Powering Potential

Whatever your background, wherever you are from, higher education can be a transformational experience. And whoever you are, the application of university research can impact your life. We are committed to having a positive transformational impact on every member of our university community, and to sharing our successes with the community around us.

Professor Quintin McKellar CBE

Vice-Chancellor

Ranked 4th globally for research culture

Postgraduate Research Experience Survey, 2019

Awarded an Ecofriendly campus platinum award

EcoCampus

Ranked 4th globally for research culture

Postgraduate Research Experience Survey, 2019

One of 17 universities awarded the Race Equality Charter Mark

One of only 20 universities awarded University Enterprise Zone status

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Welcome to the University of Hertfordshire

Set across two campuses in Hatfield, Hertfordshire, just 20 miles from London,

we’re an innovative, enterprising university, focused on transforming lives. We give staff and students the opportunity to succeed no matter what their background.

We drive economic growth through cutting-edge research, creative and innovative thinking, skills development, bespoke training, and facilities that help businesses achieve their potential. All of our activities are underpinned by our core values; we are friendly, ambitious, collegiate, enterprising, and student-focused in everything we do.

We have more than 25,000 students studying over 550 undergraduate, postgraduate and research degrees. Of those students over 4,000 are international students from 100 countries. We also have more than 6,000 students taking courses outside the UK through international partnerships and franchise arrangements.

Our teaching is delivered across eight academic Schools: Creative Arts, Education, Health and Social Work, Hertfordshire Business School, Hertfordshire Law School, Humanities, Life and Medical Sciences, and Physics, Engineering and Computer Science.

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Our history

1952-1959 Hatfield Technical College

1952 saw the opening of a new Technical College in Hatfield, with HRH Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh performing the opening ceremony. With its roots in Britain’s pioneering aeronautical industry, the College soon established itself as an innovative force in education, awarding our first BSc (Engineering) qualifications to external students of the University of London in 1959.

1960-1968 Hatfield College of Technology

In 1960, the institution was renamed Hatfield College of Technology and began to invest in computer science, buying the College’s first digital computer in 1963 – a National Elliott 803B digital computer, at a cost of £24,010. In 1965, the college became recognised for 13 Honours Degree courses, including Computer Science and Civil Engineering, with BA (Hons) Business Studies coming a year later.

1969-1991 Hatfield Polytechnic

In 1969, the College was designated as Hatfield Polytechnic, and by 1970 had formed the best equipped and staffed Computer Centre in the public sector in education. In 1975, the Polytechnic was reorganised into five schools of study and a centre for Management Studies.

1992-Present University of Hertfordshire

Hatfield Polytechnic became The University of Hertfordshire on 29 June 1992. In 1998, our prestigious Formula Student team competed in the first ever competition held in the UK, winning the prize for the Best Presented Team. In 2003 the de Havilland Campus, a £120 million project, opened. Today, we have a student community of over 25,000 on UK based programmes across our two campuses.

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Executive team

As Chief Executive, the Vice-Chancellor exercises considerable influence upon the development of University strategy, the identification and planning of new development and the shaping of the University ethos. The executive team - the Deputy Vice-Chanellor, Group Finance Director, Secretary and Registrar, the Pro Vice-Chancellor Business and International Development, Pro Vice-Chancellor Research and Enterprise, and the Pro Vice-Chancellor Education and Student Experience all contribute to this aspect of work.

Professor Quintin McKellar CBE, Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive

Quintin has been the Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive of the University since 2011. His responsibilities include the day-to-day running of the institution, the delivery of strategic and operational plans, performance, its internal structure and organisation, and its interface with external bodies and agencies. In 2015 he was elected as a Board member of Universities UK, and in 2020 was elected as Vice-President (England and Northern Ireland). He was made Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in 2011 for services to science.

Professor Matthew Weait, Deputy Vice-Chancellor

Matthew joined the University in March 2020, and as the sole Deputy Vice-Chancellor he is engaged in all strategic and operational decisions which underpin the positioning and success of the University. He will be leading the implementation of a new strategic plan for the University. Matthew has overall responsibility for University planning, including the development of all academic areas through the respective deans, staff development, international and regional partnerships and developments, recruitment, induction and retention of students, student experience and student outcomes.

Dr Mairi Watson, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education and Student Experience)

Mairi joined the University in May 2020 as Pro Vice- Chancellor Education and Student Experience. She leads strategy and performance, as well as policy development and delivery, in learning and teaching, student experience, quality assurance and student union relationships. Mairi is a Chartered Fellow of the Chartered Management Institute and regularly contributes to external events on the leadership of educational change in challenging contexts.

Professor John Senior, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Enterprise)

Appointed in 2006, John is responsible for leading University research and the delivery of research degrees, chairing the University Research Committee, developing international research partnerships in Australia, China, Malaysia, and Vietnam, and overseeing the Doctoral College, which is a community of more than 700 research degree students.

From 2003 to 2006 John was the University Director of Enterprise and Knowledge Transfer as well as being a Dean of Faculty.

He has an international research profile in the field of optical fibre communications and networking, is on the Executive Committee of the Engineering Professors Council and chairs the Research and Enterprise Network for Universities (RENU).

Professor Julie Newlan MBE, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Business and International Development)

Julie is responsible for innovation, international growth and partnerships, enterprise, business development, and marketing and communications. As well as overseeing strategy in these areas, she manages teams and initiatives relating to commercial income, knowledge transfer, graduate enterprise and employability, reputation management, fundraising, and recruitment. Julie’s role also covers leveraging intellectual property and developing enterprise and entrepreneurship opportunities for students and staff.

Alistair Moffat, Group Finance Director

After a career in senior finance positions in the commercial world, Alistair was appointed Group Finance Director in 2009. He has responsibility for all aspects of financial management within the group, including financial control, statutory reporting, treasury, tax, insurance, payroll, pensions and procurement.

His role also incorporates board responsibility for the management of the Estate and Sport. He is a director of UH Holdings Limited, which oversees the commercial subsidiaries in the group, and is a director of our subsidiary companies.

Alistair is joint chair of the London and South-East British Universities Finance Directors’ Group (BUFDG).

Sharon Harrison-Barker, Secretary and Registrar

Sharon was appointed in January 2020. She was previously the Academic Registrar, Head of the Student Centre and Faculty Registrar for the Business School and has worked in various further and higher education institutions. She achieved an MBA in Higher Education Management from the University of London in 2010.

Sharon is responsible for the management and operation of the Board of Governors and the Academic Board, compliance with University policies, regulations and procedures, legal matters of the University and its wholly owned subsidiaries, health and safety, internal audit, equality, registry, the office of the dean of students, process review and professional staffing.

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Our vision and strategic plan

Our vision reflects the ambition and inspiration that is central to the University. It is built on the belief that whatever your background, wherever you are from, higher education can be a transformational experience. And whoever you are, the application of university research can impact your life. We are committed to having a positive transformational impact on every member of our University community, and to sharing our successes with the community around us.

The development of our strategic plan began with engagement with staff, students and governors at the University – which informed our focus on transforming lives. It reflects the values of ambition and inspiration that are central to the University of Hertfordshire. Our three key themes of opportunity, community and flexibility also grew out of this engagement. They reflect both what is important to the University, but also how we will approach challenges in the coming years.

The 2020-2025 strategy will build on our strengths and embed our focus on employability, enterprise and business partnerships into our plans. It also looks to future challenges. In 2018, we asked a group of students to present the challenges that they anticipated that they would encounter in the future to our Board of Governors.

They focused on new technologies, the changing world of work, and increasing interconnectivity across the globe. They were excited about the future, but they recognised that they needed to be ready for it. The pandemic has changed the way we live, work and study, and the future could look different but we are confident our students will have the skills to face those challenges.

Our strategy will develop graduates who are capable and professional, building on the engagement of employers and professional bodies who contribute to the development of our curriculum. We will encourage students to be creative and enterprising, as one of only 20 University Enterprise Zones. We will build student’s social and global awareness, and increase proportion of international students on campus, and the number of UK students who have international experience. We will be compassionate and inclusive, supporting students in their learning and their living.

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Education and student experience

We deliver high-quality and distinctive education that transforms lives by providing opportunities to develop students’ skills for life, working in partnership with our student community, and delivering flexible education with clear career pathways.

Our country’s education system is highly respected all over the world, and achieving a qualification at a British University is a passport to a rewarding career.

Higher education qualifications in Britain are rigorous and intellectually challenging. They have to be because we’re continuously assessed to make sure we give students the exceptional education they deserve.

We know that coming to university is a major investment of time and money, so we make sure our students graduate with the best possible knowledge, experience, skills and career prospects. Our lecturers have a wealth of experience in their field, not just in an academic setting, but also out in industry – whether that’s in business, law, healthcare, sciences, engineering or the creative sector. They’ve built businesses, developed technologies, saved lives, pushed boundaries and made a real difference. They’re here to help our students do the same.

In 2018, we were awarded the top accolade of gold in the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF), a system introduced by the government to help students judge teaching quality and the importance of teaching excellence at universities. A gold rating indicates that we have demonstrated the highest quality teaching standards and provide outstanding outcomes for students from all backgrounds, in particular retention and progression. It is a mark of excellence that no Russell Group university hold.

We passionately believe in powering potential; for students this means equipping them with skills for life. We are very proud that our teaching has been recognised as the highest quality found in the UK, having been awarded gold in the Teaching Excellence and Student Outcomes Framework.

Mairi Watson, Pro Vice-Chancellor for Education and Student Experience

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Research

We carry out research that transforms lives, and addresses fundamental global and societal challenges. We do this by offering research opportunities for staff and students, engaging the community in impactful research, and adapting flexibly to research partnerships.

Through their research, UK universities are contributing more than ever to future economic growth and to positive changes in the way we all live, work and learn. At the University of Hertfordshire we are proud to play a significant role in these developments, engaging with other academic institutions, business and industry.

Our research culture, which is defined by a strong spirit of enquiry, innovation and enterprise, also feeds into teaching and learning to enrich our students’ experience. Artificial intelligence and robotics, data innovation, climate change together with toxicology and pharmaceutics, food security and health care are just some areas where we are breaking new ground for societal benefit, and our research has helped keep people safe during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Professor John Senior, Pro Vice-Chancellor for Research and Enterprise

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Enterprise

We deliver transformative benefits for the economy and our communities through outstanding expertise in business, innovation and skills.

To support micro, small and mediumsized businesses in Hertfordshire that are struggling as a result of the pandemic, we launched the Volunteer Business Support Scheme in partnership with Hertfordshire Growth Hub. The scheme, which is funded by Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership, matches businesses with mentors that are highly experienced in managing or coaching at a strategic level. They provide tailored support and point businesses in the right direction of finance and support packages in the county. The scheme has supported over 140 businesses across a range of sectors, including health and retail.

We provide regional firms with access to research expertise to help them translate their ideas into successful products and services, and we contribute to eight ongoing Knowledge Transfer Partnerships – a three-way collaboration between a business, the University and a talented graduate.

The Enterprise Hub on de Havilland Campus significantly enhances and expands the existing support we provide to businesses both big and small, locally and nationally, together with our talented students and graduates that are looking to start their own business.

Our start-up challenge award, flare ignite, offers student entrepreneurs the support, advice and training they need in areas like proposal writing, planning, finance and marketing, and the opportunity to win up to £8,000 to get their business idea off the ground. With more than 100 entrants each year, flare ignite has awarded more than £200,000 to student start-ups since it started in 2005.

It’s vital these businesses have access to the right support, particularly during this challenging period. The Enterprise Hub contributes significantly to the existing support we already provide at Herts and it will allow us to enhance and expand our community of practice, where entrepreneurs, with the support of their peers and like minded professionals, can discuss their challenges in a supportive environment and meet them head-on.

Professor Julie Newlan, Pro Vice-Chancellor for Business and International Development

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Global engagement

We are a globally engaged university, transforming lives by providing international opportunities for staff and students, building a diverse community on our campus, and increasing flexible programme delivery for the overseas market.

