Building an incredible future for us all

A ground-breaking vision to transform our University forever

Find out what’s happening and how it affects you
At the University of Hertfordshire, we’re ambitious about our future, and yours. In the last ten years we’ve built the £120 million de Havilland Campus, cutting-edge buildings for film and media and health and human sciences, our landmark Forum Hertfordshire and a brand new Law Court building.

The next ten years will see us achieve even more, as we work towards our 2020 Estates Vision. It’s a ground-breaking vision that will see us upgrade existing facilities as well as invest in major academic buildings, new student residences and new Students’ Union facilities with all student services located on one part of the College Lane campus. It will bring vital additions to our de Havilland Campus and transform College Lane on a scale not seen for fifty years. Importantly, it will be delivered in a sustainable way with the College Lane residences being the country’s first true zero carbon project.

The changes you see happening today will shape the University forever. They will create phenomenal facilities for our students and staff, create a wonderful space in which to live and learn, help us attract the best teaching and research talent and raise our profile dramatically, in turn adding value to your degree.

Of course, any major building work brings some inevitable disruption, but you – today’s students and staff – are our priority and we’re working hard to keep this to a minimum. Please bear with us as we work toward making these important investments in your campus, and feel proud to be a part of our University community.
The Weston Atrium
The Weston Atrium has been transformed into a beautifully designed, vibrant hub with a really welcoming atmosphere. It’s now a great focal point for life at de Havilland.

We’ve introduced facilities for informal learning, meeting and socialising, both for our students and our staff, including a new first-floor study deck, with wireless connectivity, power and vending facilities. We’ve also added built-in seating for large-scale events and exhibitions.

Hertfordshire Students’ Union
With the main Hertfordshire Students’ Union building based at College Lane, many of you felt the Union’s presence was missing at de Havilland. So, in partnership with Hertfordshire Students’ Union, we’ve created a dedicated office close to the Weston Atrium, making the Union’s services and support much more accessible to students across all our sites.

The Weston Auditorium
Here, we’ve taken an underused area – the auditorium’s foyer – and dramatically improved it. Now it’s a light, airy, much more flexible space, not only when the auditorium is in use, but also when it isn’t. Comfortable seating and wireless connectivity make it a great place to meet and work informally, and the box office has been moved to a more central spot in the Weston Atrium to open up the foyer.

Hertfordshire Sports Village gym extension
Hertfordshire Sports Village has always been very popular with our students, staff and members of the local community. We wanted to improve what we provide so have extended the gym to offer more space, for more users, including a larger free-weight area. Our sports performance and physiotherapy clinics now have purpose-built spaces here, improving their link with the Hertfordshire Sports Village.

How this benefits you
• Lighter, brighter, more inspiring places to meet friends and colleagues.
• New spaces to work informally, with wireless connectivity.
• Better facilities for enjoying events and exhibitions.
• Easier access to the support and services of Hertfordshire Students’ Union.
• Great new indoor sports facilities.

What’s happened so far?
We’ve already got the project off to a flying start with some excellent developments at the de Havilland Campus. As the University’s newer campus, de Havilland didn’t need major building work, but we’ve transformed several key areas so they really live up to their potential and make the campus a better place for all of us.
What’s happening right now?

Whether you’re at College Lane or de Havilland, you can’t miss the work we’re doing right now. We know building work can be a little disruptive, and we understand you’d rather not be surrounded by it, but we’re working hard to make your University a more inspiring place to be and to ensure the developments create a vibrant environment to study and work in.

At College Lane...

Student accommodation
At the moment, we can’t offer all first year students’ accommodation on campus, and that’s something we’d really like to do. So, we’re building brand new accommodation and fully refurbishing some of our existing rooms. A new Common Room has already opened in Telford Court and phase one opens in September 2014 with 700 new bedrooms plus sports pitches, a campus gym and social spaces. By September 2016 we’ll have 2,511 attractive new bedrooms, made up of singles, doubles, studio flats and town houses, all built to BREEAM outstanding standards and delivering a true zero carbon project.

Hutton Hub
Hutton Hub will bring together all our essential student services, from the Campus Pharmacy to the Counselling and Medical Centre, Hertfordshire Students’ Union to the Student Centre. Sitting next to the social facilities of the Forum, with an attractive atrium, it’s a place we hope all students will get to know really well. In the meantime, we have relocated Hertfordshire Students’ Union so they are closer to our students and they are now based in new offices in Hutton Hall.

Main reception and learning zone
Everyone likes to make a good first impression, and at College Lane we feel the main reception needs to make a more positive impact. So, we have relocated reception to the ground floor underneath Prince Edward Hall, modernised it and are in the process of creating a new informal learning zone and exhibition space.

External landscaping
First impressions count and we think visitors will be impressed with our new landscaped areas, which will open up the front of the campus and improve access to our wonderful sculpture collection. Further landscaping right across the campus will also mean more appealing, refreshed outside space.

Science building
A landmark new development, our stunning science building will bring all our science facilities under one roof. Light, airy and full of state-of-the-art equipment, it will house laboratories, cutting-edge research technology and areas for informal learning and socialising.

How this benefits you

- Modern and comfortable on-site accommodation with sports and social facilities.
- One attractive, central hub for all student services.
- A striking, feel-good entrance to the College Lane Campus.
- A brand new, WiFi-connected learning zone.
- More attractive, comfortable and useable outside spaces.
- Hertfordshire Students’ Union.
What’s happening in the future?

