

Welcome to the Hugh Baird University Centre (HBUC)

Information for Parents 2016/17

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 Edge Hill University or 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.

Who are Our Partner Universities?

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, Hugh Baird College's University Centre shares this aim.

Edge Hill University's mission is to provide an intellectually-stimulating, creative and inclusive environment for its community. As a Hugh Baird College University Centre undergraduate on an Edge Hill University validated course, your son or daughter too would be part of that community.

Who ensures the quality of university courses in colleges? Assuring Quality

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 and they won't need to start paying them back until they are earning more than £21,000 per year. After thirty years, outstanding loan amounts are written off. Students will need to make arrangements for their tuition fee loan as soon as they've applied for a place.

For more information, visit the Wider Information Set on the HBUC website.

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. This money must be repaid, but only when earnings rise above £21,000 per year. 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

Loan Repayments

Students must pay back Tuition Fee Loans and Maintenance Loans, interest is paid on these. Students don't have to pay back other student finance, e.g. grants and bursaries. The repayments are linked to income. Students only make repayments when their income is over £21,000 a year. If their income drops below this amount, repayments stop. Part time students sometimes start repayments while they're still studying. Each month students will pay back 9% of any income over £21,000.

Additional Financial Support

Some students may be entitled to additional finance support, such as Adult Dependants' Grant, Disabled Students' Allowances, Childcare Grant and Parents' Learning Allowance. Again, eligibility for these will be based on individual circumstances.

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/student-finance 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'.

What Trips and Visits can they go on?

Many of our courses include educational trips to international destinations such as New York, Milan, Prague, Berlin and Paris. But, during Freshers' Week, students have their own tour of Liverpool, so they not only get their bearings and find all of the best 'places to be', but they'll also meet new friends from the very start of their university experience.

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. There is a dedicated study support member of staff who is available to book for 1:1 sessions on study skills.

Disability and Learning Support

At the Hugh Baird University Centre, we offer an innovative programme, individually tailored to help all students to achieve their full potential regardless of the level they are studying at. If your son or daughter feels they might need support, they will need to mention this at their interview and we can put them in touch with the team. We can help with a range of difficulties including physical and learning disabilities, mental health needs, visual and hearing impairment, emotional support and dyslexia.

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).

Schools and Colleges also offer guidance to students on the application process.

- UCAS website
- Student finance website
- Important dates leaflet

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. There is also student accommodation need to the College that is scheduled to be open for the 2016/17 academic year. As soon as your son or daughter has made their firm choice to attend the HBUC, they should apply for their student accommodation. Staff will discuss accommodation with them at their interview.

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 Chaplain, Councilor, 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 mid September until late May for most programmes, with exhibitions taking place at the beginning of June.

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:

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