The University has a longstanding, successful history of engagement with international partners and we have been praised for our approach towards the extensive and complex range of collaborative partner institutions, by the most recent QAA Review.

With more than 70 international partnerships across five regions, and partnership models including franchise, dual awards, fly-in faculty, academic support, supported distance learning and recognition and articulation agreements, we remain passionate about offering the opportunity to students across the globe to study for a University of Hertfordshire award. This drives our commitment to continue with the development of strategic partnerships worldwide.

The University has been a pioneer in Transnational Education (TNE). In 1995 we became one of the first UK Universities to offer Franchise degree programmes in Malaysia, with college group INTI International University and Colleges.

In 2019 the University launched its latest large scale transnational education partnership with a new institution, Global Academic Foundation. Students will be able to study a University degree in multiple subject areas, including Business, Mass Communications, Pharmaceutical Science and Engineering.

Our strategy supports an international approach to education, and we have forged strong relationships with partners across the globe. This benefits our students by giving them diverse international experiences that prepare them for global careers, and it has helped us to build a vibrant global community and outlook, which also benefits our staff and the wider community.

Professor Julie Newlan, Pro Vice-Chancellor for Business and International Development

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Schools of study

The University is home to eight academic Schools of study, each of which is led by one of our experienced Academic Deans. The Deans and their Associate Deans have both research and industry experience, providing each of the School’s leadership teams with the knowledge and skills that our students need to achieve high quality graduate jobs across a breadth of industry sectors.

All courses are accredited by professional bodies, with more than half of the University’s research assessed as ‘world-leading’ or ‘internationally excellent’ in the 2014 Research Excellence Framework.

Hertfordshire Business School

Hertfordshire Law School

School of Creative Arts

School of Education

School of Health and Social Work

School of Humanities

School of Life and Medical Sciences

School of Physics, Engineering and Computer Science

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Hertfordshire Business School

Subject areas:

Accounting and Finance

Business Analysis and Statistics

Economics

Human Resource Management

Information Systems and Information Management

Marketing and Enterprise

Strategy

Tourism, Hospitality and Event Management

Hertfordshire Business School is the largest business school in the east of England and we are committed to offering every student the opportunity to succeed. Our subjects range from accounting, economics, human resource management and business analysis, to management, digital marketing, tourism and events.

We offer practical projects and placements through our collaboration with leading businesses and close proximity to central London. This gives our students the opportunity to build the skills, contacts and experience needed for a rewarding career.

Our strong reputation in the local region as an engaged and outward-facing business school that is both entrepreneurial and international in outlook, continues to grow nationally.

Our goal is to be the number one choice for students seeking a truly transformational education. Their success is our priority, as we support their progression from a learner to an employed professional: a person capable of leading colleagues, managing major projects and succeeding in the evolving global economic landscape.

Damian Ward, Dean of the Hertfordshire Business School

Our experts

Dr Reda Lebcir, Specialist in healthcare modelling

Dr Lebcir is part of the Public Health England (PHE) east of England Covid-19 modelling team, informing PHE and the NHS on policies to reduce the spread of the disease and reduce its impact on other health services.

Reda’s outstanding work has also involved a project to control the spread of tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS in the Russian Federation in collaboration with the World Health Organization. He is part of a team which secured £2 million in funding from the Economic and Social Research Council, to evaluate technological and behavioural intervention to help reduce the impact of antimicrobial resistance in India, South Africa, and the UK.

He has worked on both of these projects with Harvard University, Imperial College London, King’s College London, and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

The spread of infectious diseases and antimicrobial resistance constitute serious threats to them health of individuals and the economic and social prosperity of countries. Dr Lebcir has been involved in many national and international projects to model the health and economic impact of these threats, which then inform policy making by governments and international organisations.

Professor Jyoti Choudrie, Professor of Information Systems

Professor Choudrie’s research is in the digital divide between older adults and Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs). Her main focus is examining and understanding the digital divide by considering internet access for older adults. She is researching the use of human centric artificial intelligence and has collaborated with Desi Radio, Age UK Hertfordshire, and Symbiosis International University in India to identify and understand misinformation about Covid-19 prevention and cure within older adults. She has been a keynote speaker for the International Congress of Information and Communication Technologies, Digital Britain conferences and supervises doctoral students from around the globe.

Jyoti has been named as one of the winners in the 2019 TechWomen100 Awards. The annual awards, held by WeAreTechWomen, showcase remarkable women within the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics sector.

She was recognised for her extensive years’ of experience, specialising in investigating the social inclusion and adoption of ICTs on society’s ‘marginal groups’, as well as the adoption, use and diffusion of innovative ICTs in small to medium size enterprises and large organisations.

Dr Aarti Rughoo, Senior Lecturer

Dr Rughoo’s research expertise is in European banking efficiency and integration, inequality, the impact of the financial crisis on financial markets, and food vulnerability. She has publications in the Journal of Banking and Finance and the

European Journal of Finance, amongst others. Aarti is also collaborating on a project with FareShare on optimising surplus food redistribution and the onset of food vulnerability.

Dr Christopher Brown FHEA, FRSA, MIKT, MIE, MIAM Associate Professor Enterprise

Dr Brown is committed to his research work but also supports owner-managed enterprises searching for help and advice, as well as advising regional support

agencies like Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership and Hertfordshire Growth Hub. He has a particular focus on micro and small enterprises, working closely with the University’s incubation programme, and national knowledge exchange programmes such as Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTP) and Knowledge Exchange Embed Partnerships (KEEPs). Christopher also leads the School’s MBA

enterprise module to mentor and coach future entrepreneurs, both in their intrapreneurial leadership skills and their potential to start up their own enterprise.

Hertfordshire Growth Hub

Hertfordshire Growth Hub is Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership’s flagship business support provider. It is delivered by a consortium of partners that act as a central point of access for businesses in the county, to gain support and guidance, helping them to grow, scale and innovate.

It is part of a network of 38 Local Enterprise Partnership-led Growth Hubs across England, integrating national and local business support. Publicly funded by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, Growth Hubs provide locally tailored support and advice to direct businesses to the most appropriate organisations that can assist with their specific needs.

University awarded £1.1 million to help small businesses grow

The University secured £1.1 million to set up a new University Enterprise Zone that supports start-up and small businesses, to increase economic growth, employment, and investment in the county.

The Enterprise Zone offers companies across the county access to specialist workspaces, equipment and resources and encourages the development of talent through apprenticeships and student placements. A network of academics, supported by our outstanding research, will enable businesses to grow and prosper.

Hertfordshire Business Academy

Hertfordshire Business Academy is our School’s long-established business and professional network that nurtures collaboration and develops academic, business and alumni relationships. An active calendar of networking opportunities, business briefings, conferences and masterclasses encourages regular participation, exchange of ideas, transfer of learning, and continued professional development in the local business community.

Business Incubation

The University has an excellent reputation for supporting early stage businesses with flexible and fully equipped working spaces, access to our experts and a supportive peer network of like-minded professionals. We have helped over 130 businesses since the incubator was established in 2018. The designated business incubator co-working space recently moved into the Enterprise Hub on de Havilland Campus, just a 20 minute train journey from London.

To help drive new businesses forward, we provide access to the evolving research and expertise of hundreds of academic experts from the University. Incubator members can attend seminars, networking events and mentoring sessions. We also provide access to a network of over 3,000 business professionals through the Hertfordshire Business Academy. The networking group offers collaboration, breakfast briefings, masterclasses, research insights and opportunities to work with our students.

Degree Apprenticeships

We have developed five innovative degree apprenticeship programmes. With vocational learning at their core, these programmes offer employers a practical and highly skilled development pathway for driving management capability and leadership competence in their organisation.

TUI sent their first cohort on the Chartered Management degree apprenticeship.

We expanded our Executive Degree Senior Leader apprenticeships to three postgraduate degree programmes, including Master of Business Administration degree apprenticeships.

Research

Our Centre for Social Enterprise won a grant to research the effectiveness of the new quality standard for small and medium sized charities. We were also awarded £34,000 Knowledge Exchange Embed Partnerships funding to assist the Steve Sinnott Foundation to achieve financial sustainability. Members of the Centre provide business advice to students engaged in Enactus social enterprise activities. Our School also raised money to send donated business textbooks to a refugee camp in

Rwanda following a visit by a member of staff.

Research to positively impact climate change

We have secured over £6 million in funding for several research projects through our Big Data Technologies and Innovation (BDTI) laboratory. The laboratory director, Hafiz Alaka, regularly collaborates with industry partners to help solve their challenges.

We are currently working with the construction company, Balfour Beatty, to develop the first machine learning enabled carbon calculator for the construction industry. Other projects include working in partnership with PTE Architects and Leeds Beckett University to support the government by using big data and machine learning to help construction businesses adopt methods to reduce the duration, cost and onsite labour by 60%, 44% and 70%+ respectively. The BDTI laboratory is also working with Birmingham City Council and other industry partners on using a clustered blockchain, big data and artificial intelligence approach to air pollution tracking.

Our alumni

Elizaveta Zaskalko, BA Tourism Management with French, 2016

Associate Market Manager, Expedia Inc

Elizaveta works in Join Expedia Team, focusing on acquiring new hotels in Kent. Her first role was market associate in the Account Management Team, but after a year she decided to step out of her comfort zone and apply for a promotion in the expanding Join Expedia Team.

“ When I just started studying I knew I wanted to work in the tourism industry, but had no idea which part of it. As I progressed, I learned about so many different branches of the industry and it really helped me to narrow it down to the one I actually really enjoyed. ”

The location and the opportunity to continue to study languages were the two key factors for why she chose the University. She was always passionate about languages, so being able to continue her studies was very important. Another important factor was being able to do an industrial placement year because she says it is very hard to get a job without work experience nowadays.

Ashley Joseph, Marketing with Advertising, 2014

Digital and Social Media Officer, Football Foundation

Ashley manages the Football Foundation’s social media output and leads on digital projects.

“ I knew during my final year of university that I wanted to work in social media and that I’d love to eventually combine that with my passion for football. I got that opportunity with Middlesex Football Association back in 2016 and haven’t looked back since. The course had some great lecturers who really helped push me to getting my first class degree and taught me things outside of the course syllabus that set me up for working in industry. The course covered a wide range of marketing principles so that too helped make me a more rounded and employable person than some of the other people in my industry. ”

Tom Smith, BA International Business with French, 2007

Senior Manager, Michael Page

Tom works in the Boston, USA division. He has been working at Michael Page for the past eight years, having previously worked in the UK and South Africa divisions.

“ Having spent two years abroad as part of my studies at the University’s Business School, the degree prepared me well for an international career.”

He chose to study at the University because of the strength of both the business school and its relations with overseas academic institutions all over the world.

Highlights

Hertfordshire Business School Dean’s 2019 award winner for PhD Student of the Year

Jonathan’s thesis ‘Changing the Tune: Conceptualising the Effects of the Global Financial Crisis on Stakeholder Perceptions of Corporate Value’, breaks new ground

by proposing a new multivariate methodology which visually captures changes in the ongoing multi-actor conversation about corporate value. This fantastic piece of work

impressed examiners through its originality and its novel methodology, with potentially widespread applications across the Management Sciences.

Hertfordshire Business School Dean’s 2019 award winners for Transformation Through a Client Project

Batoul, Vanessa, Raghad and Mark produced the best campaign proposal for a charity in their final year module, Marketing Communications. The Godwin Lawson Foundation was set up by Yvonne and Calvin Lawson after their son, Godwin, was stabbed to death at the age of 17. The students produced an outstanding campaign

proposal to help this small charity raise awareness and donations. They showed the utmost empathy and understanding of what the charity needed when producing and

delivering their proposal. The staff members and client who watched the proposal to the knife crime charity were incredibly moved and impressed by their presentation.

