

A New University in Hereford

Q: Does the UK really need another university?

- 2015 saw the highest number of students taking university places in UK history.
- In 2013 David Willetts, then UK Universities Minister, indicated that British universities must expand by 25% in order to cope with rising demand for places and a surge in the number of young Britons. (*Telegraph, October 2013*)
- The UK government has acknowledged this need and, in 2015, lifted the cap on student numbers and accepted many of the recommendations suggested by the [Witty Report](#), which includes specific analysis of the relationship between the growth of universities and successful national and regional economic development.
- There is a change afoot in higher education – higher education consumers are demanding more value for money, employers are not content with the quality of higher education provision, higher education technology is advancing rapidly and impacting how education can be delivered, and higher education itself is seeing a need to revisit how it balances financial sustainability and provision of teaching.

Q: Why a new university in Herefordshire?

- Despite a deep historical relationship with higher education, Herefordshire is the last large county in the UK that does not have a university.
- Every year between 1,200 and 1,800 young people between the ages of 16 and 25 leave the County for higher education or better paying jobs. 60% of these never return. Over time this has left the County with a significant missing generation of economically viable citizens.
- With 10-40% of graduating students accepting jobs near their undergraduate university, the addition of up to 5,000 students and 500 faculty/staff will raise the intellectual and human capital of the City, County and Region; will support knowledge transfer to our businesses; and will help in long term efforts to raise aspirations and attainment in our secondary and primary schools.

Q: Why now?

- There is a current demand for more higher education places, a change in higher education regulations, and a change in higher education consumer demands which, when coupled with the opportunity in Herefordshire, provides a window of opportunity to create a truly unique new higher education offering.
- Nationally and globally there is a shortage of graduates in STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics) subjects – there are an expected 2.56 million engineering job openings up to 2022 which if filled will add an additional £27 billion to the UK GVA (*Engineering UK, 2016*)
- Herefordshire is entering a key period of economic re-development with many local businesses requiring capable and innovative graduates, especially in engineering and technology subjects.

- As city-centre redevelopment takes place, and new housing and transport plans are implemented, this is the time to include planning for efforts as significant as the addition of a new university.
- Herefordshire's leaders have focused upon establishing a public-private partnership to drive a 15-year Economic Development master plan. This plan has identified the university as a lynchpin that can help unlock the economic growth that has eluded the county for decades.
- There is a "blank canvas" which provides a unique opportunity to design a new university, right for the 21st century and beyond.

Q: What will be taught at the New Model in Technology & Engineering?

- NMiTE will teach a Technology & Engineering curriculum that equips students with a trans-disciplinary toolkit of knowledge and skills to tackle the complexities of the 21st century.
- The curriculum places applied engineering at its core and will focus on delivering interdisciplinary programmes in **Feeding the World** (Agri-Engineering and Food Production); **Shaping the Future** (Manufacturing and Advanced Manufacturing); **Living Safely** (Data and Resources Security); and **Living Sustainably** (Green, Renewable and Smart Living). These specialisations not only reflect the needs of local and regional businesses, but have also been identified by employers, educationalists and politicians as being the most relevant to the future needs of growing and sustainable economies across the globe.
- The interdisciplinary engineering curriculum will be underpinned with themes including **design, sustainability, systems and big data** and combined with a unique Human Interaction curriculum developing work readiness and featuring detailed practical work and skills development in **Communication, Collaboration and Context** (the latter to include ethical, economic & business, historical & political, environmental, and legal considerations).
- All students will be required to engage in a substantial internship and must complete a senior capstone project with an industry partner.

Q: What else will be unique about it?

- First and foremost, NMiTE will focus on teaching and learning, and the education and higher skills imbued in students by this process will equip them as excellent thinkers, communicators, innovators and contributors.
- NMiTE, by teaching in a unique block system of course delivery, will educate for an MEng degree in 3 (vs. 4) years, with an optional BEng exit point.
- CBI, CMI and other reports call for STEM graduates to be work-ready and globally employable – they must be equipped with the critical abilities to effectively challenge the *status quo* in a world dominated by science and technology and characterised by competition and the need for sustainable coexistence.
- The university will also develop a Small and Medium Enterprise-focused Development & Application facility on the Skylon Park, the Enterprise Zone in Hereford, to specialise in commercialisation activities for both the university and the business community.
- In addition, NMiTE will welcome students of all ages, will teach in blocks to allow flexible scheduling, will feature an extended academic year to allow for acceleration of graduation,

will allow for significant course customization by working with new educational technologies, and will develop qualifications for those who have acquired skills in the special forces, via apprenticeships or through work/life experience.

