

Teaching and learning



Major Library transformation begins

As part of the five-year campus development plan, the Library has recently embarked on a major improvement programme.

Due for completion in 2011, the Library refurbishment will provide flexible, accessible, technology-rich learning spaces for all of our students and staff. We'll be installing high-specification self-service technology using RFID (radio frequency identification), including an automated sorter for book returns. There will be a new café and meeting space on the ground floor, and improved organisation of the books and shelves, making it easier to access and navigate the collections.

Once the project is completed, Sussex will have a reinvigorated building at the heart of the campus that will be used by students and staff as a key location for study, learning, research, personal development and social interaction.



Early success for Business at Sussex

Undergraduate Business and Economics programmes at Sussex have seen an impressive rise in applications following the establishment of the new School of Business, Management and Economics. Applications for business studies have increased by 65.4 per cent (from 295 applications for the entry in 2009, to 488 for 2010). This compares with a national increase of 9.7 per cent. Economics is up 57.3 per cent for the same period, against a national average of -0.6 per cent.

Above left: New self-issue kiosks at the Library let you check out multiple books at once

Above right: The new automated book sorter is designed to get returned books back on the shelves in record time



New Pro-Vice-Chancellor for teaching and learning

The University has appointed a new Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and learning) to replace Professor Joanne Wright, who left Sussex in January 2010 to become Deputy Vice-Chancellor at the University of South Australia.

Professor Clare Mackie is currently Pro-Vice-Chancellor at the University of Kent, where she has responsibility for the Medway campus, and for student services across both the University of Kent's campuses and, more recently, has been strategic lead for healthcare.

She first started at Kent in 2004, taking up a joint appointment with the Universities of Kent and Greenwich to establish the new Medway School of Pharmacy. The School now has 650 students and 54 members of staff.

Prior to this position, Professor Mackie had been Head of the School of Pharmacy at the Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen, where she also established a research centre, the Centre for Partnerships in Medicines for Health.



Above left: Professor Mackie, the new Pro-Vice-Chancellor for teaching and learning

Above right: Hard at work on Fulton, the new teaching building

During the 1990s she had become involved with postgraduate education, as a local tutor and then as Assistant Director of the Scottish Centre for Post-Qualification Pharmaceutical Education, after developing a small chain of pharmacies in her home city, Glasgow.

New teaching building takes shape

Fulton, the new £10-million teaching building at the centre of campus, is on schedule to open during the summer 2010. and will provide 3,000m² of teaching space across three floors, including two 160-seat lecture theatres and a mix of 26 differently sized seminar rooms. On the ground floor, the design incorporates a flexible social and meeting space that will complement the dedicated teaching spaces in the rest of the building.

Once opened, Fulton (named after Sussex's first Vice-Chancellor, Lord Fulton) will provide state-of-the-art teaching and learning facilities fit for the Sussex students of the future.