We provide services to local startups and small and medium sized enterprises, and through our University Enterprise Zone, the Business Academy supports up to 24 local enterprises.

We have been short-listed for Business School of the Year 2020 in the Times Higher Education Awards.

Innovative ‘Winning Hearts and Minds Hackathon’ – our real life business challenge assessments have been built into our curricular.

Our dedicated Success Team has been established to champion and support BAME students.

Our first cohort of postgraduate international students went on UK industry placements.

We have introduced the postgraduate Practice Assessment Centre to focus on developing our talented students.

We are passionate about bringing local public, business and academic communities together:

We hosted ‘The Digital Divide’ at the Festival of Social Science with Age UK and the local community.

We ran a live Brexit radio panel debate with Federation of Small Businesses, local politicians, business people and students.

We supported the Early Career Talent Pipeline for Employers through the Assessment Centre Experience at Watford Football Club for 800+ students.

We connect with successful business professionals through our Alumni Rising Stars Programme and the Deans 2020 Business Advisory Group. The School’s Wall of Fame showcases our many alumni and business associates and supporters.

Future aspirations

In addressing the short-term challenges and issues facing businesses in these times of uncertainty, we offer mentoring, consultancy and leadership around supporting entrepreneurs and small business owners to:

Reduce the risk of new ideas with practical help in undertaking a business audit.

Develop a medium-term plan to test the fundamental building blocks required to build a robust business model that is viable, feasible and sustainable.

Work with businesses and be mindful of the need to show evidence of progress, and to justify current and future investments on executing ideas.

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Hertfordshire Law School

Subject areas:

Law and Criminology

Our Law School immerses students in the professional legal world through innovative teaching and outstanding facilities. From the £10 million law court building to the replica crown court for students to practice their skills, we are committed to providing practical applications for taught theory.

The courtroom experience helps students develop the skills of handling expert witnesses in collaboration with external partners such as local police forces and trainee social workers and taking part in the annual National Criminal Advocacy Competition which we host.

We encourage and support our students through a range of co-curricular activities to improve their confidence and understanding, ensuring they graduate with more than just a degree. They also have the opportunity to gain hands-on experience by volunteering in our Law Clinic, and improve their presentation skills through taking part in Streetlaw, by designing and delivering workshops in schools and community groups.

My personal and professional experience drives my commitment as Dean to transforming our staff and students’ lives and I am passionate about the School being a friendly, open and supportive place for everyone.

Penny Carey, Dean of the Hertfordshire Law School

Our experts

Amanda Thurston LLB, LPC

Solicitor

We have a wealth of knowledge and insight in the Hertfordshire Law School, including Amanda, our Hertfordshire Law Clinic Director and Family Law Supervisor. Her expertise has led the clinic through the Covid-19 crisis by continuing to support the local community, with a successful transition to the online world. Providing opportunities to develop students’ skills for life, Amanda created the Support at

Court project to provide them with the chance to attend family court to support litigants in person.

Dr Ferya Tas-Cifi PhD, LLM, LLB, Fellow (HEA), Post Grad Cert

Lawyer (registered Istanbul Bar Association)

Dr Tas-Cifi, Programme Leader for criminology specialises in gender based violence, honour based violence, violence against women, socio-legal studies, feminist legal

theory, legal pluralism, human rights, women and gender in the Middle East and Muslim world.

Her publications include Honour Killings and Criminal Justice: Social and Legal Challenges in Turkey.

Dr Kofi Addo PhD, BA (Hons), FHEA

Dr Addo is the Cohort Leader for first year students on the criminology programme and specialises in war crimes, terrorism, state crimes, psychology of crime, and policing.

Having previously served in the Royal Logistics Corp of the British Army, including a tour of Iraq, Kofi’s research has focused on sociological perspectives of criminology and issues around policing, specifically the impact of corruption in Ghana on public confidence in policing and the legitimacy of the service.

Our alumni

Natalie Pringle, Law (LLB), 2009

Co-Founder and Director, Chief Marketing Officer and Programme Manager

AvenueThreeSixty, The New Savvy, and Splash Foundation

Natalie is currently running her own real estate firm focusing on letting and managing UK residential properties for investors based in Asia. She is also the Chief Marketing

Officer for Asia’s leading financial literacy platform for women. In addition to this she is the programme manager for the Splash Foundation, which teaches domestic helpers and underprivileged children how to swim.

“ After studying law I took a role in recruitment where I met the founder of a boutique real estate firm and ended up coming to Hong Kong in 2015. I learnt a tremendous amount when studying law. Besides the obvious academic studies, we had so many opportunities to get involved with extracurricular activities including mooting, debating, trips to Inns of Court and much more. It was a great experience which gave me the confidence to speak in public, how to research and shape an argument and analytical skills. It gave me a basic knowledge of contract and employment law which have been useful in the operational side of running a business.”

Twanieka Alcindor, Law (LLB/LLM), 2010/2012

Barrister, 2 Dr Johnson’s Buildings

Twanieka is currently a barrister practising in both Criminal and Family Law. She started her own law firm in 2018 – Alcindor Law, and qualified as an Attorney-at-Law

in Jamaica.

“ I chose to study at the University because of its reputation for law study. The life-size court building, library resources and the number of graduates that go on to have

successful careers in law were also very attractive. During my LLM studies I was afforded the opportunity to Marshall the then Resident Judge at St Albans Crown

Court, which gave me invaluable work experience and assisted greatly in me obtaining a full scholarship for my further post-graduate studies. My future career plans and ambitions involve continuing to build my reputation as an excellent trial advocate both in the UK and in the Caribbean. I hope one day to be appointed Queen’s Counsel.”

Ashley Le-Core, Law (LPC), 2008

Solicitor, Martin Tolhurst Solicitors

Ashley joined Martin Tolhurst Solicitors in May 2016 after working at numerous other firms to obtain experience.

“ My degree significantly assisted me with my career and allowed me to move into the career I had always wanted. It is a very difficult career to begin with due to the very hard work and the long hours, but upon attaining a Training Contact and then qualifying, it is a greatly rewarding career and one that is well respected. I plan to one day hopefully become a partner within a firm or head the family department of a firm. I enjoy my job wholeheartedly and want to pass that passion on to others. ”

Supporting our community during Covid-19

Since the University moved to online tuition in March 2020 as a result of the

Covid-19 pandemic, Hertfordshire Law Clinic has also moved online to ensure continuous support for the local community at this difficult time. All clinics continue to operate, with clients attending appointments via video conferencing. The service has been expanded to include housing advice for people experiencing difficulties with their tenancies during the pandemic.

Students interview clients via video conferencing and draft letters of advice. This allows them to gain valuable experience of how to quickly ascertain the needs of a new client and clearly explain their options.

Research

Life on pause

Our research addresses global and societal challenges. Recent research has focused on analysing the mental health and wellbeing of women and their partners when all fertility treatment was cancelled during the Covid-19 pandemic. Postponing

treatment is an unprecedented occurrence which has resulted in emotional distress for many women, men and their families. The research addresses the emotional coping mechanisms of having to wait for fertility treatment to restart and examines what patients would like to see from their fertility clinics and the UK’s governing regulator, the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority.

Dedicated to fighting Covid-19 with sociological knowledge

The Covid-19 pandemic has become a global challenge. The fight is not only for medical professionals and biologists, it is also for sociologists. The conspiracy theories and anti-Asian sentiments arising from misinformation can only be addressed by fact-based sociological studies. Research in the School gives an objective account of China’s responses to the Covid-19 outbreak. More importantly, it highlights the effective strategies that might be used by other countries.

Best Contribution by an Individual: Sartaz Billing, Hertfordshire Law School

As a student advisor, Sartaz assisted clients through Hertfordshire Law Clinic’s Power of Attorney clinic. He is also a trained advisor with Citizens Advice in Hatfield and St Albans where he provides free legal advice via webchat and over the phone in relation to housing, employment, benefits and consumer rights issues.

“ This year the standard of nominations was especially high, so the judges have had a difficult job, and every nomination shows just how much students do to help people with their legal problems. I congratulate the winners and look forward to meeting them at a celebratory event later in the year.” Martin Barnes, Chief Executive of LawWorks

Best New Pro Bono Activity:

Hertfordshire Law Clinic,

Hertfordshire Law School

More than 200 Hertfordshire Law School students from all course levels have taken part in clinics which also offer free advice to low income individuals seeking family law advice. The clinic includes a satellite service at Future Living Hertford, a charity helping people who have experienced domestic abuse. It also provides advice to small businesses on intellectual property and commercial law. Students are supervised by six members of University staff and solicitors from 14 local law firms

Hertfordshire Law Clinic wins two awards at the LawWorks and Attorney General Student Pro Bono Awards 2020.

Hertfordshire Law Clinic has been awarded two accolades at the prestigious LawWorks and Attorney General’s Student Pro Bono Awards, sponsored by Lexis Nexis.

The awards celebrate the best pro bono activities undertaken by law students and law schools. They incorporate the Access to Justice Foundation award for an educational body or student which has made a significant contribution to promoting

access to justice.

Future aspirations

Hertfordshire Law School is passionate about responding to the challenges of the changing world and supporting the local community. Expanding the services of the Law Clinic will continue to benefit the community. These services include a mobile law clinic, delivering drop-in advice sessions and public legal education in hard to reach rural communities and deprived urban areas around Hertfordshire, with a

particular focus on helping people affected by domestic abuse.

By delivering flexible education with clear pathways, we plan to launch a new LLM Bar Professional course in 2021 to encourage widening access to the profession and build on the School’s Covid-19 experience to offer a flexible learning experience for students.

Highlights

Hertfordshire Law Clinic works with leading local law firms to improve access to justice by providing free legal advice to the local community. The clinic offers students voluntary opportunities which provide practical experience to enhance their employability.

The Law Clinic won the award for Best New Pro Bono Activity at the

2020 LawWorks and Attorney General Student Pro Bono Awards.

We recently received a grant of £40,000 from the Community Justice Fund and the National Lottery which is being used for our Stevenage Welfare Benefits Appeals

Project – a collaboration between Citizens Advice Stevenage and our School. It will allow us to provide advice, casework and advocacy support to people who would

otherwise struggle to have access to justice.

Natasha Towsey, an aspiring barrister, has been awarded a £20,000 Exhibition Scholarship by Inner Temple and a Duke of Edinburgh entry award to study the

Bar Training Course. Natasha has excelled in our Mooting co-curricular and was part of our winning team at the international Finlay Mooting competition. She also received the Hertfordshire Global Scholarship for academic achievement in her year

studying abroad.

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School of Creative Arts

Subject areas:

Architecture

Art and Design

Fashion

Film, Digital and Animation

Music, Performance and Production

Photography

Our vibrant School of Creative Arts provides an inspiring and supportive environment for our students and staff to thrive. Our film, media, design, visual arts, music and art therapy courses are led by talented artists, experienced lecturers and industry experts providing valuable opportunities to challenge themselves and the status quo.

Fundamental to the success and delivery of our courses, our extracurricular programmes, such as ‘live projects’, which are based on industry led professional briefs, place our students in the world of work enabling them to gain valuable industry experience before graduating.

Linking all of our courses are our exceptional facilities, including television and photography studios, sound control rooms and postproduction suites. With these tools at their disposal, our students are free to express their creativity to support their academic development.

To help our students build professional connections, they have the opportunity to visit our partners from around the world. This support has led to successful national and international competition victories, industry placements and employment with companies that include Ted Baker, Sony, Tesco, Norman Foster and partners, Warner Brothers, Monster Audio, and many others.

As Dean of the School, I want our students to love their time here. We encourage them to be free to explore, experiment and create amazing work in an inspirational,

supportive, friendly and ambitious art school environment, then to go on to glittering careers and achieve their dreams.

