are typically charged by solicitors and so the prospect of reuniting with their family becomes impossible for many.

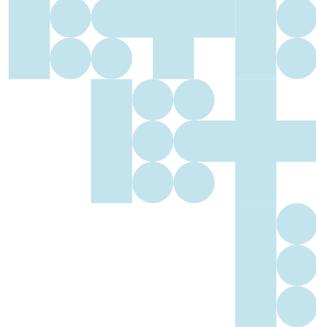
Students and graduate volunteers, working under the supervision of qualified practitioners, help refugees from the initial stages of their application, assessing the merits of their case, guiding the clients on the evidence required to support their application, and assisting them in completing the complex UKVI forms and navigating the online application system. The project also benefits from the assistance of a qualified barrister, provided on a pro-bono basis.

RLAP is the first university-based clinical legal education project of its kind in the UK. Following a small-scale pilot programme which took place in the 2013-2014 academic year, the RLAP in its present form commenced in October 2014 with 12 student and graduate volunteers.

To date the initiative has provided family reunion support to more than 60 individuals, from a variety of countries, including Afghanistan, Eritrea, Sudan, Uganda, and Iran.

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## BATH SPA UNIVERSITY

Bath Spa University's Widening Participation Outreach Programme worked with Professor of Music Amanda Bayley and world-renowned Zimbabwean mbira player, Chartwell Dutiro, to engage young people in Bath with the arts through a unique cross-cultural music and dance project funded by Arts Council England.

Workshops led by Chartwell were run at St Mark's School, Bath and Bath College for over 60 young people.

Through activities and performance by the Marenje Ensemble, comprising of Chartwell, dancer Denise Rowe and the string quartet from Exeter Contemporary Sounds and Bath Spa University's PGCE music students, the interactive workshops explored cross-cultural exchanges through music and dance by combining the ideas and sounds of mbira music from the Shona tradition of Zimbabwe with those of a classically-trained string quartet.

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## UNIVERSITY OF BOLTON

University of Bolton student Maeve Geary swapped Bolton for Boston when she travelled to the US city to conclude her PhD studies at one of the world's top paediatric medical centres.

Maeve moved to Boston to begin working with the Simulator Programme (SimPeds) at Boston Children's Hospital, which is the primary paediatric teaching affiliate of Harvard Medical School.

She began her PhD at the University of Bolton in 2014, looking at how special effects could be used to increase the level of realism in medical training. Specifically, Maeve has been exploring whether increasing the realistic look and feel of mannequins can impact training and trainees' ability to learn.

This area of research resonated with the SimPeds team, who entered a unique partnership with award-winning Hollywood special effects company Fractured FX to create ultra-realistic models of patients' anatomy for surgical and medical training.

Maeve, 30, completed her undergraduate degree in Visual & Special Effects at the University of Bolton. She credits the SFX department at the University as critical in supporting her throughout her journey.

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## LONDON SOUTH BANK UNIVERSITY

Law has traditionally been the preserve of people from more privileged backgrounds. However, London South Bank University (LSBU) and other modern universities have been doing what they can to enable a more diverse range of entrants into the profession.

Before starting her degree Hannah Short had been a professional dancer, running her own business for two years as part of an international dance group. Her experience of arranging overseas work in LA, the Philippines and Dubai sparked her interest in commercial law and the desire to work with companies on an international scale.

On the advice of her friends Hannah applied to LSBU because of its reputation for accepting students from "non-traditional" routes like Hannah who had not studied A-Levels. Hannah was delighted to receive an offer, but accepting the place was a big decision. As a child of four of a single parent her mother would not be able to help her financially during her studies.

With LSBU's support Hannah applied to the National Scholarship Programme and was awarded a full scholarship. In addition to taking internships with Fisher Meredith and Ronald Fletcher Baker she was also able to develop her skills, working alongside fully qualified solicitors and barristers at LSBU's on-campus Legal Advice Clinic, giving legal advice to drop-in clients. Hannah was awarded a First Class Honours Degree and secured a training contract with Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer – a top tier 'Magic Circle' law firm beating over 3,000 applications to secure one of only eighty positions.

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## MIDDLESEX UNIVERSITY

Middlesex University is taking a leading role in introducing science to diverse communities with SMASHfestUK, which encourages young people from all backgrounds to get involved in science and aspire to future careers in this area.

The project, run by Middlesex University in partnership with The Refinery and the University of Greenwich, aims to widen participation in STEM through the arts and design, and involves interactive installations, performance, music, film and participatory art around engaging themes such as super volcanoes.

In February, the festival took to the streets of Deptford, for its third year, with the news that an undiscovered super-volcano was about to erupt. This included building a five-metre high cryovolcano. Using liquid nitrogen at - 196

degrees to set off the explosion the cryo volcano erupted to shoot 1,500 ping pong balls high above the Albany Theatre.

As lead academic partner of SMASHfestUK, Middlesex University staff and students from product design, design engineering, maths, computer science, animation and illustration courses led activities throughout the festival in Deptford.

Deptford is a particularly appropriate location for SMASHfestUK. 50% of young people in Deptford live in poverty, and 75% of young people in schools are from black and minority ethnic groups.



## EDINBURGH NAPIER UNIVERSITY

A 69-year-old farmer from Trinidad has fulfilled a lifelong dream by graduating from Edinburgh Napier University with a Master of Business Administration.

Ramgopaul Roop dedicated his academic success to his parents Poyah and Roop Bataw, neither of whom could read or write. Ramgopaul – who had seen his three children study to degree level – realised his ambition by combining full-time farm work under a blazing tropical sun with long nights of study, sometimes until sunrise.

He said:

“ This being the last chance on the last train, the only option was to sit tight and hold on. The past 32 months have been very challenging but stimulating. It shows there is no age limit to academic achievement and personal professional development. ”

Ramgopaul - who is regional administrator of the Caribbean Agribusiness Association - studied online at Edinburgh Napier, one module per trimester. He was supported by his wife Beena, who read and re-read drafts, and even the family dog, Coco, who had a special bed made up in Ramgopaul's study.



## SOUTHAMPTON SOLENT UNIVERSITY

Third year business management student Anthony Abbott has come a long way since joining Southampton Solent University in 2014, taking advantage of regular one-to-one academic support to manage his dyslexia and improve his report writing skills.

Encouraged by his tutors and his new academic confidence, Anthony got involved with the Change100 internship scheme in the summer between his second and third year. Change100 seeks out talented students who are affected by disability and connects them with valuable paid internship opportunities.

Anthony offered some advice to dyslexic students: “Do some research into the universities that interest you and see what their support for dyslexic students is like - some will be better than others,” he said.

“ That's why I chose Solent. Some of you may question your own capabilities and wonder: will it be too challenging for me? Will I be able to cope with the workload? Let me share a little story with you. About five years ago a teacher at school told me university will be too hard for me, and I wouldn't be able to cope. Five years later I'm at university - I'm coping well and I've achieved a 2.1 for my first and second year. ”



## STAFFORDSHIRE UNIVERSITY

Mature student Danielle Boothby never thought she would go to university – but graduated from Staffordshire University with a First-Class Masters degree and a dream job with the police. Mum of two Danielle applied to Staffordshire University through Clearing to pursue her passion for policing.

“ I always wanted to join the police force from a young age. My love for policing grew working as a special constable with Staffordshire Police and that made me want to study at university. I didn't take A-levels or go to college. No-one in my family has been to university before but a friend encouraged me to apply so I just went for it. ”

Danielle secured a place on BSc (Hons) Policing and Criminal Investigation and flourished on the course, winning first prize at student exhibition GradEX for her investigation into the UK's approach to human trafficking and achieving a First Class degree.

