



**Northumbria
University**
NEWCASTLE

Featuring:

Support for students

Guide to admissions

Employability

Research-rich learning

**#TakeOn
Tomorrow**

**A Parents' Guide
to Northumbria**



FOREWORD

Going to university is an exciting and rewarding experience. It is a time that your children can create very firm foundations for their futures. It is a time when they can develop personally and professionally, emerging transformed as confident graduates ready to take on their tomorrow.

At Northumbria we set the conditions for success. We transform students' lives by creating the best opportunities to succeed, learning alongside the best academics. Applying knowledge gained in real-world environments, they will receive a personalised learning experience, with tailored support to help them flourish.

At Northumbria students are at the heart of everything we do. We want your child to succeed, so we are there to support them every step of the way, with personalised support and welfare, online and face-to-face, to help them to balance their studies and their life.

The future is exciting. And there is no better place for your child to begin their journey. We look forward to welcoming them.

Professor Peter Francis
Deputy Vice-Chancellor





• **Inspirational learning communities, led by world-leading academics that shape their disciplines, inspire our students and make a real impact on the world around us.**



• **Access to learning spaces, scholarly resources, online services, and opportunities to develop their learning skills via the University library.**



• **Ask4Help, which offers 24/7 advice, including wellbeing and health guidance, financial and disability support and much more - offering you peace of mind that your child will get the best support possible if they need it.**



• **CV-enhancing opportunities to build skills, experience and expertise through projects and placements - which is why we're one of the UK's top-ranking universities for employability.**



• **The latest technology embedded into how we teach - meaning students can come together as a community in the classroom, studio, laboratory, and clinics face-to-face and online and study real time and any time.**



• **Students' Union which offers a great social scene at the heart of our Campus, with a huge range of clubs and societies. Students can also join 'Team Northumbria' or learn a new sport and make use of fantastic facilities at Sport Central.**

WORLD CLASS RESEARCH SHAPES OUR WORLD AND TEACHING

Rated top 50 in the UK for research power in the most recent Research Excellence Framework, Northumbria is leading the debate and responding to tomorrow's challenges through our ground-breaking research. Research that is then embedded directly into our teaching.

Everything we teach at Northumbria is informed by our research strengths. We design courses and modules so that our world-leading academics can share their knowledge and experience directly with our students.

Northumbria's game-changing research is important to the student experience. We are not pursuing research purely for its own sake, but for the local, national and global impact, that research can and does have, and because research and academic excellence are major drivers of teaching quality.

In this way, at Northumbria, we prepare our students for whatever the future holds, helping them to build the skills and confidence to take on their tomorrow, encouraging them to challenge norms, become critical thinkers and inspiring leaders, and above all make an impact.

It's Time to Take On Tomorrow

Our academics are transforming lives with ground-breaking research and working together to tackle tomorrow's challenges:

Disease

We are making disease a thing of the past by revolutionising diagnosis.

An innovative breath collecting device that could transform diagnosis of diseases, such as coronavirus, is being led by Associate Professor Dr Sterghios Moschos. Through breathing into the device, the technology allows the sampling of biomarkers from the lung. In future it could help diagnose lung conditions plus health issues such as diabetes, cancers, liver problems, brain and ageing diseases.