Phil Healey, Dean of the School of Creative Arts

Our experts

Dr Silvio Carta ARB

We have a wealth of knowledge and insight in the School of Creative Arts, including Dr Silvio Carta who is an ARB RIBA architect, Head of Art and Design, and Director of the Professional Doctorates in Fine Arts and Design. His expertise in research and design focuses on digital design and public space. Silvio is Head of the Editorial Board of Seoul-based C3 magazine and editor of A\_MPS Architecture Media Politics and Society (UCL Press). He is also the author of Big Data, Code and the Discrete City (Routledge).

Dr Shaun Borstrock

Dr Borstrock, is our Associate Dean of Business and Innovation, and a regular speaker at government, corporate, and education events around the world. He specialises in delivering design education as well as subjects that include luxury branding and fashion, consumerism, branding and brand strategies.

Shaun is a former Creative Director at Asprey and has worked with luxury brands and associations around the globe, including Unity PR, Ford, Finpro, the Cape Town Fashion Council, Thomas Pink, Fortnum and Mason, Dolce Gabbana, Gucci, the British Luxury Council and Alessandra Gradi.

Professor Timothy Blinko M Mus (London), B Mus (Hons), Dip RCM

Professor Blinko specialises in music research activity and research degree supervision.

He was Bliss Composition Scholar at the Royal College of Music, becoming a Junior Professor there while still a student, then Head of the Musicianship Faculty soon after. He was also a Visiting Professor for the State University of New York and

taught conducting at the University of Cambridge for 10 years.

Tim has many published works, recordings and broadcasts in the UK on BBC 1, Channel 4, Radio 3 and Radio 4, alongside many international performances. Amongst many of his achievements in the UK and the USA is his three-movement saxophone quartet, Sculptures, which has been played by most leading quartets in

the world and recorded by six. His collaboration with a colleague in theSchool of Life and Medical Sciences, Professor Richard Wiseman, resulted in writing the music for the World’s Most Relaxing Room - a top global news story of the week and covered by international media, BBC TV News, the Times, Telegraph, and Guardian.

Dr Barbara Brownie

Dr Barbara Brownie is our Principal Lecturer and her research and writing focuses on graphic design, popular culture, and costume. Barbara’s recent publications relate to typography and include the books, ‘Spacewear: Weightlessness and the final frontier of fashion’ (Bloomsbury, 2018), ‘Acts of Undressing’ (Bloomsbury, 2017), and ‘Transforming Type’ (Bloomsbury, 2015).

Research

At the School of Creative Arts, we carry out research that transforms lives, addressing fundamental global and societal challenges. From Cosmology to climate change, our artists and musicians explore the overlap between art and science and

some of the ways in which the arts can help us understand complexity in the natural world. Our outstanding design and art historians explore ways our cultural heritage can help us understand our place in the modern world.

Cosmoscope, led by Professor Simeon Nelson, is an Artichoke/Arts Council-funded research project undertaken with the University of Durham’s Ogden Centre for Fundamental Physics and University College London into some of the ways in which the arts can help us understand the complexities of modern science.

The Games and Visual Effects Research Laboratory, which is led by Professor Peter Richardson, is working with the UK drug discovery company Pharmidex to develop an animated film. The film highlights the advantage of the various treatments on offer to clinicians to alleviate the symptoms of the Covid-19 and help service users across the country.

Future research plans

The School’s €I.2M EU funded Games and Visual Effects Research Laboratory is the UK hub of the European Create Converge network and is led by Professor Peter Richardson. We work alongside Warner Bros, Elstree Studios, Oxford University Clarendon Physics Laboratory, University College Hospital London and University

College London.

One of our experts is undertaking research to create resilient zero carbon cities. Professor Ljubomir Jankovic leads the Zero Carbon Laboratory, and is looking at transforming building design through collaboration with biologists, architects, and computer scientists.

Highlights

New Designer of the Year

Rimal Bhatt, a recent graduate of the School’s Industrial Design course, has been named the Business Design Centre New Designer of the Year at the prestigious New Designers 2019. The annual event showcases the work of 3,000 hand-picked graduate design talents from around the country, recognising new design, thinking and innovation. It is also an opportunity to view the emerging design trends to look out for in the year ahead. Rimal’s exceptional design was for a fire evacuation mask that allows 15 minutes additional breathing time in a smoke-filled building, such as a tower block. The innovative respirator mask can also track and monitor residents as they exit the building. His design was commended for being a ‘simple, easy to implement solution to a very current issue’.

Graduate wins prestigious student Oscar

Mart Bira, a recent Film and TV Production graduate, received the Gold Medal Student Academy Award by the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences at the Samuel Goldwyn Theatre in Beverly Hills.

She won the Documentary (International Film Schools) category with her entry, Nomadic Doctor, beating all film schools from outside the USA. The documentary follows a doctor who travels long, isolated distances, up to 100km in a single day,

often in harsh weather conditions. She travels day or night, by horse, camel or car to provide medical care to nomadic families in the Gobi Desert in Mongolia.

“ It wasn’t easy to find a topic for my MA final major project and I had so many ideas in my head. I am originally from Mongolia and always wanted to introduce my culture to the world. My sister was a doctor there and she told me about the long distances travelled and frequent walks or rides in the dark that she undertook to reach patients. Through my discussions with her, I began to formulate the idea of Nomadic Doctor. My film has been so well received and I am delighted to win a Student Academy Award. It will also be an honour to be considered for The Academy Awards along with so many other amazing film-makers.”

One of the best in the world for digital creative courses

The University is one of the best universities in the world for animation, games design and visual effects courses, according to the Rookies World School Rankings 2019 – the world’s most renowned rankings for institutions that prepare artists for careers in creative media and entertainment. Put together with the help of 120 influential industry experts, the Rankings are based on the quality and performance of the 3,458 student entries submitted to the Rookie Awards 2019 from artists in 89 countries.

It was also rated:

First in the world for Game Design and Development Production

Second in the world for Visual Effects and Animation Production

Third in the world for Immersive Media Production

Fifth in the world for 2D Animation

Seventh for best overall Animation School

Best in the world for ‘Console and PC – Production Excellence’

Second in the world (best in the UK) in the ‘Top Visual Effects Schools’

Third in ‘Immersive Media – Game Design and Development for

Production Excellence’

Fifth (best in the UK) in the ‘Top 2D Animation Schools for Production Excellence’. Production excellence is an accolade awarded to the very best schools that focus on

working as a team to create full 3D animation short films.

The University was also ranked best in the UK in:

‘Top Animation Schools’ (seventh in the world)

‘Top Visual Effects Schools’ (seventh in the world)

‘Top Game Design Schools’ (eighth in the world)

And also:

Our animations have been shortlisted over 140 times in international animation festivals.

Winners of the TIGA Award for Best Educational Institution for Games Art and Design in the UK 2019.

Future aspirations

We continue to transform the economy and our communities through driving expertise in business, innovation and skills and offeringflexible ways for businesses to work with us.

Supporting small businesses

Propeller Creative

Through our internal design agency (Propeller Creative), we provide our local businesses and new small businesses in the University’s Enterprise Zone with the opportunity to work with our talented students, graduates, staff, and external industry experts.

The agency works across multiple design disciplines, which provides businesses with the flexibility to take on unusual or large-scale projects that cross boundaries. From branding to interior architecture, film production and interactive experiences Propeller Creative draw on the experience and expert knowledge housed within the School to create inspirational, professional design solutions.

propeller.herts.ac.uk/about-us

Digital Hack Laboratory

The Digital Hack Laboratory is a research unit that investigates the impact technology is having on creative practice. The diverse expertise of the team enables

specific research areas to be tackled while realising the opportunity for innovation, encouraging change through new thinking offered by digital technologies.

herts.ac.uk/digitalhacklab/digital-hack-lab

Media production

Video, audio, and high-quality image skills are important for all small companies but many do not have the funds to make use of the huge potential that digital media platforms and apps offer. Our School provides technical support, equipment hire,

and training for small business to help them produce materials and develop their in house skills.

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School of Education

Subject areas:

Education and Teaching

The School of Education is committed to transforming lives through education. With links to many organisations, including nurseries, primary and secondary schools, we offer courses that reflect the social, political, and technological changes taking place in the field. Our students begin rewarding professions in education, affecting policy and changing the lives of young people with ethical integrity.

We have more than 70 academic, administrative and technical support staff involved in delivering programmes to approximately 2,000 students. Their expertise spans

curriculum development, educational assessment, early childhood education, STEM education, and higher education teaching.

Our commitment to transforming lives is important to me and is shared across our School. It means we focus not just on building our students’ confidence, but also on how we can give back to society and make a difference to people’s lives.

Dr Lyn Trodd, Dean of Education

Our experts

Jane Turner MEd Csci Teach

Associate Professor

Associate Professor Turner specialises in primary science education and is Chair-elect of the UK Association for Science Education. She developed and leads the Primary Science Quality Mark (PSQM) programme continuing professional development which is recommended by Ofsted as an improvement tool for primary schools. PSQM is a national accreditation for quality teaching and learning in science and has been achieved by over 10% of UK primary schools. It is endorsed by the Scientific Learned Bodies. Over 500 primary schools participate in PSQM each year, making it the largest recruiting science programme for primary teachers in England. Jane has been successful in receiving funding including: £725,000 from the Primary Science Teaching Trust to support PSQM (2018-23), £360,000 from The Education Endowment Foundation for a nationwide evaluation of PSQM, £120,000 from the Royal Society of Chemistry (2019-21), and more than £60,000 in additional income from external organisations to support PSQM delivery across the UK and wider. Jane chairs the Scientific Learned Bodies’ Primary Curriculum Advisory Group, and had advised the Department for Education on recent policy in primary science curriculum and assessment.

Annita Clarke, MA

Annita Clarke specialises in the impact of mentoring and coaching on the success and mental health of students and young people. She was a Police Inspector, awarded Police Officer of the Year in 2013. Her recent publication ‘Abbie Carter – Collision of Minds’ has received reviews from the UK and USA.

Research

Our School is committed to providing online courses for international postgraduate students which brings with it challenges and ethical dilemmas. Using expertise in transnationalism the School has secured more than £1 million of funding to offer a Distance Learning Doctorate in Education in China, to research and develop best practice in transnational education.

Research in the study of educational leadership

Professor Philip Woods is internationally recognised for his research into democratic and distributed leadership in education. He is a former Chair and a current Council member of the British Educational Leadership, Management and Administration Society, and Director of the Centre for Educational Leadership and Professor of

Educational Policy, Democracy and Leadership. Philip is the author of more than 130 publications and his work focuses on education, democracy, leadership, policy and governance, with special attention to change towards democratic and holistic organisational environments. His work includes the design of resources for senior leaders, teachers and others, to support the development of distributed and democratic leadership, working with international colleagues through European Union funded networks.

Researching the impact of partnership on educational practice

Professor Joy Jarvis’ research and professional work is in educational practice and she is interested in how taking a research approach to practice can lead professional development. She is currently exploring how members of academic staff and students in higher education can work together to take an enquiry approach to the development of educational practice. Her aim is to create, use and evaluate different

research approaches, all based on principles under-pinning the concept of partnership. The principles that the team uses are those of shared responsibility and co-agency. We have explored different ways that these principles can be realised in practice and the strengths and limitations of the processes we have used. We are clear that our student-staff partnership approach is a concept not a procedure and we are working to support colleagues to identify the best approach for individual educational contexts.

Joy’s background is in teacher education and in the education of deaf children and young people. Her publications include work in these areas. She is a supervisor for the Professional Doctorate in Education programme, which is designed for graduates who are interested in learning and development in work contexts. She has also worked in prison education.

Our alumni

Jake Garwood, BA (Hons) Education Studies, PGCE in Primary Education, 2017

Teacher

Jake is a Year 4 teacher in a junior school near the University. He gained a PGCE in Primary Education in 2017, following an undergraduate degree at the University in Education Studies.