Q: How many students will there be and where will it be located?

- Beginning with as few as 300 students at its inception, NMiTE will grow to 5,000 students over its initial decade of operations.
- The new university's fully sustainable campus will be established in the immediate environs of Hereford City and will evolve campus hubs in several locations throughout the City.
- Student accommodation to house all NMiTE students, arranged in colleges, will similarly be located in multiple locations around the City of Hereford.

Q: Why would students want to come to a university in Herefordshire?

- The New Model's research has identified six key attractions to this new institution:
 - Relevant, 21st century applied scientific and technology subjects with seamless transition to employment and entry into the professional qualification process
 - Mandatory communication, critical thinking, innovation, business and global employability skills curriculum
 - Close working partnerships with employers for the provision of real world problems and internships
 - Value for money (speed to graduation, tuition, educational schedule, cost of living)
 - Herefordshire setting (beautiful, historical, safe, conducive to learning)
 - Opportunity to participate in a new venture which leads the nation in the revitalization and refocusing of higher education to meet the demands of modern student consumers

Q: What will it do for Herefordshire?

- There is extensive evidence of the transformative impact of universities on both local economies and cultural and social profiles.
- 5,000 students would add directly £120 million annually (basic tuition fees + accommodation + living expenses) to the Hereford economy. Given that overseas students pay more, and that this figure does not include any related business expansions as a result of access to talent, this figure is considered to be conservative.
- Less quantifiable, at the moment, is the value added to local businesses by the transfer of knowledge and consultancy from universities and the recruitment of graduates.
- The presence of universities in a locality is generally acknowledged to raise aspiration and attainment of both pupils and teachers in primary and secondary schools – given recent data in Herefordshire, this could be of great help.

Q: Who is spearheading this project?

- A team of approximately 40 local business people and academics, all volunteers, is contributing to the charitable Herefordshire Tertiary Education Trust development team. An international team of over 25 professional educators is providing additional advice and guidance.
- The new university will be partnering with the University of Warwick to ensure its early sustainability and initially, after the validation process is complete, to confer its degrees until receipt of a royal degree conferring charter. Olin College of Engineering in the United States will be providing crucial curriculum, staff recruitment and teaching guidance.
- The local team is working closely with Herefordshire Council, Hereford City Council, the Local Enterprise Partnership, Children's Services, local colleges, Herefordshire Sport, the arts and leisure community, the Marches Enterprise Zone at Rotherwas, and other business and civic groups to ensure that NMiTE coordinates with all elements of Herefordshire and brings all a significant return on the investment of their time and efforts.

Q: What is Herefordshire Council's involvement?

- Herefordshire Council has been involved with and supportive of the project from the early stages of the university's conceptualization.
- The Council has placed a new university at the centre of its Economic Development Plan.
- Council leadership is working closely with the NMiTE development team to identify the key sites for the university to locate and whether assets they own might help by being transferred to the project.
- A cross party team of political leaders has been formed to re-emphasize the importance of this project to the future of the County and to support development over the coming years.

Q: Where will the money come from?

- The university development project and its related fundraising is being managed by the Herefordshire Tertiary Education Trust, a registered charity.
- A local Founders Fund campaign has been organized to secure initial seed funding from the community.
- Central government has made an initial commitment (subject to completion of requirements) to provide start-up funding to the project.
- A significant fundraising campaign will follow and raise funds from private and corporate philanthropic donors, the social capital market, foundations and, if appropriate, EU sources.

Q: Who will head up the university?

- During a global search launched in 2015, NMiTE has identified a Founding President and Chief Executive. Once hired, this individual will work with the full NMiTE partnership to fill other key administrative and academic positions necessary to launch the university.

Q: When will the university be open?

- The first cohort of 300 students is currently scheduled to arrive autumn of 2019.
- A co-development cohort of 75 students will be recruited in the autumn of 2018 to help finalise the planning and roll-out of the university from a student's perspective.

For more information contact info@nmite.org.uk