



Northumbria
University
NEWCASTLE

WITH YOUR HELP EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE

Anyone who has the potential to go to university should have the opportunity to achieve their goal.

Through our Higher Education Without Barriers Fund, we are partnering with alumni, businesses, and other supporters to donate to projects that make participation and progression in higher education more achievable. We want academically talented students, regardless of their social or economic circumstances, to achieve their ambitions.

INTOUniversity

One of these projects is the region's first INTOUniversity learning centre, in the East End of Newcastle. It is an exciting new development involving Northumbria and Newcastle Universities and IntoUniversity – the UK's largest university-access charity.

Since its founding in 2002, INTOUniversity has established an extensive national network of high-quality, local learning centres where young people from disadvantaged communities are inspired to achieve. INTOUniversity is unique: it is the only organisation in the country to run university access centres in local communities; it starts early, with students as young as seven, reaching out to students and their families; it works with young people from across the ability spectrum; and, most importantly, it is there for the long-term.

INTOUniversity has effective monitoring and evaluation systems and powerful evidence of impact. In 2021, 40,000 students in 18 disadvantaged areas received support through face-to-face and virtual delivery and, 66% of the students progressed to university compared to 27% from similar backgrounds nationally.

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The Newcastle Centre

The Newcastle Centre, which is being funded by supporters of the two universities, together with the Buffini Chao Foundation, the Garfield Weston Foundation, and other philanthropic backers, will support 1,000 young people aged 7 to 18 each year. It is in the heart of the local community and is a place that young people choose to attend, rather than a place they must attend, a place of learning where children feel confident to discover and pursue their personal goals.

INTOUniversity has Centres in UK local authority areas where young people are least likely to attend university. Newcastle was identified as a priority area as it is one of the ten areas in the UK where people are most likely to experience 'destitution', a new category for classifying extreme poverty. The East End was chosen due to its high density of criteria primary schools, based upon the percentage of young people who access free school meals.

The Centre delivers intensive, progressive extra-curricular activities across a range of subject areas:

- **Academic support** – after-school academic support sessions that help young people to become curious, independent, and successful learners with the support of skilled tutors.
- **FOCUS programme** – workshops, study weeks and career engagement activities that inspire students to envisage a world of learning and future careers.
- **Mentoring** – one-to-one support from undergraduates and young professionals who help students to develop confidence and essential soft-skills.
- **Student enrichment** – work experience, internships, and networking to give students aged 16+ insight into the range of careers available to them.

Success so far

When the Newcastle centre opened in October 2021, demand significantly exceeded provision. Not only that – it achieved a higher attendance rate than any of the other thirty-five UK centres that have opened so far. Young people from five primary and four secondary schools currently attend.

"Interest and take-up from schools and the local community has been phenomenal and feedback from participants has been excellent. The team are looking forward to working with more students and their families and we expect to support over 550 young people in our first year"

*Kirsty Wadsley, Head of Operations
(Scotland and North East England) at INTO University*

Support INTO

Fundraising for the Centre is underway. The Centre has proved so popular that more help is needed, and we are looking to develop further philanthropic partnerships both to sustain the East End Centre and expand our reach to other communities. There are many ways in which you or your business can get involved. For example, a donation of:

- **£500** will enable one student to access academic support.
- **£2,000** will enable one class of 25 students to access the FOCUS programme.
- **£5,000** will fund the mentoring programme for 25 young people.
- **£10,000** will fund the student enrichment programme for 30 students aged 16+.



northumbria.ac.uk/giving

To find out how your business can get involved, contact James Wilkinson at:
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