“ My studies at the University sparked the passion I have for education. For not only teaching, but the philosophy, politics and critical debates surrounding it. Engaging modules at the University and inspiring tutors played a key part in making me the teacher I am today. I knew the University had an excellent reputation for teacher training, so decided there was no better place to study to achieve my goal of being the best possible teacher I can be.”

Future aspirations

The School is committed to providing new innovative courses and we are planning to offer:

An MA in Outdoor Education with embedded short courses to support leisure, childcare and sports businesses.

A ‘top-up’ degree for childcare strategic business units that integrates business management and childcare practice.

Online continuing professional development courses for educators in schools, the

professions and businesses.

A degree in Inclusive Practice and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

A degree in English as an Additional Language.

A degree in Social and Educational Psychology.

Highlights

We are ranked in the top 20 for Education in the UK. The Guardian University

Guide 2021.

Fiona Montgomery, studying Bed Primary Education with Qualified Teacher Status is the winner of the 2020 Civic Award. As an exceptionally dynamic, enterprising and proactive student she rises to new challenges, takes on additional responsibilities wherever possible and always with a high level of professional integrity. Fiona has been recognised for her special qualities and achievements.

The School is one of the Department for Education’s top 10 teacher training providers in England for employability. It was recognised with the 2019 Postgraduate Research Experience Survey rating of its research culture as the highest of all Schools of Education nationally. For the last three years (2017-19) it has been rated as above sector average in all dimensions of the National Student Survey.

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School of Health and Social Work

Subject areas:

Nursing (Adult, Children’s, Mental Health and Learning Disabilities)

Midwifery

Paramedic Science

Physiotherapy

Diagnostic Radiography

Radiotherapy and Oncology

Social Work

Centre for Research in Public Health

and Community Care (CRIPACC)

The School of Health and Social Work delivers innovation and excellence across a diverse range of health and social care education and research, positively impacting on our local, national and international communities.

Our strong industry partnerships keep us at the cutting edge of health and social care and our practice partners offer excellent student placement experiences. Together we transform the lives of our students, enabling them to graduate with confidence into the workforce, applying their skills and expertise to improve lives and safeguard futures for all.

The School consists of two academic departments and an internationally renowned research centre. We have more than 5,000 students and through our expert-led teaching we support and create opportunities to build our students’ conﬁdence and develop their skills in their chosen profession. We offer courses across undergraduate, postgraduate and research degree level, as well as continuing professional development for those wishing to enhance their skills.

I have been fortunate to enjoy an amazing career in health and social care service delivery and education, and I remain passionate about the opportunities and the real impact this and research in this area can make on individuals and society.

Recognising the importance of these professions has never been more evident than during the pandemic.

Our School is committed to unlocking the potential of every individual student, ensuring they have the opportunity to develop their skills and advance their practice and expertise, to flourish throughout their career.

Our students are going into the world to improve lives – to do things that really do make a difference. We want to make their learning experience here the very best it can be.

Jackie Kelly, Dean of the School of Health and Social Work

Our experts

Irene Anderson, MSc, BSc (Hons), DPSN, PGCE HE,

PGCE, RGN

Principal Lecturer in Tissue Viability, Associate Professor, National Teaching Fellow

Irene has led or contributed to many innovations in clinical practice, including the development of a national competency framework and an educational tool available to nurses throughout the UK. She has published extensively in the field of tissue viability.

In 2017 she was invited to work with two clinical colleagues on a national lower limb project on behalf of NHS England. This work has led to an innovative multi society campaign to raise public awareness of lower limb problems.

Professor Brian Littlechild, PhD, Dr h c, BA, MA, CQSW, RSW, FRSA, FHEA, AUH

Research Lead for Social Work

Brian’s research and teaching covers many areas such as child protection, mental health, national and international social work research policies and practices, work with young people in trouble with the law, conflict resolution, and aggression and violence in mental health work. He has carried out 23 research projects as principal investigator or co-applicant, and participated in a number of others.

He has over 100 publications, including 32 refereed articles, 43 books/chapters/online resources from publishing houses, and presented some 60 papers at national and international conferences.

Professor Claire Goodman, BSc (Hons), MSc, PhD

Research Lead, Older People’s Health and Complex Conditions

Claire is a district nurse by background and a Fellow of the Queen’s Nursing Institute. She is a Deputy Director of the National Institute for Health Research

CLAHRC (Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care) East of England.

Her research focuses on the health and social care needs of the oldest-old, including those affected by dementia and living in long term care.

Professor Natalie Pattison, PhD

Florence Nightingale Foundation, Clinical Professor of Nursing

Natalie holds one of the seven Florence Nightingale clinical professorships, to pursue clinical research knowledge and to promote good practice in patient care. The appointment is shared between the University and East and North Herts NHS Trust.

Her research interests focus on critical care and critically ill ward patients, and cancer critical care.

Natalie is Chair of the UK Critical Care Research Group, and is Vice-Chair for patient and public involvement/nursing representative for the National Institute for Health Research Critical Care National Specialty Group.

Dr Daksha Trivedi, BSc (Hons), MSc, PhD (Lon), MPhil (Cantab)

Daksha trained as a scientist and has an interest and expertise in Mixed Methods, Clinical Trials and Evidence Based Practice. She is an Editor for the Cochrane Library, Associate Editor for Primary Health Care Research and Development,

member of the Cochrane Nursing Care Research Network and member of the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Research Patient Benefit Regional Advisory Committee.

Continued investment in teaching and learning facilities

Our Clinical Simulation Centre, which includes mock wards and intensive care units, provide the opportunity for students to practice realistic emergency situations. We

also have first class facilities in our physiotherapy and paramedic skills laboratories and the latest technology in our virtual reality laboratories.

Research

Developing research resources, and minimum data set for Care Home’s Adoption and use

We are leading a National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) funded study of £2.2 million. It will address the needs of people living with conditions such as dementia and those living in care homes, their families and the workforce that supports older people.

The study is a joint collaboration between Professor Claire Goodman, Professor of Health Care Research, at the University and Dr James Pickett, Head of Research at

Alzheimer’s society, which is partnering with NIHR on the project.

Treating depression among young people: The READY Trial (randomised trial of energetic activity for depression in young people)

As children move through adolescence, they are increasingly likely to be diagnosed with depression. The use of anti-depressants for those under the age of 18 years is not recommended and the effectiveness of psychological therapies varies for young people, therefore alternative treatment options are needed.

We are undertaking a £2.27million study to investigate if exercise is a beneficial treatment for mild to moderate depression in young people. The READY Trial will commence with an initial trial with young people in the East of England region, which will be followed by a nationwide research study involving more than 1,000 young people starting in 2021.

Pregnancy amongst the prison population

It is estimated that there are around 600 pregnancies and 100 births each year in English prisons. Pregnancy whilst in prison can raise challenges for women because of their ambiguous status, healthcare needs and restrictions whilst giving birth.

Dr Laura Abbott is a champion for improving maternity care for pregnant women in prison and helped to write the Birth Charter for Women in Prison in England and Wales.

Laura has been awarded a prestigious Mildred Blaxter postdoctoral fellowship to research how imprisoned women and those who support them experience enforced separation from new-born babies.

Future research

To complement the established research programmes within our Centre for Research in Public Health and Community Care, we have launched two new research units that aim to become research centres within the next 5-10 years.

The Musculoskeletal Research Unit is led by Professor Jeremy Lewis who is a Professor of Musculoskeletal Research and an internationally renowned expert of shoulder problems. He is also a Professor at the University of Limerick, Ireland, a consultant physiotherapist, and a sonographer.

Paramedic Clinical Research Unit led by Professor Julia Williams to continue to develop research on unplanned emergency care.

We are developing our postgraduate research programmes to capitalise on interest and need for high quality health and care research with our NHS and local authority partners.

Our programmes include two professional doctorates, the Doctorate in Health Research (DHRes) and the recently launched Doctorate in Public Health (DrPH).

These innovative programmes enable UK-based and international senior clinicians, managers and public health specialists to undertake postgraduate research supervised by our multi-disciplinary teams.

Preparing students for the real world

Our School provides a rich opportunity to learn from experienced practitioners through practice placements.

Our students spend 50% of their time within clinical settings so it is vital their training is of the highest possible standards.

We have strong relationships with a wide network of service providers across a broad range of localities and we work alongside NHS Trusts, Local Authorities, Private and Voluntary sector.

Centre for Research in Public Health and Community Care (CRIPACC)

CRIPACC is an internationally renowned multidisciplinary research centre focused on producing research that makes a difference to people’s lives by improving the quality of health and social care services and promoting health and wellbeing. Our key areas of research activity include:

Communities, Young People and Family Lives.

Older People’s Health and Complex Conditions.

Patient Experience and Public Involvement.

National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) Applied Research Collaborations (ARCs)

The University leads three research themes of the National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) Applied Research Collaborations (ARCs) for the East of England. ARCs are funded to support applied health and care research that responds to the needs of local populations and local health and care systems.\_CRIPACC is leading on the following three research themes:

Ageing and multi-morbidity: Led by Professor Claire Goodman.

Prevention and early detection in health and social care: Led by Professor Wendy Wills.

Inclusive involvement in research for practice led health and social care: Led by Dr Elspeth Mathie from the University and Professor Fiona Poland from the University of East Anglia.

Professor Julia Williams, PhD, BSc (Hons), FCPara, FEA

Associate Dean of Research

Julia is Professor and Research Lead for Paramedic Science and Associate Dean of School (Research).

She has extensive experience of undertaking research in a variety of healthcare settings as well as being involved in the development and delivery of Higher Education courses. Both for already qualified paramedics, and also for students on pre-registration paramedic science programmes. She holds a PhD from King’s College, London which was based on her research with people who were street homeless, looking at their experiences of health and healthcare while living on the streets.

Professor Wendy Wills, Director of CRIPACC (Centre for

Research in Public Health and Community Care), Associate Dean of Research

Wendy’s work is at the interface of social science and public health particularly in relation to food and eating practices, food safety, malnutrition and weight/ obesity and health/inequalities. She has directed several major research grants, including for the Economic and Social Research Council and Food Standards Agency (FSA).

Wendy is a founding member of the Malnutrition Awareness and Prevention Network along with a group of stakeholders and academics working in the field of nutrition for vulnerable communities. She was formerly a member of the FSA’s Social Science Research Committee and convenor of the British Sociological Association’s Food Study Group.

Our alumni

Obinna Okeke, BSc (Hons) Paramedic Science, 2020

Obinna Okeke was a final year student when the Covid-19 outbreak began. Treating potential Covid-19 patients at a time when information about the disease was still scarce.

“ Working with the London Ambulance Service has been fantastic. Paramedics are often the first responders to an emergency, but it’s great to know that you are there to help someone when they’re most in need.”

Jenny Bell, MSc Mental Health Recovery and Social Inclusion online, 2018

Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust NHS

Veterans mental health nurse Jenny joined a new specialised veterans mental health team after coming into contact with veterans in police custody while working as a mental health practitioner.

“ Whilst studying for my MSc I was able to explore, through my research, the element and importance of shared decision making in mental health recovery. This allowed me to apply for a new specialist role working with veterans who experience post-traumatic stress disorder.”

Future aspirations

We are committed to working with and supporting businesses by providing:

Apprenticeship programmes relevant to health and social care.

A successful Nursing Associate Higher Apprenticeship.

An Occupational Therapy degree apprenticeship programme.

A Degree Apprenticeship in Learning Disability for Capital Nurse.

An MSc in Advanced Clinical Practice and we plan to offer an apprenticeship pathway in the future.

A wide range of contemporary Master’s post-qualifying programmes for all of our

professions that promote and enhance best evidence-based, continuing professional development to drive the health and social care workforce transformation for the future.

Highlights

Covid-19

Many of our students and staff are on the frontline – working in challenging environments treating Covid-19 patients and supporting wider health and social work services. Many are putting in extra hours at their local hospital and our students are volunteering beyond their placement hours.