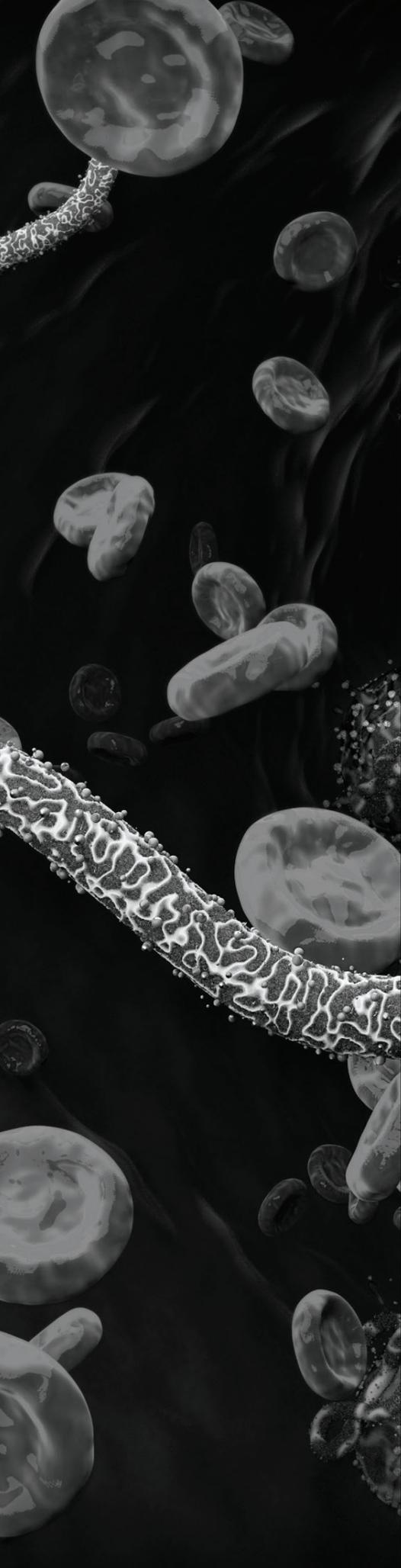
Dr Moschos' team is also waging a war against Ebola, developing a new, rapid, mass screening platform for the virus. It means that patients with Ebola-like symptoms can be identified and treated much sooner and at the point of care, helping to reduce spread of the disease and risks to others.

Crime

Northumbria has been awarded research funding by an international partnership led by the UK Government to help tackle fraud. Professor of Financial Management at Northumbria's Newcastle Business School, Dr Jackie Harvey, is investigating whether current international anti-corruption frameworks can be better targeted to reduce opportunities for the proceeds of corruption to be moved across the globe.

Our academics are also pursuing justice for our planet. Green criminologists including Dr Tanya Wyatt, Associate Professor in Criminology, are researching crimes against the environment and non-human species – such as corruption and wildlife trafficking – and what can be done to prevent them. Dr Wyatt hopes to put an end to the pain and suffering caused by wildlife trafficking, which is a trade worth \$23 billion and is the fourth most lucrative global crime after drugs, humans, and arms.





Climate Change

Northumbria academics are part of multi-million pound projects linked to the climate crisis.

Our extreme environments researchers are conducting one of the most detailed and extensive examinations of a massive Antarctic glacier ever undertaken, in a bid to determine how quickly it could collapse and quantify the future impact on global sea levels.

Dr Kate Winter, a Vice-Chancellor's Research Fellow, has earned global recognition for her work into what lies beneath Antarctica's vast ice sheets as part of a study into the effect of rapid climate warming. She discovered three vast canyons near the South Pole, which are unseen from the surface but stretch for hundreds of kilometres.

We are also participating in work to tackle the issue of renovating older residential buildings in Europe to make them more energy efficient. The four-year project involves devising radical ways to reduce the costs, timescales and disturbance involved in 'deep renovation' required for making homes more thermally comfortable in extreme hot and cold weather, which can reduce a building's energy use by more than 75%.

Poverty and Inequality

We are using innovative methods to develop more inclusive and sustainable futures for global communities.

Our work addresses the activities of local volunteers in conflict settings, their roles in health promotion, the impact of international helpers and the relationships between different types of voluntary activities.

Professor Matt Ballie-Smith is co-director of our Centre for International Development, and co-author of the largest worldwide study of volunteering. With a focus on challenging global inequality, he is carrying out research in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, looking at young people's contributions to sustainable development.