Danielle enjoyed her studies so much that she stayed on for the MSci with continued success and was a mentor for new students alongside her studies. Danielle's postgraduate research focused on how the police identify and subsequently protect vulnerable people within the community. Danielle now works as a police officer and is loving her job.

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## THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST OF SCOTLAND

Female school pupils from throughout Renfrewshire got the chance to discover more about STEM subjects at an event at the University of the West of Scotland (UWS) in 2016.

The event, which was co-ordinated by the School of Engineering and Computing, ran at the University's Paisley Campus and saw up to 200 pupils, aged 9-14, in attendance.

This event was organised by UWS in conjunction with SmartSTEMs, with involvement from a number of local, national and international companies. SmartSTEMs is a charity set up by Paisley firm Seric Systems, an award-winning advisor in security and IT infrastructure.

The day started with addresses from Leah Hutcheon, founder and CEO of online booking software company, Appointed, and Claire Reynolds, Project Manager of software developer, Avarix who sought to inspire the pupils to study and consider careers in STEM. The pupils then took part in workshops run by groups from both UWS and the external companies, such as HP, Fujitsu, BT and Atkins Global, giving them hands-on experience of STEM activities

Professor Ian Allison, Dean of the School of Engineering and Computing, said:

“ It was great to see how much fun everyone was having on the day. We hope this will go some way to influencing choices in school and later careers. This event gave female pupils from throughout the area an important opportunity to discover more about STEM subjects and the exciting career opportunities available to them in these areas. ”

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## UNIVERSITY OF SUNDERLAND

In mid-2012, a consortium of organisations – the University of Sunderland, the Sunderland Music, Arts and Culture (MAC) Trust and The Customs House Trust – came together to create a ten-year vision to radically change the way that people in Sunderland and South Tyneside consume, experience, influence and make art.

In 2013 the consortium, led by the University of Sunderland, was awarded £2m from Arts Council England's Creative People and Places programme to deliver an exciting and ambitious creative programme between January 2014 and December 2016. In late 2016, The Cultural Spring secured a further £1m funding from the Arts Council to deliver an exciting and change-making programme over a further three years to December 2019.

The Cultural Spring is making a real difference for local communities, providing the opportunity for residents, communities, businesses, schools and colleges, artists, cultural organisations and students to celebrate, participate in, and create inspiring art and culture.

It is the only project in the Creating People and Places programme to be led by a university and is considered one of the most successful and impactful.

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## UNIVERSITY OF EAST LONDON

University of East London (UEL) graduate Firoz Patel was 34 and working as a London Underground tube driver when he experienced an epiphany that was to change his life.

"I was 34 years old and happily married with two daughters," he recalls. "Then, one morning, I thought 'there must be a higher purpose to my life.'"

He has certainly found it. Nowadays he is the founder and CEO of Childreach International – a global charity that has raised £18m to help more than one million disadvantaged children in Brazil, Nepal, Bangladesh, India, Tanzania, Morocco and the UK through education, sanitation, healthcare and skills training.

He is no doubt what brought about such a remarkable transformation – his decision to resume his education by studying for a degree in international development and NGO management at the UEL.

He says:

“**At UEL there's a lot of teaching outside the classroom. I went out to Tanzania and spent four months studying at the University of Dar es Salaam. It opened my eyes to international development. I came back buzzing. I wanted to create social change.**”

By the time he graduated with first-class honours, he and some fellow students had already set up an international development charity. In recognition of his achievements, Firoz was rewarded with an honorary doctorate by UEL last year.

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University of the  
Highlands and Islands  
Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd  
agus nan Eilean

## UNIVERSITY OF THE HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS

Diabetes-related foot ulceration is a major cause of preventable morbidity. It is estimated that over £60m is spent on foot ulcers and amputations in Scotland every year. Up to 80% of these amputations could be preventable.

NHS Highland covers the largest and most sparsely populated part of the UK, comprising 41% of Scotland's landmass. Patients in rural settings often face unique challenges in accessing services due to their distance from health resources and transport limitations. This can be compounded by connectivity issues across the region. Widening access to multidisciplinary teams through innovative solutions which reduce travel could contribute to improved care and reductions in the amputation rates.

Working with clinical colleagues in NHS Highland and local industry partner Tactical Wireless, the University of the Highlands and Islands rural health and wellbeing team has helped to establish a collaboration which is developing a new care pathway for people living with diabetes complicated by foot ulceration.

Together with community and specialist podiatrists and Tactical Wireless, the team has been designing and evaluating trials of the RAPID (reducing amputations in diabetes) pathway. The research, which is being funded by Highlands and Islands Enterprise, includes a triage process, image capture and locally based video consultation between the patient, community staff and central services.

The group has established that the Omni-Hub™, a portable unit which can optimise Wi-Fi, cellular and satellite networks, is capable of transmitting images and live video links to the multidisciplinary team across a range of rural settings in the NHS Highland area.

This programme of evaluation is important to enhance the new process so it can become an embedded pathway which will inform policy change and create a paradigm shift in the management of health issues in the community.



**Professor Tim Blackman**  
Vice-Chancellor

I am incredibly proud of Middlesex University's rich history because of what it means for the modern university we are today. Our founding institutions are part of a North London story of pioneering industrial innovation, professional practice and the arts, as well as shaping the idea of the polytechnic itself as a 'people's university' serving the needs of its locality.

For us, the creation of modern universities in 1992 was not about polytechnics 'becoming' universities, as if the pre-existing old universities were the model to follow, but of modern universities demonstrating the huge contribution of a socially relevant higher education, and especially its neglected capability to drive productivity and social mobility.

At Middlesex, we remain true to our polytechnic origins in our approach to high-quality practice-based learning and the importance of high-level skills as well as expert subject knowledge. At a time when some forecasters predict that the millennial generation will be the first in the country's history to face living standards lower than the generation before them, our aim is to prove them wrong by our graduates being agents of change, adding tremendous value to the companies where they work, pioneering innovation in the public services and creating the businesses of the future.

This cannot just be a project about young people from already privileged backgrounds going to very selective universities, for whom the transition from school to university is taken for granted. It is also about the huge potential of young people and adult learners who have not enjoyed these advantages, for whom university is a step into a totally new experience full of opportunities their parents could never have imagined for themselves.



The modern universities are distinctive in having this mission of mass social change, but we share with the old institutions their commitment to high standards of scholarship and the outstanding quality for which British higher education is known around the world.

This quality has enabled Middlesex to export our courses and awards abroad, at our campuses in Dubai, Mauritius and Malta, and with partners around the world, as well as attract thousands of international students every year to our London campus. We started out meeting the skills needs of Londoners and are now a global institution running a trade surplus with the rest of the world.

Yet despite this success we face some deep-rooted prejudices, such as that international students are immigrants whose numbers must be controlled, that students coming to university with BTECs rather than A-levels are not prepared for university study, rather than university study not modernising to a 21<sup>st</sup> century skills agenda, and that social mobility is about a few bright working class kids getting into Oxford rather than all our universities having diverse student communities.

At Middlesex, we engage children as young as 11 through inspiring campaigns such as Make Your Mark, encouraging them to start thinking about what they could become and their future career possibilities. Just last year our outreach work

with some 80 schools in the London Borough of Barnet – London’s largest borough - and elsewhere in London meant we engaged with 10,000 children who are now thinking about their future lives as teachers, scientists, designers, artists and entrepreneurs.