Public Involvement

Our School is proud of its work and commitment to public involvement. Our close links to the local community creates an environment where research and teaching can be shaped and shared. Our teaching and research is relevant to patients’ needs.

Athena Swan

Our School is committed to recognising and addressing gender equality across academia for all students and staff. We were awarded Athena SWAN Bronze status in 2015 and Silver in 2018, which acknowledges our ongoing commitment to gender equality.

The School won Teaching Innovation of the Year at the Student Nursing Times Awards 2020.

We were recognised for the way we train our adult nursing students and nursing associates to provide transcultural and compassionate end-of-life care.

The School was also shortlisted in the Nursing Associate Training Programme Provider of the Year.

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School of Humanities

Subject areas:

English language, linguistics

and foreign languages

History, English literature and

creative writing

Journalism, media and

communications

Philosophy

Politics and International Relations

The School of Humanities is a diverse and vibrant community. Our staff are active researchers, scholars and practitioners generating outstanding publications and working closely with the heritage, education, and culture industries.

Humanities graduates are encouraged throughout their studies to explore the application of their learning and engage in work experience. They excel in the transferable skills that employers require. They have excellent communication, networking and teamworking skills and are trained to think critically and creatively in order to conduct effective research and analysis.

Our students are part of a supportive learning community, where we live the University’s friendly, student-focused values. We’re also ambitious and enterprising! Many of our staff have pursued their discipline professionally – the academics teaching creative writing are writers, playwrights, novelists, even a prizewinning poet. Their passion for their professional practice is what drives their teaching.

Dr Rowland Hughes, Dean (Interim) of the School of Humanities

Our experts

Dr Jo McDowell, Principal Lecturer in English Language and Linguistics

We have a wealth of knowledge and insight in the School of Humanities, including Dr McDowell who has been working on projects concerning primary school classroom teaching. This involves working with local primary schools, head teachers and practitioners in Hertfordshire. Her work informs education policy and can be used to develop teacher training workshops. She is the editor of a forthcoming publication for

De-Gendering Gendered Occupations: Analysing Communicative Practices in the Workplace, published by Routledge in 2020.

Professor Owen Davies, Professor of Social History

Professor Davies is the author of several publications, including ‘A Supernatural Struggle: Magic, Divination and Faith during the First World War’. He has worked with the Ashmolean Museum and a number of other heritage organisations to identify and preserve collections and to curate exhibitions. Owen is currently working on a project with the Museum of London to examine the phenomena of witch-bottles and their concealment.

Dr Andrew Maunder, Associate Dean Learning and Teaching, Reader in Victorian Studies, English Literature

Dr Maunder is leading a performance-based project ‘World War I Theatre’ which revives forgotten plays of the First World War period, working with professional actors and directors, schools and local groups. His productions have included J M Barrie’s A Well-Remembered Voice (1918), the premiere of Robert Graves’ play But it Still Goes On (1929) and St John Ervine’s 1913 play Jane Clegg written at the height of the suffragette campaign. It ran at London’s award-winning Finborough Theatre in London in 2019, and was directed by David Gilmore.

Our alumni

Eleanor Pilcher, History and Creative Writing, 2016

Marketing Manager at Avon, HarperCollins Publishers

Eleanor did a six month internship at a literary agency during her last year at the University, then went on to do a work experience placement at Penguin before getting a job in publishing recruitment. After eight months she was lucky enough to get a job with Canelo before securing her current role at HarperCollins.

“ My creative writing degree covered many aspects of writing from non-fiction, fiction and poetry. I was writing a novel which I later submitted to literary agencies, at the advice of my tutor, and through these submissions I came to realise that I had an interest in working for a literary agency. I applied for an internship at the start of my third year and was lucky enough to get it and from there continued to write and work in publishing.”

Charlie Edgar, Mass Communications, 2016

Coldwell Banker, Global Luxury

Charlie is an assistant to the Beverly Hills real estate agent, and Coldwell Banker, and sells high-end luxury property in the Los Angeles area.

“ My studies provided me with the opportunity to interact and communicate with a wide number of individuals from all backgrounds and experiences. I learnt how to be self-sufficient, motivated and pursue all opportunities for growth.”

Charlie chose to study at the University because of its study abroad opportunities and connections to London. He was also drawn to the architectural beauty of the de Havilland Campus, and the large selection of on-campus housing.

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Research

Enhancing our understanding of the human experience

Our researchers work within heritage, education and the culture industries to enhance our understanding of the way we live now, our pasts and our future. Researchers in history and literature work closely with theatres, museums and archives to identify and preserve artefacts and memories and to curate exhibitions.

Our linguists’ research is reshaping understandings of how language influences behaviour and practice in the caring professions, especially in nursing and teaching. We also explore how language acquisition impacts upon learning.

Our research and practice includes work that helps us interpret and understand the world around us. Within the School there are researchers working on the impact of

modern media and communications alongside active and widely published academic and creative writers.

Our oral history team believe that memories matter. Every year, students, staff and members of the local community are professionally trained in the art of interviewing,

going on to take part in memory gathering projects. These preserve amazing stories which are made available in an online archive which can be accessed around the world.

Our partners in these projects have included Waitrose, Watford Football Club and the prestigious Society of Radiographers, plus local museums and a choral society! We have preserved the memories of those who worked for the de Havilland aircraft company, which was sited on what is now the University’s de Havilland Campus. In association with the University of Western Australia, stories were collected of migrants to Australia and their relatives who remained in the UK. Currently, team members are recording their own audio diaries and compiling a photographic archive

as part of our Virus Diaries project, which began shortly before the UK lockdown in March 2020.

Future aspirations

Our School creates transformative benefits for the economy and our communities through our teaching and training expertise in media and communications, preserving and curating our business heritage, and through our research to support and enhance the creative industries

Highlights

The School of Humanities is home to one of five national First World War engagement centres. The centre works closely with museums, archives, community groups and the Heritage Lottery Fund to support First World War centenary projects.

Our oral history team works with communities, institutions and businesses such as the John Lewis Partnership, to deliver oral history training and to create and capture historical evidence and memories. The Team’s BBC Radio 4 documentary ‘Instant History’ was commended by the judges in the 2018 Public History Prize by the

Royal Historical Society.

Philosophy Professor Constantine Sandis collaborates with Microsoft Research on designing explainable Artificial Intelligence.

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School of Life and Medical Sciences

Subject areas:

Agriculture

Biological Sciences

Geography, Environment and Planning

Postgraduate Medicine and Public Health

Nutrition and Dietetics

Optometry

Pharmacy and

Pharmaceutical Science

Psychology

Sport, Health and Exercise

Through our exceptional teaching and research, innovative facilities, and lifechanging courses, the School of Life and Medical Sciences prepares talented new scientists, health practitioners, and leaders in the field to tackle the most pressing issues facing our world today.

Our outstanding Science Building is home to spacious new laboratories and learning spaces, and offers research technologies including pharmaceutical manufacturing

equipment, cell culture facilities and aseptic suites for our students and the wider community.

From our medical simulation suites, optometry specialist clinics, and sports injuries clinic to our field station used for regular field work by our geography, environment and agriculture students, our facilities enrich the curriculum and prepare our students for the future.

We are a diverse school of science and everything we teach here, from town planning to optometry, is applied science. That means we take what we learn and use it to bring something useful to society.

We’re also a research-intensive School, with more than 300 research and postdoctoral students. This is important for our students because everything

taught here is informed by up to date, innovative research.

Dr Richard Southern, Dean of the School of Life and Medical Sciences

Our experts

Professor Richard Wiseman, BSc (Hons), PhD

We have a wealth of knowledge and insight in the School of Life and Medical Sciences, including Professor Richard Wiseman who has been described as ‘one of the most interesting and innovative experimental psychologists in the world today’.

He is also the only Chair in the UK for Public Understanding of Psychology. Richard has sold over three million books worldwide, regularly features in popular media, and is an invited speaker to large public events.

He also co-designed the social distancing game for children, Can You Save the World? This teaches them about safety during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Dr Sharon Rossiter, FRSC FHEA

Specialism: Drug Discovery and Design - Synthetic Chemistry

With funding from the Hertfordshire Science Partnership in collaboration with Cambridge University, Dr Rossiter is making a difference to the future of cancer research through her specialism of drug discovery and design. She has a patent in place for small molecules to treat pancreatic cancer and has received funding by the World Cancer Research Fund for a study into novel therapies for the disease.

Dr Shivani Sharma, CPsychol

Dr Sharma specialises in health inequality and has partnered with a number of national organisations to help address real world problems. She co-led the first translation of the UK Renal Association’s annual Patient Reported Experience

Measure into two South Asian languages, and she was part of the National Centre for Universities and Business inaugural 50 under 30 future leaders’ network.

Dr Phil Porter

Reader in Geoscience and Geoscience Education

Associate Dean Education As one of the UK’s most experienced Arctic field scientists, Dr Porter has cumulatively spent several years working in the High-Artic, engaging in research projects that have included activities such as abseiling deep inside glaciers to map their interiors and drilling through ice almost 400 metres thick. His public engagement work has seen him present for the National Geographic TV Channel and the BBC, together with engaging with local community groups and advising local government on environmental issues. Dr Porter has been awarded a British Science Association Media Fellowship that resulted in him recording, editing and presenting broadcast material on behalf of the BBC and developing links with broadcast media that will enable future showcasing of cold regions research taking place at the University.

Our alumni

Levon D’Souza, BSc Sports Studies, 2016

Assistant Head Coach, Barcelona Football Academy, Mumbai

Levon is currently working as the Assistant Head Coach at the Barcelona Football Academy at one of the four existing centres in the city. While in the UK, he gained as much coaching experience as he could in different sports, which enhanced his CV and landed him a job at Barcelona.

“ Initially, I struggled to adapt as it was extremely challenging, but eventually, I found my footing, which helped me get a promotion to assistant head coach six months into the job. My time at the University taught me a lot, which helped craft and mould my career into what it is today. Learning the intricate details about the different fields in sport helped me adapt and cope with the demands to perform at a higher level. Being an international student, I was treated very warmly and communication was swift and easy, which made the decision even easier.”

Chika Madubuko, MSc Biotechnology, 2014

Founder/Chief Executive Officer, Greymate Care

Chika has used her business knowledge to help others. She is currently the Chief Executive Officer of Greymate Care, Africa’s pioneer AI-Powered, home care platform that connects the elderly to a vetted caregiver.

“ The experience garnered over the years as a business development executive across three continents in multinational companies prepared me for this role.

Our courses were delivered using a problem-based learning approach where we tried to find solutions using real-life scenarios as case studies. ” In June, at the University’s Vice-Chancellor’s Awards, Chika was awarded our International Alumnus/Alumna of the year for 2020.

Nikunj Thakrar, Pharmacy, 2009

Pharmacy Manager, Tesco and Visiting Lecturer, University of Hertfordshire

Nikunj has been working at Tesco since he was a Pre-registration Pharmacist and has worked his way up to the position he is now in today. Through the University’s resources, facilities and exceptional pharmacy degree, Nikunj had the opportunity

to train three pharmacists as a preregistration tutor. This hands-on practical experience helped him when entering employment and gave him tangible skills to take into his career.

“ The University had, and still has, a massive impact on how my career has progressed. The teaching, support and resources were excellent and helped me

develop into the pharmacist I am today. I count my time at university as one of the main contributing factors to my success.”

Institute of Sport provides leading teaching, learning research and consultancy facilities

The University is committed to providing a sporting environment that nurtures exceptional talent, and we are continually improving our teaching, research and facilities in this area to increase our sporting profile, and transform lives.

We have now completed a new £7.8 million Institute of Sport on the de Haviland Campus, providing outstanding facilities for students, staff, local communities, sport,

health and exercise professionals. Just over half of the funding for the new building has been provided by a Local Growth Fund investment from Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership following a successful bid by the University.

