Hertfordshire Law School

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

Contents

Welcome to the University 4

Our history 6

Executive team 8

Our vision and strategic plan 10

Education and student experience 12

Research 13

Enterprise 14

Global engagement 15

Hertfordshire Law School 16

Page 4

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.

Page 6

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.

Page 8

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.

Page 10

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.

Page 12

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

Page 13

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

Page 14

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

Page 15

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

Page 16

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.

Page 22

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