Recently the APPG on Social Mobility took evidence from a major accountancy firm who explained that after adopting a university blind recruitment process their intake of graduates from Oxbridge and other Russell Group universities declined considerably in favour of other universities. Unfortunately, discrimination against comprehensive schools and modern universities still pervades many sections of our society, writing off potential and denying opportunity.

Our Middlesex students never cease to amaze me with their spirit and determination. Despite all the obstacles many of them face, the vast majority succeed and find meaningful employment. As a visitor said recently: “Middlesex students are like a mirror of London. They are urban, savvy and real and these are the people who will continue to grow our economy now and into the future.”

As we celebrate 25 years of the modern universities, I urge policy-makers, business leaders and the media to work with us to change the world. It is a job that we cannot do just on our own.



CASE STUDIES

## Developing new professions for new business



## UNIVERSITY OF BEDFORDSHIRE

As a university historically rooted in practice, Bedfordshire's approach to graduate employability focuses on creating opportunities for students to develop their skills in environments that mirror working in their chosen profession, supplemented by access to employer and specialist advisor insight and placement opportunities.

Two examples of this approach are Media Junction and Guildford Street Press, both funded initially through university investment but now self-sustaining through commissions from university staff and the local community.

Media Junction creates opportunities for students involved in media production such as journalists, animators and camera operators to network and develop the relationships necessary to produce media content. It ties together employer and alumni lectures with practice through the Media Junction production company that produces video content for University and external clients.

Guildford Street Press is a design studio and in-house press based in the School of Art and Design and run by alumni. Student interns are employed in the production of creative answers for cultural projects, taking on roles as designers, illustrators, writers, art directors, publishers and distributors.

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## BATH SPA UNIVERSITY

Bath Spa University launched #ThisGirlCodes, a campaign to get more young women to enter the tech industry. Academics, students and women working in the industry say that there are a series of myths that need to be challenged around the industry, and that more action is needed so that this traditionally male-dominated sphere can benefit from more diverse recruitment as the digital economy continues to grow.

The Creative Computing course at Bath Spa University was launched in 2015. Unique in its offering, it is a three-year full-time BSc course that can be taken as a single honours degree with specialist pathway options in gaming, animation or software development, or it can be combined with several complementary subjects.

Dr Dana Ruggiero, senior lecturer in learning technology at the University, said:

“ There's a lack of diversity in gaming in particular, but there are some amazing female role models in game design - Anna Kipnis, Sheri Graner Ray, Amy Jo Kim, Brenda Romero - we just need more in the UK. We lose girls from Year 8 and Year 9 in schools, due to different socialisation of girls and boys and ingrained ideas about which skills suit particular careers. Along with engineering and chemistry, computing is seen as systematic, but narrative and communication are as important as mathematics. ”

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## UNIVERSITY OF BOLTON

The University of Bolton has joined forces with Sparkle Dental Labs to be part of a sector-leading learning environment for dental sciences students that will bring new jobs to Bolton.

Based in the University's Queen's Specialist Building, Sparkle Dental Labs will be based adjacent to the University's purpose-built dental sciences teaching facilities which have been developed as part of the University's vision to kick-start investment in dental sciences in higher education.

Sparkle Dental Labs is led by Managing Director, Mustafa Mohammed who is Chair of the national trailblazer programme for dentistry and is well known for his holistic approach to education and industry. Through its parent company, Sparkle Dental Labs is a partner in sponsoring University Technical College Bolton, ensuring students there get both clinical and laboratory experience in dentistry.

The new laboratory opened in 2016 and brought 100 jobs to Bolton, with further long-term plans to create 100 more posts over the next three years.

With industry professionals on campus, full-time undergraduate students studying on dental science courses work on real-life projects on campus, have direct access to the latest commercial and professional techniques in the dental industry and have a distinct advantage of career networking opportunities.

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## LONDON SOUTH BANK UNIVERSITY

Employer-sponsored degrees are the original 'earn while you learn' degree courses in which employees undertake degree-level study on a part-time basis (usually one day a week). Over one-third of the students at London South Bank University (LSBU) have their studies sponsored by an employer, which range from SMEs to large companies such as Transport for London.

Employees are salaried, with the employer paying any tuition fees, giving time off for study and providing work-based training. With increasing tuition fees, the high cost of studying away from home and employers' demands for experienced staff, they have a proven solution for funding higher education which benefits the student, the employer and the taxpayer.

Research by London Economics shows that Employer Sponsored Degrees offer excellent value for money to taxpayers, who pay much less of the cost, and students, who can emerge with no debt. Employers benefit too, from improved productivity and staff retention.

LSBU and TfL have a long-standing partnership that encompasses award-winning research and consultancy projects such as cooling the London Underground. Alongside this, LSBU provides professional training to TfL staff, such as the employer-sponsored Quantity Surveying training scheme.

LSBU's strong track record in the built environment and engineering, and more generally in vocational education means that it resonates with the needs of TfL. Given that the industry is currently facing a shortage of surveyors, sponsored study helps ensure that TfL has access to some of the best surveyors in the industry and helps address the skills shortage.

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## MIDDLESEX UNIVERSITY

Middlesex University's Ritterman Building is home to the UK's first Cyber Factory training facility.

Installed by Festo, a leading international supplier of automation technology, the factory of the future offers Middlesex students a real-life cyber factory experience that will prepare them for designing, developing and maintaining the smart factories and smart cities of the future. Because this set-up is so new, students learn disciplines that don't yet exist in the workplace, but will be commonplace in the future.

While the factory installation at Middlesex designs and assembles mobile phones, the technology could be used in a wide range of contexts, such as in food processing and packaging or to manage driverless cars.

Festo's training facility also uses expertise from their partners, such as global engineering and technology giant, Siemens, whose wireless technologies help Middlesex students learn about cyber security in the context of smart technology.

The installation uses radio signalling to track components and goods within the factory setting, and features near field communication (or NFC) which enables any object equipped with a chip to exchange information directly without the need for a computer or communications network. Together with logistical elements that assemble and move goods from different platforms and energy efficiency at the centre of its operations, these communication features allow the factory to produce 'one-offs' in an economical way.



## EDINBURGH NAPIER UNIVERSITY

Edinburgh Napier University offers an unrivalled centre for tourism excellence at the heart of the world's festival city. The University has supported this important UK and global industry for 25 years, constantly keeping up with an ever-changing outlook. With industry-accredited courses, the university offers unique programmes and research, developing tourism leaders of the future.

Graduate Anna Fawcett is a prime example:

“ I currently work in the media team at Festivals Edinburgh and the University is so highly regarded within the festival industry that when I mentioned I was thinking of doing a Masters, everyone I spoke to suggested that I come here. In terms of the industry here in Edinburgh, in a practical sense, and in terms of contacts, Edinburgh Napier seems to be the industry standard. ”

“The highlight of the programme was going to the US. That was through the Edinburgh Napier and Santander mobility scholarships. My work has a really strong academic value underpinning it and I think that shone through in my application. If you want to get into arts and culture or you want to work in festivals, why go anywhere other than Edinburgh Napier? A good friend of mine has volunteered at four different festivals in nine months. Those sorts of opportunities aren't available everywhere else.”

In early 2017, after the bulk of this entry was written, Anna became International Media and Influencer Manager at VisitBritain.