The development, which is located adjacent to the Hertfordshire Sports Village, provides sport science laboratories, research space and equipment, flexible teaching and learning space, sports therapy clinics and office space. It provides facilities

for existing programmes within Sport, Health and Exercise – including sport and exercise science, sports therapy and sports studies. The Institute will facilitate the delivery of a new Degree Apprenticeship in sports management.

Professor Elizabeth Pike, Head of Sport, Health and Exercise

Elizabeth’s research interests are physical activity and older adults, women and sport. She has published more than 50 research papers and books, delivered invited keynote presentations at international conferences on six continents, and written numerous commissioned monitoring and evaluation reports.

Elizabeth was recently an invited member of an international conference that produced a multidisciplinary consensus statement on the benefits of, and barriers to,

physical activity for older adults. She is currently collaborating with Watford Football Club Community Sports and Education Trust on a reminiscence project for older adults living with dementia. She is co-founder of the Anita White Foundation, which provides education and development opportunities for women leaders and scholars in sport. She is also a former president of the International Sociology of Sport Association.

Our sports community

We offer a diverse sports programme, exceptional facilities and first-class sporting partnerships.

As well as attracting and cultivating elite talent, we also offer sport and physical activity to all students, staff, and people in the wider community, regardless of ability.

Our coaches and experts ensure all athletes who study with us can succeed both athletically and academically.

Herts Sports Partnership

The links we have made with the local community and beyond, through the Herts Sports Partnership, mean we can provide excellent access to placement opportunities – both close to home and abroad.

The Herts Sports Partnership (HSP) is an award winning organisation that was established in 2003 and is one of 43 Active Partnerships across England.

The HSP team work alongside numerous partners from the public, private and voluntary sectors to bring together expertise, resources and ideas from across the sports, health and physical activity arena in Hertfordshire and beyond. This collaboration helps use the power of sport and physical activity to transform lives.

HertSquad

HertSquad brings together all sport at the University. Whether it’s representing the University in a sports team, making new friends on the playing field, turning pro or just trying an activity for the first time. Our mission is to offer everybody the opportunity to join in and get active, regardless of ability.

HertSquad Active Students

Our students can have fun, make new friends and experience something for the first time, whilst staying healthy. All our activities are free.

HertSquad Campus Sport

Campus Sport is available for students with a hunger to compete, but they prefer to keep it on campus. There are competitive leagues and regular one-off competitive tournaments in a range of sports.

HertSquad Athletic Union

Our sports teams have a strong history in competition, and our Athletic Union club members represent the University, competing with other British Universities at both

a regional and national level.

HertSquad Performance Sport

We provide our students with the environment to push them to their limits and perform at their best – in their chosen sport as well as academically.

We are thrilled to have the opportunity to work with a host of outstanding high-profile sports clubs and organisations, including:

Saracens Mavericks Netball Franchise

Arsenal Women FC

Hemel Storm Basketball Club

Oaklands Wolves Basketball Club

London Helvecia Futsal Club

Working with our partner clubs makes a huge contribution towards the success of our performance programme. These relationships help us achieve our strategic targets, positively impact the success of our performance programmes, give our athletes the best opportunities, and help bring new students to the University.

Research

Smart mobility addresses the challenges of climate change

There is a growing need to find a solution to the climate emergency. The Smart Mobility Unit’s work is focused on developing applied research solutions collaboratively with industry and government in order to help address these issues

from the perspective of public and personal transport. Current work includes local governance models, long term funding mechanisms, implementing multimodal through ticketing, shared electric vehicle infrastructure and demand responsive

transport solutions. Enabling people to move around efficiently using a variety of zero carbon solutions to create sustainable communities is an overarching aim of the Unit. This work is being developed using experimental projects across regions and in smaller scale demonstrator projects. These aim to share good practice as well as working collaboratively to inform learning.

What can a worm tell us about a human disease?

Dr Maria Dimitriadi, a Wellcome Trust funded Principal Investigator in the School of Life and Medical Science, is using a roundworm that shares many biological characteristics with humans to mimic Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA), an incurable

condition and the primary cause of infant death. Dr Dimitriadi’s work will spark future research into developing effective therapies for SMA patients.

Urbanism research

The University’s Tarmac Sustainable Living Partnership has produced significant research on aspects of sustainable construction and placemaking. The University’s

Memorandum of Understanding with Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation has enabled a wide range of partnership working in learning and research areas

between the University and the world’s first garden city. These include the International Garden Cities Institute. Through our planning, urbanism and transport staff, we have also developed an exciting partnership with the Laboratory for Building Cultures in France, at the École nationale supérieure d’architecture de Grenoble through which increasing collaborations in teaching and research are underway.

Future research

At the School of Life and Medical Sciences we are committed to finding solutions to social, economic, and environmental problems. Through this commitment we continue to discover and formulate new medicines by forging stronger alliances between clinical and primary science researchers, and expand our portfolio to other areas of growth within our already successful areas such as Optometry.

Opportunities for staff development are encouraged by the University. A small group of staff from a clinical background have stepped away from the clinic to become academics because of their interest in teaching. Two members of staff are studying PhDs in Education – Academic Behavioural Confidence in Students on Clinical Programmes, and Learning Science with Understanding. Publications from these studies will add to the educational work taking place in the department. We will also have the opportunity to accept more research students, including members of staff in the field of science/clinical education.

Future aspirations

The University is contributing more than ever to future economic growth and to positive changes in the way we all live, work and learn. Our biosciences team

are focused on supporting businesses to solve scientific problems in many

specialist areas – infectious diseases, inherited genetic diseases, cancer,

food spoilage and crop protection/ sustainability, and bioinformatics. The

diversity of services include consultancy, collaborative PhD studies, collaborative

grant applications, and bespoke training for businesses and healthcare providers

in key scientific technologies.

Through the Urbanism, and the Smart Mobility Unit, our School supports businesses and social enterprises through direct consultancy projects, such as memorandums of understanding, knowledge exchange partnerships, roundtables, applied research projects, research partnerships such as the Sustainable Living Partnership, and outposted academic directorships such as at the International Garden Cities Institute.

The expansion of short courses include the Aseptic Manufacturing course and the Health Simulation training, which provides the practical training needs of industry in the UK and overseas.

Highlights

Antinda Toh, a graduate from the School has been chosen to represent the University as part of the Santander start-ups initiative with her company AntindaCare, which looks at the manufacture of medical devices to offer interventions for those suffering with Alzheimer’s disease.

Our sports therapy team support the local community by treating the injuries of national level athletes at the Hatfield Swimming Club, and providing pitch side first aid to the football academy at Onslow St Audrey’s school.

Dr Maria Braoudaki, a Senior Lecturer in Molecular Genetics received the prestigious L’ORÉALUNESCO award for ‘Women in Science’ through her research on the

genetics of paediatric malignancies. She takes part in ‘Women in Science Classes’ to inspire and empower young people to pursue science and research careers.

Our Biodeterioration Centre, led by Richard Smith supported research into Covid-19 by providing key microbiological testing services to local healthcare and industry. Business needs have changed through the 40 years of commercial engagement but the Centre continues to evolve and adapt to meet those needs and engage with industry

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School of Physics, Engineering and Computer Science

Subject areas:

Aerospace Engineering

Astronomy

Automotive Engineering

Civil Engineering

Computer Science

Cybersecurity

Data Science

Electrical and Electronic Engineering

Information Technology

Mechanical Engineering

Mathematics

Physics

Robotics and Artificial Intelligence

Our School provides businesses, industry and the public sector with talented graduates that have the skills and advanced knowledge to work effectively in the modern, high technology, world that drives economies and society. We focus on equipping students with the underpinning knowledge and practical skills to solve the challenges of our ever evolving world, and providing world leading and international excellent research that underpins innovation and enterprise.

The courses we provide are designed to reflect the needs of industry now and in the future, and are taught using facilities and equipment that include flight and driving simulators, additive manufacture and 3D printing, communications, electronics and physics laboratories, materials analysis and testing, microfluidics facilities, cybersecurity and specialist robotics laboratories, whilst our outstanding observatory is located nearby in Bayfordbury.

Students learn from exceptional scientists, engineers, computer scientists and mathematicians at the forefront of their field. Close industry links enable them to put their skills into practice on work placements in the UK and abroad. Our students benefit from the strong links we have with businesses such as Airbus, Apple, Aston Martin, Canon, Ford, Global Invercom, IBM, McLaren, Microsoft and Rolls Royce, to start their career.

Physics, Engineering and Computer Science influence all aspects of our lives and help provide and maintain the modern high technology world that drives economies and society.

Our School focuses on equipping students with the technological and scientific skills to tackle global challenges, and providing outstanding research that is of benefit to business, industry and society.

Dr Rodney Day, Dean of Physics, Engineering and Computer Science

Our experts

Professor James Geach, Professor of Astrophysics

Professor Geach has a diverse, internationally outstanding research profile, with a focus on the evolution of gas in galaxies and the role of the environment in galaxy formation. James realised the potential of applying advanced machine learning algorithms developed for astrophysical use, to data from earth observation satellites. This has enabled him to accurately predict the full spectral response of the Earth’s

surface from Sentinel’s Synthetic Aperture Radar which, contrary to observations in visible or infraredlight, is unaffected by cloud cover. This opens up the prospect of being able to monitor, uninterrupted by, variable weather conditions such as crop health and growth.

Dr Shabnam Kadir, Senior Lecturer

Shabnam is a mathematician with a history of interdisciplinary research in computational neuroscience, theoretical physics, pure mathematics and software engineering. She studied mathematics at Trinity College, Cambridge, followed by a DPhil at the Mathematical Institute, Oxford.

She is actively involved in developing machine learning algorithms for the processing and analysis of very large datasets by experimental neuroscientists. A major challenge involved interpreting recordings of neuronal activity in the brain. When

neurons fire, they produce action potentials or `spikes’ which are detectable on electrodes. Population recordings of tens of thousands of neurons are now feasible thanks to a new generation of large dense probes for electrophysiological recordings. Shabnam spearheaded the development of algorithms and software for spike sorting in the open source software suite, KlustaSuite, now incorporated into

a new software suite, Phy, a tool that is widely used by hundreds of scientists worldwide in daily practice in over 300 laboratories.

Dr Nathan Baddoo, Principal Lecturer, Computer Science

Dr Baddoo’s research focuses on the relationship between developer motivation and software quality, software process improvement and software project performance.

He was involved in a European initiative, with the European Network of Excellence to standardise empirical software engineering research. Nathan balances his highly inspirational teaching that has led to multiple nominations for our Vice-Chancellor’s awards, with his research in the area of software engineering. He is also one of our most experienced admissions tutors.

Scarlett Xiao, Associate Professor

Associate Professor Xiao has created opportunities for our students through her contributions to the School in the areas of learning and teaching in engineering, as well as developing strong networks within the wider higher education community.

Scarlett was awarded a highly commended Vice-Chancellor’s award for enhancing the quality of the student experience and the success of our graduates. Her case studies on re-engineering assessment for engineering education and capturing work experience and enhancing employability for engineering students were published by the Royal Academy of Engineering and the 1st High Education Academy STEM Conference as pioneering exemplars promoted across the higher education sector.

Professor Andreas Chrysanthou, Professor in Materials Engineering

Professor Chrysanthou’s research expertise lies in the processing of materials. His early research established the thermodynamic and kinetic requirements for the production of silicon carbide whiskers from the carbothermic reduction of silicon dioxide. He participated in the FP6-funded Network of Excellence in Knowledge-based Multi-component Materials (KMM-NoE). During the KMM-NoE project, together with Dr Anatolii Babutskyi, they initiated work on the use of electromagnetic fields as a processing step to extend corrosion resistance in metals. This investigation is now progressing as an FP7 Marie Curie project. The KMM-NoE project has also led to further collaborative work with the Polytechnic of Torino and

industry on the development of a new glass-ceramic sealant for solid-oxide fuel cells.