We are also helping to shape Government policy with our research into food insecurity. Northumbria has conducted extensive nationwide work into food poverty during school holidays, and potential interventions to combat hunger, such as holiday clubs. It is being applied to inform local and national UK initiatives and raise public understanding and awareness.

Ageing

Healthy ageing is a challenge being explored by our researchers, who have discovered that older adults with a range of age-related conditions such as arthritis and dementia, showed improvements after yoga classes. A three-month study demonstrated that a weekly group-based yoga programme, specially adapted for older adults with age-related diseases or disorders, can lead to improvements in physical function and mental health.

Elsewhere, our academics are developing a range of smart digital technologies to help some of the most vulnerable people in society live more independently. Tools including virtual assistants, sensors, apps and off-the-shelf smart devices, such as Amazon Alexa and Google Home, are being tested as part of a 'living lab'.

The project will assist older people, those with mental health needs and people with learning disabilities and autism spectrum disorder. It is drawing upon the expertise of our academics in health, design and computer science.

PREPARING OUR STUDENTS FOR THE REAL WORLD OF WORK



At Northumbria we recently commissioned research to find out what was most important for parents when it comes to higher education. Almost half of you said your main aspiration was for university to improve your child's future job prospects.

At Northumbria employability is embedded into our learning experience, that's why we help our students with their career path and employability from the very start of university life, and right through to after they graduate too.

Lucy Winskell OBE, Pro Vice-Chancellor for Employability and Partnerships, explains: "Once young people know they are joining us, they will hear from our Graduate Futures team – colleagues with expertise in careers advice and student support – to help them begin thinking about their long-term careers and outlining the experiences and support we can offer."

How we embed employability

Students are encouraged to undertake work experience, placements and attend lectures and meet with industry experts.

Lucy explains: "Every student will carry out a careers readiness survey when they join Northumbria, and this is repeated in every year of their course. This encourages them to be more career-focussed, and to understand how their degree subject will help them fulfil their ambitions and ultimately land them that dream job. Practical guidance is provided along the way, like signposting them to careers fairs or offering more in-depth support for writing CVs and submitting applications.

"Thanks to our programmes, students begin to understand the work environment and learn skills employers will expect of them, such as teamwork and critical thinking.

Not only do they get a feel for what their career might look like, and a sense of the industry they might want to go into, we find they return from a work placement or internship with a renewed sense of energy and focus on subject discipline. Many who might have been heading for a 2:1, actually go on to achieve a first. It focusses their thinking and understanding of their studies."





With Northumbria your child can access:

- The chance to study abroad.
- Time at our Amsterdam campus.
- Supervised projects with real businesses.
- Support to set up their own business.

Did you know?

We help around 100 students into self-employment each year and support around 30 to 40 new businesses. In fact, Northumbria is one of the UK's top-ranking universities for employability. In the past decade we have assisted more than 300 start-ups that employ more than 1,000 people and turnover £84 million per year.

Placements are a compulsory part of learning for professional practice, particularly in areas such as nursing, education, and social care, but employability is rooted into academic programmes too.

Courses have been developed working with industry, business, and sector experts to ensure they are relevant to future careers. Global brands such as **Paul Smith**, **H&M** and **M&S** offer placements to students, alongside blue-chip companies like **Hewlett Packard** and **GlaxoSmithKline**.

Lucy added: "We forge these links because we know time spent in industry is invaluable. Our data shows that 95% of graduates who experienced an industry placement achieved a first or 2:1. Plus, these graduates also demand a higher average salary - over £4,000 more compared to students on other full-time courses.

"We also work with organisations such as **Santander**, helping students gain essential employability skills through funded internships and enterprise mentoring."

Access to employer partners

Northumbria has relationships with some of the country's biggest employers, such as **Nike**, **Procter & Gamble** and the **BBC**, and many graduates go on to work for multinational companies, SMEs, and public sector organisations. A partnership with **Nissan** is currently supporting engineering and business students, and we have links with North East arts organisations for those interested in a profession within theatres, art galleries and museums.