## SOUTHAMPTON SOLENT UNIVERSITY

With more than five thousand superyachts currently in service and close to 500 more expected to complete construction by 2020, the superyacht industry is exploding. More and more vessels, and a steady increase in the size of vessels, brings increased demand for quality yacht crew.

Through its world-renowned Warsash Maritime Academy, Southampton Solent University has led the way in specialist maritime training for over seventy years. And as the explosion of demand for dedicated superyacht crew led Solent to create Warsash Superyacht Academy in 2012, the ever-increasing size of modern yachts has led to the creation of a new unlimited superyacht cadetship – once again leading the way in meeting the industry's needs.

Eighty per cent of all yachts currently operate on UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) certification, but that certification is only valid on vessels up to 3,000 gross tonnes. And with more and more superyachts reaching lengths of 85/90m and more, they're starting to require an unrestricted certification.

That's where Warsash Superyacht Academy's unlimited cadetship comes in. Taking the additional challenges and responsibility involved in overseeing such large vessels into consideration, the academy's unlimited superyacht cadetship is designed to train up the next generation of superyacht officers in line with the rigorous standards of merchant navy education and training.

No other academic institution has such a unique and important role in the superyacht industry.



## STAFFORDSHIRE UNIVERSITY

Staffordshire University is joining forces with other modern universities on the creation of new degree apprenticeships for police officers.

As part of their pledge to increase apprenticeships by three million by 2020, Government announced a new Degree Apprenticeship Fund, totalling £4.5m, to help HE providers to develop and deliver new degree apprenticeships.

The funding has been supporting Staffordshire University to work with a consortium of modern university partners including the University of Cumbria, together with the College of Policing, on creating a new degree apprenticeship for police constables, available from early 2018.

Dr John Wheeler, Associate Dean in the School of Law, Policing and Forensics said:

“ We already run a number of successful policing and forensic science degrees and are experienced in preparing students for successful careers with the police. From 2020 onwards the educational environment for Policing in England and Wales will fundamentally change, with new police officers required to be educated to degree level, either on entry or through work-place learning, such as undertaking a degree level apprenticeship. This will provide universities, like Staffordshire, great opportunities to influence the changes, and ultimately impact upon the safety and security of our communities. ”

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## THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST OF SCOTLAND

The University of the West of Scotland has been awarded funding of over £2m from Skills Development Scotland (SDS) to design and deliver Graduate Level Apprenticeship programmes in Software Development and Engineering: Design and Manufacturing.

The School of Engineering and Computing will offer the two work-based learning programmes in areas where skills gaps have been identified. Set to get underway in June 2017, with a total of 60 places available, the graduate level apprenticeships offer a chance for apprentices to work with leading employers whilst studying for an Honours Degree at UWS.

Apprentices will be employed by leading organisations, allowing them to combine academic learning at one of Scotland's largest modern universities with practical learning in the workplace. By investing in their staff through these apprenticeships, employers will be able to develop their workforce and support staff to develop their skills to industry and professional standards.

Professor Craig Mahoney, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, said:

“ As an industry-focused University, we understand the challenges that businesses face in attracting and retaining talent in key industry sectors such as IT and Engineering. A well trained, qualified and knowledgeable workforce is critical in ensuring the economic prosperity of these important areas... [the] funding to provide Graduate Level Apprenticeships will meet this need and provide a wider range of opportunities for even more young people. ”

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## UNIVERSITY OF SUNDERLAND

The University of Sunderland's leadership of the National Glass Centre, the Northern Gallery for Contemporary Art and The Cultural Spring has been recognised by leading figures from Arts Council England, the V&A and Heritage Lottery. The University's place-making initiatives have directly led to the University forming a new Culture Company to operate, manage and develop all cultural assets in the city of Sunderland including the Museum and Art Gallery, the Washington Arts Centre, the Old Fire Station as well as the NGC and the NGCA. The company is also leading the bid for Sunderland to be named UK City of Culture 2021.

Located on the banks of the River Wear, the university-owned National Glass Centre embodies national excellence supporting the

research, teaching, production, exhibition and enjoyment of contemporary glass. The area is steeped in rich heritage – the Centre stands adjacent to St. Peter's Church, part of the original Monkwearmouth-Jarrow Priory built in 674.

The National Glass Centre has recently re-launched following a major £2.5m capital refurbishment, with an acclaimed and popular programme. In addition to its seven-day a week activities as a visitor centre, the building is also home to more than 200 students and staff delivering Art and Design Foundation as well as undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in glass and ceramics. The university has recently acquired from the city council the renowned Northern Gallery for Contemporary Art which will be housed in the National Glass Centre. The acquisition opens curriculum, research and curating links with Fine Art and Photography.





## UNIVERSITY OF EAST LONDON

From hacking to phishing, scamming to grooming, botnets to cyber-terrorism, the threats posed within the digital world continue to grow.

But, thanks to the foresight of the University of East London (UEL) in becoming the first UK university to offer a postgraduate programme specifically focused on digital forensics, a small army of highly trained cyber specialists are fighting back.

Around 700 students have graduated from UEL's MSc programme since it was launched in 2004. They include those already in employment and others who went on to secure specialist roles with prestigious employers, including governments and major banking and finance corporations.

Building on its success, UEL began offering a professional doctorate in Information Security in 2010 aimed at employers. Among the companies who put employees on the programme are Amazon and Ford Motor Company.

Taught by a team of eight specialist academics, both the MSc and the professional doctorate are constantly being reviewed and updated to meet the needs of industry.

As well as providing expert teaching, the academic team's research output was rated world-leading in the most recent Research Excellence Framework.

Staff have also provided consultancy for the Home Office, the Department of Health, the International Olympic Committee and accountancy firm KPMG.



## UNIVERSITY OF THE HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS

The University of the Highlands and Islands has been awarded £9m from the UK Government, as part of the city-region deal to establish commercialisation, academic and clinical capacity to deliver projects in health, social care and life sciences.

A custom-built facility on the Inverness Campus will operate as a flexible open access unit supporting the interaction between the health service, the academic sector and commercial partners. Resulting projects will generate new products and services, business start-ups and licensing deals, as well as service quality improvements and new models for clinical delivery for the NHS.

The new facility will be situated with a proposed NHS elective care centre and a new life science building owned by Highlands and Islands Enterprise. Although it will be physically located on the Inverness Campus, it will support developments around the region.

A key focus is to expand the range and scope of the commercial life science sector in the Highlands and Islands, providing the infrastructure and personnel to draw in new investment and create jobs.

Development areas will be linked to the regional economy, demography and geography including disease management and prevention, rural health, digital health, integrated health and social care and technology assisted living.

This initial investment will help to recruit technical and business specialist staff to design and operate the proposed facility. At the same time, the university will work closely with NHS Highland to build capacity in clinically active research staff who will work in partnership with university research teams.



**Graeme Thompson**  
Pro vice Chancellor  
(connections and place)

**Sunderland is undergoing the most dramatic change in a generation. And its university is leading the transformation. Not just in new buildings but in new ideas.**

An estimated £1.5bn is being spent on infrastructure investment around projects including the new River Wear Crossing, an Advanced Manufacturing Park next to the Nissan plant and the restoration of heritage treasures Hylton Castle and Roker Pier. Cultural entrepreneurs and developers are creating a new city centre cultural quarter and riverside business park. The University's contribution includes the £2.5m redevelopment of the National Glass Centre, the acquisition of the Northern Gallery for Contemporary Art and the opening of a new multi-million pound enterprise and innovation centre Hope Street Xchange.

