

Welcome to the Hugh Baird University Centre (HBUC)

Information for Parents

We have created this guide to help inform you about this important stage in your son or daughter's life.

When your son or daughter starts at university it marks the start of an exciting phase in their lives. However, this can mean a big adjustment for everyone especially if they are the first in their family to study a degree level course.

At the Hugh Baird University Centre we are committed to helping students stretch and challenge themselves in order to fulfill their ambitions so they have the life skills and experience to succeed in the global job market.

Why choose the Hugh Baird University Centre?

- In May 2015 the College was visited by the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) for a Higher Education Review (HER). This is equivalent to the School/College Ofsted. We did extremely well in the review gaining two commendations. You can view the overview brochure on the Wider Information Set on the HBUC website.

- A range of subject areas achieved high grades at both Foundation Degree and full Honours level including first class Honours classifications.
- We have small group sizes that offer a personalised learning experience.
- All of our students are entitled to a free breakfast of either porridge or toast, with orange juice, between 8am and 8.45am in any of the L20 refectories.
- Students may be able to apply for bursaries and scholarships to help with their studies in the first year of their course.
- A brand new multi-million pound building with state of the art facilities and a dedicated University Centre.
- Just four miles from Liverpool City Centre – voted top UK City and one of the top three places to visit in the World in the Rough Guide 2014.
- Our lecturers have notable industry links and excellent, up-to-date subject knowledge, as well as extensive teaching experience.
- Our full time degree students have up to 17 hours class contact made up of teaching, a tutorial hour and facilitator hours.
- Employability skills are a strong feature of our degree courses and offer the chance to work with major local employers

Working in partnership

Our university level courses are validated by leading North West Universities, meaning that, by studying at Hugh Baird College's University Centre, your son or daughter will gain a degree from the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan).

Courses are also regularly reviewed to ensure consistently high standards and high rates of graduate satisfaction and we're constantly growing our University offer.

University of Central Lancashire (UCLan)

The University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) aims to create the perfect blend of knowledge and practical experience to equip its graduates with the confidence and skills they need to get ahead in the world of work and, as one of their partner institutions, the Hugh Baird University Centre shares this aim. UCLan has evolved over the years to become a world class institution and, in 2016, the Centre for World University Rankings placed UCLan in the top 3.7 percent of all worldwide universities. This follows its inclusion in the QS World Rankings, one of the most widely read and trusted university rankings, of which UCLan was the first Modern University in the UK to gain this status. In 2016, QS awarded UCLan a coveted four stars out of a possible five and, through the QS Stars Development Roadmap, the University was awarded a maximum five star rating in areas covering teaching, employability, internationalisation, facilities, social responsibility and inclusiveness.

The university encourages and nurtures originality, from hosting one of the largest undergraduate research internship schemes of any University in the UK to its ranking as the leading UK University for start-up businesses that are still active after three years of trading.

Through UCLan's £200million Campus Masterplan, the University is creating an inviting, world-class campus that seamlessly integrates with the rest of the City and is compatible with UCLan's status as one of the UK's largest universities

Who ensures the quality of university courses in colleges?

The Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) for Higher Education is a national organisation which reviews the quality of Higher Education delivered by colleges. Their assessments are based on the core themes of academic standards, quality of learning opportunities, public information and enhancement.

Our regular QAA reviews mean that you can be confident your son or daughter will be studying to the highest standards and enjoying the best support.

Keep your costs down and avoid running up huge debts.

Students don't need cash to enrol on a course. Tuition fee loans cover university or college tuition fees and are paid direct to the university or college by Student Finance England. They are available to all eligible students regardless of household income. The amount students pay back is dependent on how much they earn and not how much they owe.

Maintenance Loans

Maintenance loans are repayable and are used for day-to-day living costs, such as food, rent and travel. These loans are usually paid in three instalments, directly into the student's bank account. The amount available to each student depends on household income and whether or not the student is living at home or in student accommodation.

For more information, visit www.gov.uk/student-finance

This information is correct at the time of going to print but please be aware that it may have changed. Always check our website or www.gov.uk/studentfinance for the most up-to-date information.

Please note: Entitlements for part time students may differ. Visit our website or www.gov.uk/student-finance for full details.

Is having a degree essential today?

Having a degree boosts career potential and is becoming increasingly important in today's job market.

The majority of our students are not simply learning their subject in order to get a qualification, but are aiming for a career in that field. We therefore, understand the importance of making sure we are helping to prepare our undergraduates for the world of work. We also ensure that employability skills are embedded into all of our programmes and have strong links with both local and national employers. This means that students take part in live briefs, are visited by guest lecturers and industry experts and go on visits to employers' own sites. Many of our alumni return to the Hugh Baird University Centre as guest speakers, passing on their experience and advice to the next generation.

Where is the Hugh Baird University Centre?