Skills for the future

Our Graduate Futures team feedback intelligence from their contact with employers and organisations such as the Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services (AGCAS) and the Institute of Student Employers (ISE). This means we know what skills companies are looking for.

Lucy concludes: "My advice to parents is that it's never too soon to start talking to your child about the skills they want to learn, but, importantly, to help them recognise that the very first choice they make is not their only choice. Part of being at university is to extend your thinking, gain new experiences and have confidence in saying 'this was not right for me, I want to try something else.'"

PUTTING STUDENTS AT THE HEART

At Northumbria, the student experience is at the core of everything we do. From our learning experience, which is informed by student voice, to our fantastic support offer which is designed to guide students every step of the way, students are at the heart of our community.

We want students to feel part of this community as soon as possible. That's why as soon as a student receives an offer from us, they become part of our I AM NORTHUMBRIA programme, which provides lots of valuable opportunities to get to know our staff and students, sample our outstanding learning experience, and find out what it means to be part of our inclusive community.

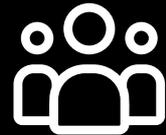
Support for new starters:



An interactive 'Getting Started' guide, introducing them to their learning environment including their library, online platform and support teams



'Building Your Skills' modules covering digital and learning skills



A welcome and overview from their programme leader



A chance to meet and chat to their fellow students online



Participating in subject challenges and getting ahead with 'how to' films



Information from our Students' Union about Welcome Week

We want students to feel safe, supported, informed and ready to make the most of their university life. So, we stay in touch regularly with important updates including what to expect when they join us and how we are continuing to adapt in line with any government advice.

We also have a dedicated I AM NORTHUMBRIA hub on our website, especially for new students. This acts as the gateway to their Northumbria experience, with lots of useful tailored content to explore, all in one place. This includes information about our campus, what blended learning looks like, accommodation, finance, having fun and much more. There is also a helpful section with guides on how to enrol, access timetables and activate their email address, for when that time comes.

Once a student enrolls with us, they will also be able to access their programme site, so they can start preparing for the year ahead and hit the ground running. This is accessed through our fantastic virtual learning environment, Blackboard Ultra, and includes welcome messages from their Faculty and programme team, pre-study activities, quizzes and much more. This is also where they will access any online learning materials and links to the library, ensuring a smooth transition to the start of their learning experience.

Always on support

Protecting the wellbeing of our student community is a priority, particularly for those who are finding their feet as part of their transition to university.

What makes Northumbria so special is its supportive learning culture – both in the classroom and online. Our students are guided every step of the way, through regular communications with their tutor, plus 24/7 access to a full range of personalised support and welfare services to help them balance their learning with student life. This includes:

- On campus counselling from Student Central, plus 24/7 online support.
- Student Success Advisors who help with motivation and peer-to-peer support.
- Wellbeing assistance relating to issues such as accessibility and inclusion, counselling and mental health, visas and immigration, plus student finance and budgeting.

Our commitment to safeguarding mental health

Sue Broadbent, Head of Student Life and Wellbeing, stressed that at Northumbria: "We take students' mental health extremely seriously, it is a complex issue which requires levels of care on a case-by-case basis.



"We tailor and prioritise support according to the needs of each student; whether through counsellors and mental health practitioners, guided self-help, online resources like Kooth Student or stress and mindfulness workshops. We have developed our support to be accessible 24/7, both online through our Student Portal and on campus through Ask4Help at Student Central."

One of the tools we encourage all students to use is Kooth Student, a free, anonymous, virtual 'safe place' providing professional mental health guidance. This is offered through one-to-one counselling, live chat, a messaging service, and information hubs on topics such as anxiety, stress, and relationships – as well as signposting crisis services.

How you can help your child's transition to university life

- Encourage them to use the University's wellbeing services, where they can talk to trained professionals for anything they're struggling with.
- Recommend they join the Students' Union to find like-minded friends, groups and societies.
- Advise them to download our free SafeZone app, providing direct contact with University security or emergency services.