It feels like we've come a long way from the era when Sunderland was principally known as a centre for ship-building, industrial glass making and coal mining. These days our engineers are engaged in off-shore energy and vehicle manufacturing. Whilst graduates and apprentices get jobs in software development, healthcare, marketing and teaching.

Yet Sunderland continues to be characterised as somehow out of step with the mainstream. It wasn't the only Northern city to vote for Brexit, but it was the first to declare on the night. And that's led to Sunderland being portrayed as a posterchild for disengagement and hostility to outsiders.

It's certainly true that like many local authorities in the north of England, Sunderland has been disproportionately hit by government spending cuts. And that's created dismay and despair in a population already cynical about the actions of what they see as an increasingly London-centric government.



But I would like to think that the thousands of students from overseas who choose to study in Sunderland would not recognise the city as the one painted in a number of cruelly ill-informed media profiles.

The University's place-making focus around culture and creative industries as a driver for economic regeneration is one of the ways we're opening up a new, more authentic narrative for Sunderland.

Alongside the University's cultural assets, the privately owned, business-led Sunderland Music Arts and Culture (MAC) Trust is about to embark on the next stage of its redevelopment plans at the back of that glorious Edwardian palace of entertainment the Sunderland Empire. The Old Fire Station will open in the Autumn of this year providing studio space for Dance City and Live Theatre. Dance City plans to use the space for community dance engagement whilst Live will focus on its young peoples' outreach. The Fire Station will also offer exhibition space and a new bar and café opening out onto a new piazza. Next door will be a new 450-seat performance space which has just received £6m from Arts Council England towards its construction costs.

The university has joined forces with the MAC Trust and the city council to create a new culture company to manage and programme venues, galleries and museums across the city – including the new theatre which opens in 2019. The company will also deliver Sunderland's ambitious bid to be UK City of Culture 2021.

The university has seconded three employees as officers of the new company. Keith Merrin (director of National Glass Centre) is Chief Executive, Rebecca Ball (The Cultural Spring) is Director of Sunderland2021 and Helen Connify

(co-ordinator of Sunderland Cultural Partnership) will support Keith and Rebecca as a Project Manager. I'm chair of the company so I get to see at first hand the energy and commitment being poured into the city's reinvention as a cultural destination. I also chair the University-led Cultural Spring – a wonderful project to engage local communities with artists and performers. After an initial investment of £2m from Arts Council England, we've just received another £1m to bring the project to a wider audience.

Meanwhile, we're awaiting news on our funding bids from Heritage Lottery (Great Places) and Arts Council England (National Portfolio investment). Our 2021 steering group is hard at work on the submission for UK City of Culture in time for the Department for Culture, Media and Sport April deadline. The bid will be the result of more than 18 months of discussions and meetings with communities and stakeholders across the city. The single most important lesson we've learned from The Cultural Spring is that people engage best when they're involved – rather than being "done to". So I'm confident our bid – one of eleven across the UK - will be as authentic as it is ambitious.

We will know by the summer if we have been shortlisted and the announcement of which city has won the title will be made by the Minister in Hull in December.

The strategy outlined in our submission plans for growth in the cultural and creative economy of Sunderland - whatever the outcome of the bid process. And that's good news for students, graduates and staff.

Now, if only we can get our football club out of the relegation zone....



CASE STUDIES

Delivering expertise in  
enterprise and innovation





## UNIVERSITY OF BEDFORDSHIRE

Following the University of Bedfordshire School of Computer Science and Technology's success in the use of additive manufacturing techniques for development of a robotic arm the Faculty invested in additional equipment that enabled the team to offer a comprehensive development service to both students and the public.

Mrs Joyner contacted the School on behalf of her son William who suffered with amniotic band syndrome and was born without fingers or thumb on his dominant left hand. William, 8, was unable to use his hand effectively and his overall physical development was suffering resulting in his entire left side being weaker.

Examples of mechanically operated hands had been developed using 3D printing. These tended to be large and unwieldy due to the fragility of the plastics used, and became brittle because of UV and petroleum distillates in our environment. In addition, these designs were only suitable to 'replace' all fingers and thumb of the hand and relied solely on the movement of the wrist to clench and unclench the digits.

The team developed a prototype that utilized 3D printing but also conventional subtractive machining techniques that provided a visually pleasing hand that allowed William to use his thumb separately to his fingers.

Upon flexing the wrist, 'tendons' are used to contract and extend the fingers. To strengthen the fingers the team developed three-part aluminium hinges embedded in each finger section.

Six months later on Mrs Joyner and William have written saying how happy they are with William's hand and that he uses it every day for multiple tasks. William also sent his own ambidextrously written thank you letter.



## BATH SPA UNIVERSITY

Bath Spa University is part of a £750,000 research project examining the use of design in businesses and public sector organisations in Bath and Bristol.

The research project, Bristol & Bath by Design, brings together experts from Bath Spa, the University of the West of England (UWE) and the University of Bristol, drawing on expertise in design, creative arts, business and law, and mechanical engineering. They will work together to undertake the first comprehensive analysis of design in the region.

The project was initiated by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and Design Council. The Bath and Bristol area was selected for the study because it is a creative hotspot with strengths in the creative and digital economy. Together they offer a distinct regional focus with a population of over a million people. Further, each city has particular specialisms in which design is a vital element, for example architecture, publishing and graphic design in Bath, aerospace and defence design, animation, gaming and media in Bristol.



## UNIVERSITY OF BOLTON

Autumn 2017 sees the launch of the National Centre for Motorsport Engineering at the University of Bolton and a unique partnership with Keating Supercars.

The Centre will allow students to be both industry immersed and technically superb, enabling them to become distinctive and outstanding innovators through exceptional quality teaching and learning informed by research.

Students at the National Centre will not only develop and build a car for Keating Racing and Keating Supercars but they will also participate in a race track experience at events such as British Touring Car Championship, Le Mans Prototype 3, GT and others, leading in the development and preparation of the cars and the driver for competition.

Under a company structure called Keating Kinetics, students will develop the skills to build and test competition and production cars from 'Concept to Customer'.

Furthermore, in line with the Government's priorities in the HE Bill encouraging universities to focus on graduate employability, the new centre will operate as a pseudo working environment where students will be treated as an employee of the company, learning outcomes from modules will be classed as job targets and formative and summative feedback will be seen as review, promotion or performance management.

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## LONDON SOUTH BANK UNIVERSITY

Tackling real world challenges is at the heart of the Centre of Excellence launched by London South Bank University and the Welding Institute (TWI) in 2015.

The Centre is developing autonomous robotic systems that can carry out inspections with little or no human involvement. This allows them to venture into potentially deadly environments such as nuclear reactors and offshore oil and gas platforms which require continuous safety checks, exposing inspectors to significant risk.

The Centre is the culmination of more than 20 years' partnership with TWI and is led by Professor Tariq Sattar of LSBU's School of Engineering.

This year, the team debuted its 'Strongman' wall climbing robot, which uses laser cutters to decommission nuclear plants, while a paper on the development of another climbing robot and ground-penetrating radar to inspect vertical concrete structures was awarded Paper of the Year by the World Academy of Science, Engineering and Technology.

The Centre has also won three major European Horizon 2020 grants worth €1.9m as well as two grants worth £188,413 from InnovateUK Robotics and Autonomous Systems.

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## MIDDLESEX UNIVERSITY

Middlesex University graduate Tevin Tobun believes higher education is key to social mobility, which is why he is investing his own money to help under-privileged young people get to university.

