

York's Knowledge Economy

Key facts about higher and further education

The higher and further institutions in York make an important contribution to the local economy as well as the social and cultural life of the city and surrounding area. These organisations are major local employers; purchase local services and goods; provide quality education accessible to the local population; host internationally recognised research and innovation projects; promote the positive reputation of the city as a whole nationally and internationally attracting investment from across the globe; provide cultural, social and sports facilities for the city and contribute many hours of volunteering and charitable work through staff and students.



Picture courtesy of John Houltham

ECONOMIC IMPACT

The universities and colleges make a significant contribution to the local economy.

FACT: Together, the universities and colleges in York generate a turnover of about £320 million per year much of which is spent in the local economy.

FACT: Collectively, these organisations support 4206 full-time equivalent posts which is about 5% of the jobs in York. The majority of their employees live locally.

FACT: Together in 2009/10 York St John University and the University York through their activities generated 8640 jobs in the York Unitary Authority (YUA). This equates to over 10% of all jobs in the YUA area. The annual income gain to the local economy associated with these jobs is £364 million.

FACT: York St John University and the University of York collectively generated over £1.5 million in 2009/10 in the local economy through their conferencing departments.

FACT: On average students at the two universities spend annually about £9,000 per person, the majority of it on local services and products including housing and food.

FACT: In 2009-10 an initiative run through Higher York (a partnership of the city's universities, colleges and the City Council) accessed £600,000 to support businesses and individuals during the recession. Nearly 400 individuals and 350 businesses benefited from subsidised training, consultancy and support.

FACT: To date over 10,000 students graduating from the Higher Education (HE) and Further Education (FE) institutions have decided to make York their home and therefore contribute to the economic, social and cultural life of the city.

FACT: The HE/FE sector in York is committed to supporting new business creation and success including investing in business start-up space such as the Ron Cooke Hub and Catalyst at Heslington East or the Phoenix Centre at York St John University and Bar Lane Studios on Micklegate. For many years, businesses have been locating to York Science Park, part of the University of York.



QUALITY EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Local people in York have a quality and varied further and higher education offer on their doorstep.

FACT: There are two universities (York St John University and the University of York), two colleges of Further and Higher Education (Askham Bryan College and York College). There is also a College of Law.

FACT: Together they currently welcome over 20,000 students onto higher education part-time and full-time courses. Many of these students are from the local area and intend to continue to live and work there.

FACT: The Further Education colleges welcome over 8000 students studying a range of courses from Apprenticeship to A levels, BTECs to higher education degrees.

FACT: More than 550 heads of schools and teachers in Yorkshire and Humber have been professionally trained in York St John University. The university works with more than 600 primary and secondary schools each year and provides professional training and development for those working with children in other areas.

FACT: It's not just young people that benefit. Courses are open to people of any age. Alongside many qualifications there are many projects and non-certificated opportunities open to all. For example:

- The WorkAge Project at York College has been supporting older people over 50 years old to realise their potential in the workplace. The WorkAge Project also supports employers to ensure that they attract and retain the skills, experience and knowledge of older employees.
- The University of York's Centre for Lifelong Learning providing part-time evening learning opportunities for 1139 people from a wide variety of backgrounds and ages in 2009-10, 822 of these followed unaccredited courses. Since it started the Centre has supported 15,000 the majority of whom are from York.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

The universities and colleges make a significant contribution to maintaining and improving the infrastructure of the city.

FACT: Over the past 10 years these institutions have invested over £400 million in the capital infrastructure of their campuses to ensure that students and staff experience high quality environments in which to study and work. Many local businesses and people have been employed through this work and also benefit from these facilities on a daily basis.

FACT: Through this investment York has benefitted from the development of sport and leisure facilities, archives and collections, technical facilities all open to the public and businesses. For example:

- The University of York is working with the City of York Council to create the York Sports Village which will feature a competition-standard eight lane 25 metre pool, learner pool, 100 station gym, full size 3G astro turf pitch and three further five-a-side pitches. All the facilities will be open to the public. The University worked with City of York Council to fund the project. Of the £9 million investment the University is contributing £5 million and the Council is contributing £3 million, with the balance coming from a grant from Sport England.

FACT: Legal clinics run by students are available to the public offered by the University of York Law School and business support services are available to businesses in the Ron Cooke Hub offered in partnership with organisations such as York Professionals.



SOCIAL AND CULTURAL LIFE

The Further Education and Higher Education institutions contribute significantly to the social and cultural richness of the city.

FACT: In 2009/10 the two universities in York welcomed over 18,500 people to free public lectures and arts performances.

FACT: Each year York College hosts numerous public art exhibitions along with publically accessible shows and performances providing a platform for some of the best work their students produce.

FACT: 100's of people each year enjoy the open days, plant fair, equestrian and farm events at Askham Bryan College.

FACT: The city's two universities hold important regional, national and international archives and information resources. For example:

- A vast range of church, historical, social, music and literature records and collections are held at the the Borthwick Institute at the University of York.
- The Yorkshire Film Archive at York St John University holds over 16,000 films dating back to the 1890s capturing life in the region, all accessible to the public. The York Theatre Royal Archive plus a number of specialist collections are also housed at York St John University.



INTERNATIONAL LINKS

York's HE and FE institutions connect York to the world.

FACT: The universities and colleges welcome over 3500 international students from over 130 countries. These students bring important international and cultural links to the city along with visitors who support York's tourism and retail sectors.

FACT: Both universities carry out research of international importance. The University of York works with global partners including IBM, GlaxosmithKline, AstraZeneca, Rolls Royce and Unilever. The University of York is ranked in the top 100 of universities in the world and is a founding member of the Worldwide Universities Network. These links are essential if the region and UK is to continue to develop economically.

FACT: Askham Bryan College and York College produce students with world class skills. Each year students from both colleges are medal winners in national, European and World Skills competitions. Students compete against students from countries around the world to gain these prestigious awards.

INNOVATION

York is a centre for innovation.

FACT: York has a long established tradition of innovation and enterprise. The Universities and Colleges play an important role in this.

FACT: A huge amount of the research and innovation relates to everyday lives whether it is about developing drugs to combat prostate cancer; working with the City Council to enhance care solutions for adults; supporting conflict resolution in Afghanistan; finding solutions to environmental issues; working with major food retail organisations to develop improved beef production.



CARING FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Both staff and students at the HE and FE institutions contribute many hours for free to support local charities, initiatives, communities and individuals.

FACT: A huge number of local charities and community projects are supported through staff and student volunteering. Organisations such as York Cares, supported significantly by the city's universities, also engage with other leading employers in the city to collectively support over 200 charities.

FACT: In 2009/10 students from Askham Bryan College, the University of York, York College and York St John University contributed the equivalent of over 80,000 hours in voluntary work benefitting many charities, voluntary organisations, schools and communities in the local area. This equates to about £460,000 if these students had been paid the minimum wage. This work continues to grow each year benefitting local people and organisations.

FACT: More than 300 York residents attend the exercise and fitness classes held at York St John University each week. A wide range of specialist sports sessions for York's children and adults with disabilities are also provided by the University.

Higher York comprises of Askham Bryan College, the University of York, York College, York St John University and City of York Council.

For further information contact 01904 876350 or visit www.higheryork.org