Our plans for the University don’t end with the projects you see happening now. We’ve an ambitious programme of improvements at College Lane beyond 2020, creating truly outstanding facilities that will transform the University forever.

At College Lane...

Reconfigured car park
Next to the art and design building, our reconfigured car park will create additional parking.

Engineering refurbishments
Located within the existing main building our innovative engineering spaces will offer our students and researchers extraordinary resources. As you’d expect, these spaces will mainly serve the School of Engineering and Technology, however communal areas will be open to everyone.

Main building and lecture theatres
The remaining areas of our main building will, within time also get a major refurbishment, inside and out, to help us make a bigger, bolder, more positive first impression. New lecture theatres for teaching, conferences and evening classes will also be built around the quadrangle in front.

Teaching buildings
Replacing a range of outdated teaching spaces across the University, our two new contemporary teaching buildings will offer flexible spaces for classes of different sizes.

Boulevard
We’re creating a new central boulevard right across the campus, linking our residential and academic zones. Beautifully designed and landscaped, it will become a primary route for students and staff.

Conference centre
Our new conference centre will be used for both teaching and conferences, replacing the Fielder Centre, which sits off campus. By bringing this facility on site, we’re creating a more useable space for students and a more welcoming atmosphere for visitors.

At de Havilland...

The plaza and external spaces
New landscaping across the campus will open up space for an events plaza and amphitheatre.

Social Hub
Our students already enjoy the terrific facilities provided by the ForumHertfordshire, but we would like to create more of a social atmosphere at de Havilland. So we are looking at creating a new Social Hub offering bars and a function room for our students, staff and visitors to the University.

Sports Science
Relocating Sports Science to a new location closer to Hertfordshire Sports Village, will offer greater benefits to our students by providing access to the exceptional facilities available. In addition improve the link between our sports performance and physiotherapy clinics that now have purpose-built spaces in Hertfordshire Sports Village.

How this benefits you
• Ambitious projects that raise the profile of the University and the value of your degree.
• State-of-the-art facilities that attract exceptional lecturers and researchers.
• A legacy of landmark buildings you can enjoy as a postgraduate or alumnus.
With so much happening, it’s good to be able to see at a glance when different projects are going to start and be completed. As you can see, we’re starting with the Main Reception and Hutton Hub first to improve both the student and visitor experience as quickly as possible. Altogether it’s going to be a busy few years, but the results will be amazing.
Main reception and learning zone
- New main reception opened 2014.
- Informal learning zone with Wi-Fi and catering facilities opening 2014.

Hutton Hub
- Hertfordshire Students' Union office opened 2013.
- New student services centre opening 2014 including Student Centre, Campus Pharmacy, Careers and Placements Service, Student Support and more.

Student accommodation Phase 1
- 700 new bedrooms, sports and social facilities opening 2014.

Science building
- Science building opening 2015.
- Teaching, research and computer laboratories.
- Informal learning, social spaces and a coffee bar.
Creating quiet zones

It’s inevitable that building work will create some noise, but there are some learning zones which are unaffected and we encourage you to make the most of these. We’ll also be relocating teaching to quieter locations wherever possible.

In addition the Learning Resources Centre have over 400 silent study areas across both campuses, with de Havilland a free shuttle bus ride away, the facilities are available for all our students to use.

Keeping disruption to a minimum

While we’re bringing these fantastic new developments to life, there will inevitably be a degree of disturbance around your campuses. We understand you may be concerned about how this affects you, but please be assured we’re working very hard to carry out our projects considerately and with minimal disruption.

Planning building work around the academic calendar

We’ve carefully scheduled all of our main construction work around the academic calendar, making the most of University holidays to make major progress while our students and staff are away. Of course, some construction will be going on throughout the year, but we will work hard to ensure that no noisy work will be carried out during exam periods.

Where possible, we will be working with individuals and Schools most affected by the change to work together to try and minimise the impacts of the building work.

Making sure you know what’s happening

We’ll be doing our best to keep you informed about what’s happening around the University and how it might affect you. Look out for our posters, or sign up for regular newsletters and emails letting you know about major work, alternative routes around campus and quieter places to study.

You can follow the whole project’s progress at go.herts.ac.uk/campusupdates and email us with any questions or issues at 2020estatesvision@herts.ac.uk. We aim to respond within 48 hours.
A landmark project with a real legacy

There’s no getting away from it, the 2020 Estates Vision is significant for the University, our students and our staff. We’re investing in our future and that means we’re investing in yours too.

By being ambitious about the kind of University we want to be, we’re creating a better place for you to live, learn, carry out research, work and visit – a place you can be proud to have been part of, wherever life takes you later.
Like to find out more?

Whether you’re interested in finding out more about the project’s background, you’d like to take a closer look at the plans, or you just want to keep an eye on how the construction work will affect you, we’re making it easy to find out more.

Visit our website
Take a closer look at the whole of the 2020 Estates plan at go.herts.ac.uk/campusdevelopment. It’s also a good place to find updates on what’s happening now and videos of the projects in progress.

Social media
Keep in touch with us whilst you’re on the move via facebook.com/uniofhearts @uniofhearts

Look out for posters on campus
We want to make sure everyone knows what’s happening, so we’ll also be using posters and signs across both campuses to let you know essential information about how the project might affect you.

Other ways we’ll be keeping you updated
We’ll also be using digital screens located across the campus, studynet and the LRCs to tell you about the works.