Tevin founded and runs GV Group (Gate Ventures), a multi-sector business with interest in logistics, technology and property development. He's also involved in numerous pro-bono activities beyond his day job. He's chairman of London-based social enterprise Inspirational You, which motivates young people to become successful leaders, and is also bringing his dynamism to Middlesex having recently joined as a governor.

Tevin is a big advocate for the power of self-belief but equally passionate about the importance of giving each other a helping hand.

Graduating from Middlesex in 2000, he launched his first business – a design and build venture – within just a few months. He initially struggled to get any interest, so he cold-called prospective clients and only managed to make it a success thanks to his very first customer believing in him enough to risk paying a lump sum in advance so he could buy the materials. He's never looked back: Tevin has proudly never worked for anyone but himself.

Tevin has put his money where his mouth is too – launching a scholarship scheme in 2015 to fund three under-privileged young people to go to university. He pays for their fees from his own money and provides business-leader mentors to help them in their careers.



## EDINBURGH NAPIER UNIVERSITY

The Mountain Bike Centre of Scotland is supporting a multi-million pound economic boom as businesses create new and innovative products for the soaring number of cyclists taking to the great outdoors.

Set up in 2014, within 18 months it was having a hugely positive effect on the local and national economies by focusing on an activity that is worth more than £120m to Scotland annually.

Dr Geraint Florida-James, a Reader in Sport and Exercise Sciences at Edinburgh Napier University, said: "The opportunities for knowledge transfer between business and academia in the mountain bike industry are huge. We are therefore excited that Scottish academics and in particular Edinburgh Napier University are taking a lead in an area that offers so many opportunities for innovation and research in real world scenarios."

Fergus Ewing MSP, Minister for Business, Energy and Tourism, said:

“Scotland is blessed with some of the best mountain biking facilities in the world and the Scottish Government is committed to maintaining this international reputation. Mountain biking is not only an excellent way to stay fit and healthy but it is an exciting growth industry.”

"I am pleased...to see how the Mountain Bike Centre, industry and academia are collaborating to create new products and experiences which will allow this exciting sport to grow even further."

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## SOUTHAMPTON SOLENT UNIVERSITY

Beer is now the world's third most popular drink, after water and tea.

The brewing industry has been experiencing a renaissance, with a rapid increase in the number of craft-brewers. There are now upwards of 1,700 breweries across the UK, an increase of 8% in the past year, and the surge in popularity of craft beer shows little sign of slowing down.

Researchers from Southampton Solent University are working with brewers, pubs, and others in the beer industry, to investigate opportunities for circular economy transitions, ensuring economic and environmental sustainability in the UK craft brewing industry.

Craft breweries are typically small-scale independently owned breweries using traditional brewing methods, with an emphasis on flavour, quality, and individuality.

For many small scale breweries their environmental credentials are important, and claims are often made of local small-scale production being more 'environmentally friendly'. Having said that, the changes in beer consumption habitats and flavour profiles over recent years have meant a change in ingredients, often sourced overseas requiring greater shipping distances.

A pilot study carried out by Dr Laurie Wright, an environmental scientist at Solent, strongly suggests that while the main stages of ingredient production and brewery operation dominates the sustainability burdens of craft breweries, there may be opportunities to improve economic and environmental performance through brewery reconfiguration.

"A small brewery has limited control over the production of their raw material, however they do control the destinations of wastes and brewery management where significant savings might be possible," says Laurie.

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## THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST OF SCOTLAND

Marta Zurakowska, a recent PhD graduate of University of the West of Scotland (UWS) has launched her company UK Stone Doctor Ltd with support from the University's Enterprise Services.

Marta established UK Stone Doctor Ltd in Paisley due to its outstanding built heritage, with the largest number of listed buildings in conservation areas. Most of the buildings in Scotland are made of stone and most require ongoing facade upkeep. Marta, whose PhD studies focused on buildings conservation, wanted to use her expertise and knowledge gained to support the construction and architectural sectors.

The company offers a specialist on-site stone consultancy service operating across central Scotland and provides practical technical advice and specialist surveys on preserving stone and rammed earth materials in buildings and structures for architects, historic building specialists, stone suppliers and construction professionals.

Already Marta has initial contracts with Marischal College in Aberdeen, providing her expertise, passion and knowledge to the successful stone cleaning of the college as well as Greyfriars Church in Aberdeen.

Marta has also recently received a major boost; being successful in her application to Enterprise Campus who support Masters, Postgraduate and Researchers to get their business off the ground.

Marta has been receiving ongoing support from the University's Enterprise Services to turn her business plans into reality, developing a limited company and in accessing accelerator programmes such as the Enterprise Campus.





## UNIVERSITY OF SUNDERLAND

May 2016 saw the start of a major action research project designed in the North East of England and delivered by the region's five universities with the University of Sunderland taking an active role, supported by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and the European Regional Development Fund.

Working in tandem with businesses, stakeholders and practitioners across the Creative, Digital and IT (CDIT) sectors, Creative Fuse North East is a major 30-month programme that will research the "fusion" of creativity, culture, digital and technology at a time when

“we are at the start of a business revolution across all industrial sectors that is powered by communication technologies, social networks, big data, creativity, and the application of design”

Creative Fuse North East is investigating and exploring how the CDIT sector in the North East of England can grow and develop to provide an increasing contribution for, and lead in, the regional economy. In so doing, the project will consider how the CDIT sector engages with and drives creativity and innovation spill over into the broader economy at a time of change, adaptation and growing competition. And at the heart of the action, research, Creative Fuse North East will assess and develop new ways of collaborative working across Higher Education and the CDIT sector in order to address the need to develop the right skills, aptitudes and competencies in industry for a sustainable future.



## UNIVERSITY OF EAST LONDON

High-end wearable sport tech firm Precision Sports Technology is a new business on the verge of great things.

Founded by University of East London (UEL) alumnus Alex Oviawe, it has already garnered endorsements from a recent Olympic medallist, an NFL star and a senior sport performance coach of a Premier League football team.

It is just one of many exciting start-ups to emerge from UEL over the past two decades thanks to the University's Knowledge Dock – a business and entrepreneurship incubation hub where Alex has based his business.

UEL has been supporting start-ups since 1993 but its commitment to helping local business moved into a new gear in 2007 when Knowledge Dock was officially opened by the Queen.

Funders of the building included the EU, the London Development Agency, HEFCE and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. Since opening, it has provided premises and support for more than 1,000 start-ups.

A member of the European Business Network, it is currently home to 34 new companies and houses co-working space for many more.

To underline its commitment to entrepreneurship, UEL introduced an annual Dragon's Den-style competition 12 years ago, called E-Factor. It has given more than 200 students the opportunity to turn their business ideas into a reality.

Alex won the E-Factor contest six years ago and used his prize of start-up capital and support to get his business off the ground.



University of the  
Highlands and Islands  
Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd  
agus nan Eilean

## UNIVERSITY OF THE HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS

**The extreme maritime climate of Scotland's Northern Isles restricts the range of fruits which can be grown commercially outside.**

Since 2002, the Agronomy Institute at Orkney College UHI (University of the Highlands and Islands) has been working to diversify the range of locally-grown fruits available to northern food and drink companies by testing several novel species. Some of the best performing species have been the North American plants aronia (*Aronia melanocarpa*), salal (*Gaultheria shallon*) and cranberry (*Vaccinium macrocarpon*). Cultivars of elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*) have also been found which have performed well in more sheltered locations.