The Hugh Baird University Centre sits in the suburb of Bootle, approximately four miles outside of Liverpool's vibrant and cosmopolitan city centre. The city's reputation for friendly, down to earth people, passionate sporting roots, comedy and music is known worldwide.

Bootle itself is undergoing a massive regeneration with lots of modern social and private housing being built. The Hugh Baird University Centre aims to play a big part in breathing new life into the community, leading the way with the opening of the University Centre building and 'enterprise village'.

Can my son or daughter receive extra support with their work?

We are proud of the pastoral care provided for our undergraduates. Our goal is for them to have a university experience that offers the support and guidance for them to achieve their dreams of becoming a successful graduate ready for further study or employment.

What is the application process?

As a parent you may wonder about the university application process. The application process for university can be daunting. Full-time undergraduate applications are administered by UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service).

Part-time applications should be made directly to the HBUC – [click here to apply](#).

We have a dedicated team of staff on hand to help guide your son and daughter through the admissions process, from selecting the right course, to completing the UCAS application and applying for financial support if they wish to use it. For further information contact our admissions team on 0151 353 4444.

Do you have accommodation on campus?

We do not have any accommodation on campus at the HBUC, however many of our undergraduates apply for accommodation in the Liverpool City Centre where many of

the city students live. As soon as your son or daughter has made their firm choice to attend the HBUC, they should apply for their student accommodation.

What if something goes wrong?

We aim to make your son or daughter's experience at the HBUC go as smoothly as possible, however sometimes things don't go quite as expected. If there's a problem with work, accommodation or welfare, we can help get things back on track.

Your son or daughter will be allocated a personal tutor who is usually one of the teaching team. There is an allocated 1 hour slot on their timetable each week which is dedicated to either 1:1 tutorials on academic and personal progression as well as group tutorials on the student voice.

Personal tutors are on hand to offer personalised and confidential advice as there are also dedicated staff within the college that support our students for example a Counsellor, Student Services, Health and Wellbeing Coordinator.

How do we find the HBUC?

The Hugh Baird University Centre is in a central location and is easy to get to from all parts of Merseyside by bus, train and car.

By train

The Merseyrail Bootle Oriel Road station is only a two minute walk from the College campus. This station is on the Northern Line and offers easy access to the College from Liverpool, Crosby, Formby, Southport and other areas. For further information visit www.merseytravel.gov.uk.

By car

Satellite navigation systems (Satnav) – please enter our postcode L20 7EW. The closest motorway junctions are the M58 1a/ M57 Junction 7 – 3.7 miles (6km). Then follow the A59 towards Liverpool for approximately ten minutes, turning right onto the A5058 at the first roundabout, which leads onto Balliol Road.

By bus

Students can also travel to the University Centre on regular bus services from Southport, Formby, Crosby, Old Roan, Maghull, Litherland, Netherton, Litherland, Queens Drive and Liverpool City Centre. For further information visit www.arriva.co.uk.

- From Southport: 47, 48, 48a, 300
- From Formby and Southport: 47, 48, 48a
- From Crosby: 47, 48, 48a, 54, 62, 62a, 62b
- From Old Roan and Maghull: 55, 300
- From Litherland: 53, 53a, 55, 59
- From Netherton: 52, 52a, 58, 59
- From Queens Drive: 60, 81
- From Liverpool City Centre: 47, 48, 52, 52a, 53, 53a, 54, 55, 55d, 155, 300

Do they need to pay Council Tax?

Full-time students are not required to pay Council Tax. Automatic exemption exists for students living in university halls of residence, but those living in private accommodation must declare their exemption to the local authority.

Will they need a computer?

Each student has a student ID number which they can use to log into any computer in the HBUC or any of the campus buildings. Computers are located in several work areas and in communal spaces.

Students may also bring their own computers, laptops, tablets etc. We offer a pat testing service whereby students can have their equipment checked to ensure they are safe and compatible with our systems.

There is free wireless Internet access on campus.

Will they need a car?

We would discourage students from bringing cars with them as there is limited parking around the campus. Transport links to Liverpool City Centre are very good and your son or daughter will find everything they need within a short bus or train drive of the campus, so a car is not necessary.

Will they need a part-time job?

Many students choose to undertake part-time work at university, to provide additional financial support and to increase their workplace experience.

Students should be careful to balance their work and academic commitments - most universities recommend not working more than 16 hours per week.

With strong retail and service industries, Liverpool has plenty of part-time flexible work that suits students. The POD located on the ground floor Balliol Centre advertises local jobs for all students.

Should they register with a doctor?

Yes, we would encourage your son or daughter to register with a doctor as soon as they have relocated to the area.

What are the term dates?

The academic year runs from September until late May for most programmes.

Still have questions?

If you have any further questions, please get in touch using our online enquiry form or by phone on 0151 353 4444.

Useful link for parents:

<https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/preparing-to-go/advice-for-parents/>