Andreas is a highly sought after academic by companies looking to improve their businesses by enhancing the performance or processing of materials. He is currently working with C4 Carbides on his fourth knowledge transfer project and his second with C4.

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships

Our commitment to supporting business is demonstrated through our dedication to the Knowledge Transfer Partnership programme (KTP). KTPs help businesses improve their competitiveness and productivity through the better use of insight,

technology and skills that reside within the UK knowledge base. KTPs also form part of the Government’s Industrial Strategy.

Manor Pharmacy Group

Artificial Intelligence experts from the University are working to help Manor Pharmacy Group with their health and lifestyle service that analyses each client’s health information and returns highly individualised lifestyle recommendations. Utilising a machine-learning approach to collecting and processing data via a personalised app will allow the service to scale-up whilst reducing costs and improving outcomes for clients.

Our alumni

Samuel Nathan Richards, BSc (Hons) Astrophysics with study abroad year, 2012

Mission Director and Instrument Scientist for NASA/DLR mission: SOFIA

Nathan works for the SOFIA mission, based in Palmdale, California at the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy. He has worked toward this role since completing his degree and a PhD in Astrophysics at the University of Sydney, Australia.

“ I would not be where I am without the opportunities that were available while studying at the University. From extra-curricular projects, to connections with other universities, I’m thankful to the University for its guidance and support that kick-started my career.

The lecturers were worldclass, active astronomers, so each class was dynamic to

the ever-changing knowledge of their respective fields of research. Their willingness to accept keen students for extra-curricular research projects gave me early first-hand experience of the career I was about to launch myself into. Their international connections opened a path for me to do a research year at the University of Sydney, where I would later return to complete a PhD.”

Checca Aird, BSc Computer Science, (Software Engineering), 2015

Business Analyst/Product Owner at Optal

Checca is a Banking Business Analyst and Consultant and her background is in software development and data analytics.

“ While working at PwC I realised that my favourite projects were the ones where

I had the most impact, whether it was on a client’s business goals, their internal processes, or their software solutions. This led me to seek out a role as a banking analyst and ultimately to Capgemini.

Although I didn’t need a technical degree to get a role in the forensics department

at PwC, or later at Capgemini, it has been a fantastic boon. My background in software development has helped me immensely on system delivery projects, and I have built on the software design skills I learnt and use them every day.”

Kennedy Ameh, BEng (Hons) Aerospace Engineering, 2010

Head of Operations Strategy, Collins Aerospace

Since graduating, Kennedy has gone on to work for Collins Aerospace, a subsidiary of United Technologies Corporation. He has held roles of increasing responsibility throughout his career there, and is responsible for creating, developing and executing manufacturing strategies across six global sites in Asia and Europe.

“ During my time at the University, I was exposed to a faculty of experts that drew

from industry experience and transferred this knowledge to the classroom. During my studies, I was challenged to think differently, identifying solutions before problems. I was taught to use my initiative and leverage on teamwork. I want to run an aviation business in the future and I am very conscious of the opportunities emerging in markets like Africa. I hope to be an employer on the continent to enhance, enable and empower young minds like mine to operate globally.”

Research

Our computer science researchers have joined a global consortium in rapid response to Covid-19. Following a wave of reports from patients and clinicians about rapid onset smell loss, health organisations throughout the world have recognised anosmia as a marker for Covid-19, even in the absence of other symptoms. Scientists worldwide have united as the Global Consortium of Chemosensory Researchers (GCCR) to investigate the connection between the chemical senses and Covid-19. Professor Michael Schmuker and Dr Ritesh Kumar from our School

are part of this group of global transdisciplinary scientists, clinicians, and patient advocates.

With more than 500 members in 40 countries, the GCCR will harness their reach to conduct and analyse worldwide evidence-based information to combat the spread of the virus.

Professor Schmuker is a computer scientist dedicated to translating algorithms and processes from biology and the brain into solutions for data science and machine learning. He is a pioneer in neuromorphic computing and is leading a team of researchers to develop eventbased algorithms for neuromorphic olfaction, low-latency detection and identification of chemical signals.

We are working with government and industry partners to develop and optimise new biodetection systems for the military and agriculture sectors that, for the first time, can autonomously detect, collect, process and analyse airborne toxins, bacteria and viruses in real time. These technologies have advanced the UK Government’s overall capability to defend armed forces and civilians against biological attacks. They underpin the design and development of a novel biodetection system, led by an industry consortium, that was signed into service for use by the Royal Air Force to protect British troops overseas, and later adapted into an export product for use in public venues.

Associate Professors Dan McCluskey and Ian Johnston applied the underlying microfluidics principles to food security, resulting in the commercialisation of a unique early warning system that alerts farmers and growers to crop disease outbreaks before symptoms are visible.

A decade of research by Professor Pandelis Kourtessis, leader of our Cognitive Networks Laboratory has resulted in the commercialisation of a patented video streaming technology, co-developed with a leading satellite equipment provider and the BBC. The Broadcast WiFi platform has opened up market opportunities for companies in the satellite communications and wireless technology sectors, as well as benefitting live event operators and the general public. The BBC and Italy’s national broadcaster RAI have both used the technology to offer people an enhanced visitor experience at major arts and culture events, and it has fed into the development process of new global standards for wireless technology services.

Dr Tomasz Lukowski, from the mathematical physics group, has made important advances in computing particle scattering amplitudes in Quantum Field Theory,

working with collaborators at Oxford and Harvard. The work of Dr Lukowski and his student was recently selected by Wolfram Research Inc. to showcase cutting-edge applications of Mathematica. Our astrophysics group continues to have a strong role in international surveys of the radio and optical sky. The latest data release of the LOFAR survey of radio sources in the northern sky, the largest radio survey ever conducted, will be made public at the end of 2020 and is the result of 4 million CPU-hours’ processing on the University’s High Performance Computing facility. We will be following up in 2021 with an optical spectroscopic survey, WEAVELOFAR, led by the School.

Future research

The research we do transforms lives by addressing global technological and societal challenges. Our research is a blend of fundamental and applied research and

development that has direct impact for stakeholders. We will deliver world leading and international excellent research, enterprise and innovation, aligned to the UKRI priorities, as well as global and the industrial strategy grand challenges.

Our research spans a broad range of topics including:

Advanced materials and manufacturing.

Aerospace structures and flight control.

Artificial intelligence, robotics and artificial life.

Atmospheric processes, air quality and climate science.

Cognitive networks and secure digital systems.

Computational neuroscience and neuromorphic computation.

Data science, analytics and data innovation.

Detection for security, biosecurity and agriculture.

Energy and transport.

Innovation in the built environment.

Instrumentation.

Microfluidic biological sample processing.

Observational and numerical astrophysics.

Mathematical and theoretical physics.

Highlights

Our School has an outstanding track record of Knowledge Transfer Partnership projects working in collaboration with industry.

Physics, Astronomy and Mathematics has been awarded Juno Champion status by the Institute of Physics, Engineering and Computer Science have been awarded Athena Swan Bronze recognition, both of which recognise our commitment to improving gender equality and diversity in the School.

Ciara Zelda Brown is a School Community Officer in Physics, Astronomy and Mathematics. She has been awarded one of the most prestigious study awards – a Fulbright Scholarship. The Scholarships are extremely competitive and are awarded on the basis of a student’s achievements and potential, assessed by testing, references and interview. The applicant’s awareness of the social implications of their work is particularly important. Ciara has set up her own company to teach

STEM subjects in after-school classes and was highly commended in the University’s Flare awards. She has been offered a place at the University of Southern California for a Master’s programme.

One of our computer science students won a Worshipful Company of Information

Technologists Silver Award. Students from five Universities (University of Hertfordshire, Imperial College London, University of Lancaster, University

of Cambridge, King’s College London) have been shortlisted for the Worshipful Company of Information Technologists University IT Award 2020. Our very own

computer science student and Peer-Assisted Learning leader Sam Tyson has won the Silver Award.

Discovery of second planet orbiting the star closest to our Solar System

Scientists have discovered what they believe to be a second planet orbiting the star closest to our Solar System, Proxima Centuri, which became famous in 2016 with the discovery of an ‘Earth-like’ planet in orbit, Proxima b. New observations of Proxima Centauri have made it possible to reveal the presence of what is being described as a low-mass candidate planet, approximately half the size of Neptune, orbiting the star. The discovery, published in the Journal of Science Advances, was made by an international team of researchers, including from the University of Hertfordshire, led by National Institute for Astrophysics-Astrophysical Observatory of Turin and University of Crete and the Institute of Astrophysics at FORTH.

“ The proximity of the planet and its orbit at a relatively great distance from its star, means it is one of the best possible chances for direct observations that will enable detailed understanding of another planet. In the future, Proxima c might become a possible target for more direct study by the Breakthrough StarShot project, set to be humankind’s first attempt to travel to another star system.”

Hugh Jones, Professor of Astrophysics

Championing Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity (EDI)

Mrs Carrie Ricketts and Dr Samantha Rolfe have led our campaign to improve EDI in Physics, Astronomy and Mathematics. We celebrated International Women’s Day, Black History Month and LGBTSTEM Day and organised bullying and harassment awareness training. Carrie and Samantha have supported female staff and students to attend leadership programmes, and in conjunction with the University’s Strategic Plan have been working to improve the awarding gap for the recruitment and internal promotion of minority groups. This work led to an Athena SWAN Silver award and

Juno Champion status in Physics, recognising our commitment to advancing gender equality.

The School has partnered with the Women’s Engineering Society (WES), to advance the careers of women in science, technology and engineering. This work, to support EDI amongst research students, staff and students, led by Dr Martina Doolan and Mrs Susan Murray, secured an Athena SWAN Bronze award for Engineering and Computer Science.

“ The Women’s Engineering Society is delighted that we are partnering with the University of Hertfordshire. The University is committed to gender equality, as recognised by its Athena Swan Bronze award and Silver status for two of its Schools. It also has a growing reputation for its engineering degree courses, and WES is proud that a University alumna is a member of the WES Council. We are looking forward to supporting female engineering students at Hertfordshire and to working with the University to encourage more women to study engineering.” Elizabeth Donnelly, Chief Executive Officer for the Women’s Engineering Society

Leading the way on international PhD opportunities

University Alliance and their partners invited applications for a scheme that will support international researchers to gain doctoral fellowships at some of the country’s leading technical and professional universities.

The University is one of eight institutions who are part of the groundbreaking COFUND Doctoral Fellowship programme. The DTA3/ COFUND builds on the Doctoral Training Alliance, which is the largest nationwide multi-partner initiative

of its kind. Run by University Alliance, it builds on the research strengths and industry-focus of its members to produce independent, highly-employable researchers with knowledge, expertise and skills in strategically important areas.

This is the third year the scheme has run, which so far has enabled over 50 students to study in the UK. The programme is supported by a €6.5 million grant from the Marie Skłodowska-Curie COFUND Doctoral Fellowship programme.

The School is growing our doctoral student programme and has numerous opportunities across most areas of our research, for UK, EU and international students to study for a PhD.

“ This programme enables the University to develop talented researchers in the

field of Energy research to be able to respond to the fastchanging needs of industry

and society at large in this important sector.”

Rodney Day, Dean of the School of Physics, Engineering and Computer Science

Future aspirations

We are committed to having a positive transformational impact on our community and will:

Support the development of research and innovation that is accessible, transparent,

cooperative and easily transferable to business and enterprise.

Work closely in partnership with businesses and our international academic collaborators on research and innovation projects.

Establish Industrial Supported Doctoral Training Centres to fund solutions focused on Doctoral research that provides industry with new science and technology that has impact.

Provide access to outstanding laboratory equipment and instrumentation, as well as

modelling and simulation facilities and staff expertise.

Maximise the potential of local and regional technology businesses and industry by providing highly qualified graduates to support and drive organisations.

Powering potential is embedded in our philosophy. This means – to transform lives, we not only find potential, we harness it and drive it.

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