These results have been of interest to the Orkney Wine Company which specialises in the production of fruit wines and which has been looking for unique, locally-produced ingredients

for wines and liqueurs. The Agronomy Institute has been collaborating with the company since 2012 to identify species and varieties which combine good fruit production with attractive winemaking properties.

Using fruit from the Agronomy Institute's trials, the wine company has released two new wines: Orkney White which contains Orkney-sourced elderflower, rosehips and gooseberries and Orkney Rosé which contains local aronia, salal and cranberry. A liqueur, Kvasir, was released in 2015 which includes elderberry and other local fruits. The Agronomy Institute has also helped the company to design and establish a fruit plantation so it can scale up production of its new wines and have its own source of fruit.



**Steve Wyn Williams**  
Dean of Academic Policy  
and Development

**The recent recognition of the value of accelerated two-year Honours Degrees by the Universities Minister, Jo Johnson, should be welcomed by all who profess an interest.**

Although accelerated degrees have been on the HE policy agenda for over twenty years, the intention to mainstream this mode of delivery has always been a minor footnote despite the stated support of previous Labour, Coalition and Conservative governments. The traditional three-year model (with a long summer break) is sacrosanct and deeply rooted.

For over ten years Staffordshire University has been at the forefront of delivering two-year accelerated degrees. As one of the original five HEFCE-funded Flexible Learning Pathfinders (supported by the Higher Education Academy), we have developed considerable expertise in their delivery. Their introduction took place in a less than positive context. The contemporaneous report to HEFCE by SQW - a company carrying out research in economic and social development - on 'Demand for flexible and innovative types of higher education' noted that there was very limited interest in this [two-year degree] mode of study'. The University's own research was more positive; based on a national survey which sought to determine interest in a range of flexible learning options, 70% of the sample reported being very or somewhat interested in the fast-track option.

The model we have developed at Staffordshire University is based on the same course outcomes and curriculum as the three-year 'parent' version. Delivery takes place over six teaching blocks with a summer teaching block starting in May, which typically includes a two-week intensive followed by blended learning support. Of course, the success of our accelerated degrees depends on the engagement of dedicated, innovative and



supportive staff who in general are very positive about their experiences. As one lecturer noted: “[Fast Track students] want more information, they want more literature to support the teaching, they want more feedback with regards to their assessments, they are your ideal students and I can take my hat off to them because a lot of them have got so many other responsibilities.”

Despite the constraint of charging only two years’ fees for the equivalent of three years tuition, we have been committed to growing our provision in a measured way and we now offer nine courses with 150 students currently enrolled. Courses include Accounting and Finance, Business Management, English Literature and Sports Strength and Conditioning.

Two-year accelerated degrees appeal to a wide audience, from those upskilling or looking for a career change to school and college leavers with clear ideas around how they want to study. For both demographics, the attractions of a two-year degree are clear: saving on living costs, rent and other expenses; quicker entry into the graduate job market; and quicker entry into postgraduate study.

Frequent criticisms of accelerated courses refer to the challenges of intensive study, limited opportunities to earn income while studying and the loss of the long summer vacation. These are important considerations and students are fully informed when they apply that focus and commitment are key requirements. However, it is also important to note that the study period during which the focus is on blended learning does allow students to undertake a placement

or work and earn some money over the summer period.

Our own research provides some insights into the differences between accelerated degree students compared with students on the equivalent three-year course in terms of approaches to their learning. For example, accelerated degree students tend to attend more lectures, spend more time on independent study, are less likely to ‘cram’ and claim to spend less time socialising. In terms of student outcomes, module results and final degree results are as good as, and in many cases better than, three-year students.

Staffordshire University is committed to excellence in innovative and applied learning, and it is our intention to continue to grow fast tracks as part of our flexible learning offer, recognising that they are not for all students or all subjects. However, before there is a truly level playing field, at a national level there needs to be a concerted campaign aimed at employers, parents and advisors in schools and colleges to increase awareness and dispel inaccurate perceptions of quality, demand and student experience and outcomes.



CASE STUDIES

## Creating global communities



## UNIVERSITY OF BEDFORDSHIRE

As economic, innovation, business and cultural networks stretch across the whole globe, opportunities for students to spend time abroad as part of their studies are more important than they have ever been.

The University of Bedfordshire's Go Global initiative was designed to expand access to mobility and broaden the horizons of its students, some of whom had never left the UK.

The initial scheme in 2013 saw 150 UK and EU students visit a partner institution, CAU University in Beijing, for an eight-day visit. Since 2013, over 700 students have made similar Go Global visits to other partner universities in China, Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore, India and New York organised by our academic partners. Students only pay £350 towards the cost and the balance is paid by the University. During the same period, the University sent 300 international students on Go Europe mobility trips to European capitals. The subsidised cost to these students was only £150.

As part of the trip, the students visit historic, cultural and heritage sites and local companies, often with partner students. They also receive lectures on the economy and job market.

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## BATH SPA UNIVERSITY

The Global Academy of Liberal Arts (GALA) was founded by Professor Christina Slade, Vice-Chancellor of Bath Spa University, in 2014 to bring together Liberal Arts providers from around the world. The network has created a global community of creative people and explores the relationship between creativity and social engagement.

It is the first network of its kind in the world and currently has 18 member institutions. GALA members work together on programme development, research, student exchange, remote teaching, and student projects.

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Teaching Intensive, Research Informed

## UNIVERSITY OF BOLTON

The University of Bolton is a global university which delivers education both in the UK and across the world.

Inspired by and reflective of the multicultural society in which we live, the Bolton's Off Campus Division work with its Academic Schools and an extensive network of delivery partners to provide high quality, industry-relevant programmes at locations in the UK and around the world. Globalisation means that the need for knowledge is not limited by borders or geography – partners provide several opportunities to study closer to home and still be part of the University of Bolton experience.

In October 2016, the University was delighted to announce that the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) had launched its first UAE Student Chapter at its Academic Centre in Ras Al Khaimah and is the first ICE Student Chapter in the Middle East.

ICE is one of the oldest and most notable Civil Engineering institutions in the world. It has around 90,000 members with its presence in more than 150 countries across the globe. The ICE aims to promote the professional development and the evolution of Civil Engineering as an industry; as well as provide professional qualifications and support to its members.



## LONDON SOUTH BANK UNIVERSITY

Jonathan Banatvala is Course Director for the Theatre Practice: Creative Producing (BA Hons) and Creative Media Industries: Cultural Management (MA) courses at London South Bank University. He is also the Artistic Director of Moving Theatre, one of the UK's foremost independent producers of international collaborative work, and was described by the European Cultural Foundation as the "UK's leading exponent of bilingual theatre".

Moving Theatre has previously led an EU-funded partnership of radio and theatre which commissioned and produced six new radio dramas inspired by operatic heroines. Each play was written in English and another language in such a way that a listener who understands only one can still enjoy and understand the play. Between them the plays won numerous awards.

More recently the Moving Theatre used funding from the European Cultural Foundation and the Waldorp fund to collaborate with the LadoMeshkshvili Theatre in Kutaisi, Georgia and the Maneken Theatre in Chelyabinsk, Russia to stage a new production of Shakespeare's *Troilus and Cressida* - offering a new insight into Shakespeare's reworking of one of the stories of the Greek-Trojan war.

The play was staged in both Russia and Georgia and interweaved into Shakespeare's drama were new scenes created from original interviews with people caught up in the 2008 conflict in South Ossetia and Georgia, to provide a contemporary reflection of Shakespeare's debate about what is essential in human life.



