

BRIEF PROFILE OF UNIVERSITY

- 1) Research
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1) Research

Newcastle University is one of the UK's leading research universities and belongs to the Russell Group (www.russellgroup.ac.uk) of 20 research intensive universities. It has 29 top-rated 5 and 5* research units and a strong reputation for research across a wide range of disciplines, spanning arts and humanities, science, engineering, technology and medicine. The University's research attracts a high level of funding from UK and international organisations, including Research Councils, charities, government and industry, and the European Commission. In the year ending July 2006 the University won a total of €84 million in new research grants and contracts. While a wealth of subject-based research is carried out in Schools, the University also has 12 Research Institutes to pursue interdisciplinary research across Schools and Faculty boundaries:

- Informatics Research Institute
- Institute for Ageing and Health
- Institute for Cell and Molecular Biosciences
- Institute for Nanoscale Science and Technology
- Institute for Policy and Practice
- Institute for Research on Environment and Sustainability
- Institute of Cellular Medicine
- Institute of Health and Society
- Institute of Human Genetics
- Institute of Neuroscience
- Newcastle Institute for the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities
- Northern Institute for Cancer Research

The University has a strong reputation for translational research and its regional role is key to its mission.

It is currently collaborating with Newcastle City Council and the Regional Development Agency, One NorthEast, on Newcastle Science City. This ambitious project (www.newcastlesciencecity.com/site/) aims to create an environment where science and business can work together to create world class facilities for scientific research, teaching and business.

2) European Funding

Newcastle University is particularly strong in the UK in terms of European funding. Within FP6 we are currently involved in 99 projects (plus a further 41 in the process of negotiation). With the 99 – of which we co-ordinate 31 – there are 1,559 partners. The total value of the consortia is €447,333,619 and the total value to Newcastle is €36,393,482. The 99 projects include 19 Marie Curie projects (11 host fellowships and eight individual). In addition the University has been relatively successful in obtaining grants from Regional Objective 2 (ERDF, ESF), Regional Objective 3 (ESF) and National Objective 3 (ESF) over the last eight years, totalling approximately €23 million.

3) Teaching

Newcastle University offers a very broad range of subjects across arts, social sciences, business and law, medical sciences, life sciences, physical sciences and engineering. A number of courses cover several subjects which facilitates interdisciplinary learning. There are over 17,000 full-time and part-time undergraduate and postgraduate students studying in over 200 undergraduate and 160 postgraduate programmes. There is a particular emphasis in the University on the development of transferable and employability skills, many of which can be credit bearing modules within programmes (eg Students into Schools or volunteering modules) - see www.ncl.ac.uk/nclplus. We also have a very vibrant community of early stage researchers who either work with individual academics or within Research Institutes or Centres.

4) European Academic Links

There are currently 212 Socrates-Erasmus links which cover all 27 Schools in the University. As is the case with most UK universities, we are net importers of students on Socrates-Erasmus as UK students are generally reluctant to participate in academic exchanges. Newcastle University is a partner in the first tranche of the Erasmus Mundus programme on Hydroinformatics and Water Management (Euro Aquae) (www.euroaquae.org/jahia/jsp/index.jsp). We are currently developing a programme for Joint Doctorates with other European partners. We have also participated in Asia-Link, Leonardo, Tempus (all programmes) and have applied for the Atlantis ENOVA 'Entrepreneurship and Innovation' (EU-US Co-operation) programme. We also have a long standing Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence. Newcastle University co-ordinated the Quality Network of the EUA Doctoral Programme project.

Over the last three years about one third of newly appointed academic staff were non-UK nationals; of these 171 were from EU states and a further 50 were from the wider Europe. We also have a very diverse student body, with students from over 120 countries. About 20% of our alumni live outside the UK.

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7 November 2006