Ann Shuker, UK Student Recruitment and Access Manager, adds: "We urge new students to really take advantage of all of the help available to them. Making a confident start to university is hugely important, and we're here to ensure that they have the means to become part of our community, from day one."

The final word goes to Sue Broadbent: "The advice I would give to students who are anxious about starting university is to pay attention to what's important to their everyday life and wellbeing and make sure they can translate as much of that as they can into student life. Whatever you do that makes you happy, you can also do at university."



A STEP BY STEP GUIDE TO UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS

The Department for Education is currently in consultation to agree how students will receive their grades and how universities can process them.

Students will receive grades based on performance, which will be measured in a number of different ways. Universities will apply as much flexibility as possible, particularly for those going through appeal processes.

Helen Bower, Assistant Director, Student Recruitment, explains: "Ensuring no student is disadvantaged due to circumstances out of their control is our top priority. We always put the individual at the heart of the student experience. It is the single most important factor."

How you can help your child through the process:



Log on to our parents' hub for a dedicated guide called University Made Simple, which includes all the information, factsheets and videos to help you support your child to make an informed choice. Find out more at northumbria.ac.uk/parents



Register on the hub as a parent or guardian to receive the latest updates around admissions and events, such as scheduled on-campus open days.



Encourage your child to research all their options, including UCAS virtual exhibitions and the National Careers Service. There is more flexibility than ever to explore what's available – and parents are encouraged to participate.



Don't miss an important email - make sure your child adds Northumbria University to their contacts, so emails don't disappear into junk or spam folders.



Reassure them that whatever the outcome of exams, there are a range of opportunities available to them. This could help them manage anxiety around results. Find out more about the UCAS Clearing process at northumbria.ac.uk/clearing

Helen concludes: "It's important to ask questions so we have live chat on our website, plus our Ask4Help and Applicant Services team to direct enquiries to the right place. We genuinely care about students that apply to us and will do everything we can to ensure they make the best choice for them – whether that is coming to Northumbria or an alternative route. Students and parents can rest assured that we'll support them every step of the way."





Get the information you need to make the right choice

Research conducted by Northumbria revealed that one in three parents would like more information to support their child in decision-making. This includes information on course content, finance, the student experience, and online learning.

As a result, we developed a fantastic new online virtual platform, NU World, which is packed full of resources about every aspect of university life. Our tailor-made series of bitesize virtual events help students and their families as they make plans for university, with each session offering the opportunity to talk to staff and current students and ask any questions.

NU World is packed full of content such as subject videos, maps of our campuses, tours of buildings and facilities and so much more. Information from our on-campus open days is packaged into short digital events that are live, interactive and driven by student interests. They are broken down into bitesize events, so students can select the most relevant to them:

- **Your learning experience** – essentials about the subject area and a chance to meet the leading academics who teach it.
- **Your home** – accommodation options available and exploring our vibrant city.
- **Your community** – opportunities with over 130 clubs, societies and what the Students' Union has to offer.
- **Your future** – how we embed employability into our courses and ways to get involved.
- **Your money** – guidance on funding studies, managing finances, and accessing extra support.

Explore the site at nuworld.northumbria.ac.uk

OUR WORLD. MADE SIMPLE.

Study. Live. Take Part. Succeed.

Immerse yourself in our interactive virtual NU World and ask the questions you need answers to, as well as exploring our 360 tours, vlogs and live Q&As.

Register now for one of our bitesize live events and help your child Take On Tomorrow.

BOOK NOW.

northumbria.ac.uk/ugopendays



UNIVERSITY MADE SIMPLE.

A GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS.

**Helping you make informed
choices about your child's future.**

University is a big step for parents as well as students. Discover our parents' hub which is full of advice and guidance to help your child prepare for their future.

DISCOVER MORE.

northumbria.ac.uk/parents