## MIDDLESEX UNIVERSITY

Mumbai-born Danish Bagadia had a challenging childhood but was always motivated to make his way in business. Now a senior marketer at Google in the UK, the Middlesex University marketing graduate shares the secrets to his success.

"I remember lying flat on my tummy underneath my bed. It was pitch black and there was a group of people outside with machetes and swords, shouting and trying to get in," said Danish, recalling being caught up in Mumbai's race riots as a boy in 1992.

Now responsible for a substantial budget as Google's Head of Performance Media Marketing for Europe, Middle East and Africa, he has certainly come a long way. Danish moved to London in 2004 to study MA Marketing Management, thanks to the support of his hardworking parents.

The marketing manager believes his drive and positivity stem from his childhood experience of poverty.

“ I try to look at everything now with the angle of positivity. You might be going through the worst thing in your life but there are a lot of people who are going through even worse things so you need to put it in perspective. ”





## EDINBURGH NAPIER UNIVERSITY

Edinburgh Napier University has existing transnational education partnerships with institutions worldwide, including India, China and Singapore. In late 2016, the University signed a memorandum of understanding with the Singapore Heart Foundation that will benefit both the public in Singapore and Edinburgh Napier students.

The agreement will initially see students from the BSc Nursing programme within Singapore volunteer with the charity to increase its provision of individual health assessments. At present, the charity conducts assessments for around 3,000 Singapore residents a year, but it is hoped that the University's involvement will help increase this number in the months ahead. The assessments are primarily for people who cannot afford health insurance.

The University is also the largest UK provider of HE in Hong Kong

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## SOUTHAMPTON SOLENT UNIVERSITY

Southampton Solent University's Gender, Empowerment and Multicultural Crews (GEM) project examines seafarers' welfare, focusing on gender issues arising from multi-cultural crews and isolation. The research and data findings will facilitate the development of appropriate tools to help support women within the industry.

This research into seafarer's welfare and on-board experiences will draw on the unique access to data from current and former students at the University's Warsash Maritime Academy, as well as comparable data from China's Shanghai Maritime University and Nigeria's National Maritime Academy.

This will help to establish patterns relating to the welfare of seafarers, particularly women, and how they are treated on board in today's multicultural working environment.

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## THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST OF SCOTLAND

A commercial partnership between University of the West of Scotland (UWS) and Chinese technology firm, Wuxi Chigoo Interactive Technology, has resulted in a UWS student developing a new method to improve journey experiences for airport visitors.

Elahe Naserian, a computing science student at the Paisley Campus, in collaboration with academic, Professor Xinheng Wang, proposed a new approach to take advantage of existing UWS-developed 'C-Trolley' technology, which is currently being utilised on smart trolleys in 19 airports across China.

'Charlie'- as the smart trolley is known - helps passengers navigate terminals by acting as an electronic guide, while allowing them to charge their phones, book hotels, restaurants or onwards travel and providing games for entertainment.

The new update, integrates check-in information with existing data gathered from Charlie to help analyse passenger behaviour and movement in the airport building. The approach helps map the patterns of groups of passengers, such as families or couples, to improve terminal layouts and passenger management. The data can also help airport retailers to tailor adverts for airport customers.

Currently on trial at Guangzhou Baiyun International airport, China's third busiest and the world's 17th busiest airport by passenger traffic, it is expected that Wuxi Chigoo will roll-out the programme to the rest of its operations in the next six months.

The collaboration is a direct result of a partnership between UWS and Nanjing University of Posts and Telecommunications; one of 37 Chinese institutions with which the University is currently partnered.





## UNIVERSITY OF EAST LONDON

The women and men of the University of East London's (UEL) Hockey Club enjoyed a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity last year to travel to South Africa to coach school children in the township of Langa, near Cape Town.

Students ran youth hockey camps for up to 100 youngsters a day, offering equipment and support. The trip culminated in a tournament where the children received jerseys donated by hockey clubs in the UK, Ireland, Germany and Belgium.

It was a life-changing experience, said the trip's coordinator, physiotherapy undergraduate Ciara Gormley. And it was made possible because of Going Global, a UEL scheme that provides bursaries for students to travel abroad for short study or research trips.

Ciara said:

“ It was a huge learning curve for me, and my trip undoubtedly enhanced my personal development and future employability. It was an absolute privilege to travel as ambassadors for the University. ”

Going Global was founded in 2010 with an eye towards providing UEL's diverse population of students, many of whom are older and have families and jobs, with an opportunity to enhance their studies with a short-term foreign travel experience.

For many, it is the first time they have travelled abroad.



## UNIVERSITY OF THE HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS

Approximately eight million tonnes of plastic litter enter the seas and oceans each year. Many seabirds, mammals and turtles die after consuming or being entangled in discarded plastic, with the economic damage of marine plastic waste estimated at almost €12bn.

The Circular Ocean project aims to tackle the increasing problem of marine pollution by encouraging the upcycling and repurposing of plastic litter. Led by the Environmental Research Institute at North Highland College UHI (University of the Highlands and Islands), the project is supporting communities and entrepreneurs across northern Europe and the Arctic to realise the economic opportunities of discarded marine plastic.

In remote regions, renowned for their natural beauty and wild environments, monitoring, collecting and recycling marine litter can be difficult due to low population densities and prohibitive transport costs. To overcome these obstacles, the Circular Ocean project is creating an online network to allow anyone to access and share practical and innovative ideas on how to reuse litter.

The €1.5m project, which runs from October 2015 to September 2018, is being funded by the EU's Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme. As well as researchers at the Environmental Research Institute in Thurso, project partners include representatives from the Centre for Sustainable Design in England, Macroom E in Ireland, the Arctic Technology Centre in Greenland and the Norwegian University of Science and Technology.



**Sandra Booth**

Pro Vice Chancellor Enterprise,  
Business Development and Engagement

**We're proud to support the 25th anniversary of the Further and Higher Education Act 1992 which heralded the rise of modern universities. Here in Cumbria we're looking forward to celebrating an event of our own too.**

In August it will be ten years since we became a university; proud to serve a proud county.

Helping bridge the skills gap to enable businesses to stay ahead is in the DNA of the University of Cumbria. Our sense of 'place' is our reason for being; a university in Cumbria for Cumbria.

We're proud to be at the forefront of offering Higher Level and Degree Apprenticeships which will blend with industry-based degrees over the coming years.

Developing new professions with the new businesses that are predicted to come to Cumbria is very much what we want to do. As a modern university, we're agile and able to adapt to suit employers needs to ensure our students are immediately employable – suitably qualified experienced professionals. But it's not just new and emerging sectors that we want to support.

We're finalising plans to offer policing degree apprenticeships, a course which is gaining interest since the College of Policing announced that all new police officers in England and Wales will be educated to degree level by 2020.

The University of Cumbria has its own thriving criminology department which itself evolved from a partnership with Cumbria Police ten years ago. It's not just goodwill; £441,000 from the HEFCE Degree Apprenticeship Development Fund has been invested in the development of the policing apprenticeship.

And with significant projects of national importance coming to Cumbria within the next decade, ensuring those developments are on time and within budget during still uncertain economic times will be key.

Our project management courses are recognised and praised by the industry's professional body.

Our aim is to provide the right candidates for the right jobs at the right time to help maintain the upward trajectory of the county – and region's – economy. And ensure we fill the Cumbrian skills gap.

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