

# INCLUSION EVERYWHERE

## UNIVERSITY OF WORCESTER:

ONE OF BRITAIN'S MOST INCLUSIVE UNIVERSITIES

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Renowned as one of Britain's best teacher training colleges, Worcester won full University status in 2005. Still first class for teacher education it is one of Britain's most innovative, most inclusive universities with excellent provision in health, biology, sport science, art, law and more. Worcester now educates over 10,000 students.

The University typically educates 50% more students with a disability than the national average and was ranked in the top 10 of universities, which best reflect society, according to analysis by the independent think tank, HEPI.

Worcester has one of the best records of sustained graduate employment in the Country, with 97% of Worcester graduates in work or further study within 6 months of graduation. The University is highly successful in securing employment for its graduates who have a disability.

The University is now firmly in the top 25% for all the teaching related elements in the National Student Survey.

In 2018, Worcester was ranked 15th for teaching quality and 18th for student experience in the Sunday Times University Guide, as a result of students' evaluation of the University. Students rate Worcester in the top 10% of all universities for Learning Resources.

Since September 2003, 50% or more of the University's senior executive team have been female. There is no statistically significant gender pay gap at Worcester. In the first national gender pay reporting, in 2018, Worcester was revealed to be the very best UK university for gender pay equality, a result repeated in 2019.

Worcester was ranked number one in the UK and 26th globally for Quality Education in the Times Higher Education's University Impact Rankings 2019, as well as being crowned number one in the UK, and joint 4th globally, for Gender Equality.



The rankings were based on universities' record in contributing to achieving the United Nations' globally agreed Sustainable Development Goals.

The University has demonstrated the contribution a university can make to society through the accessibility of its facilities, which are public by design, its cultural resources, raising the aspirations of children and young people and impacting on wider issues related to health, citizenship and community cohesion.

Inclusion is at the heart of the University's success. The commitment and participation of all staff and students, regardless of gender, age or ability, shines through in everything that we do.

## THE UNIVERSITY OF WORCESTER ARENA:

DESIGNED TO INCLUDE THE WHEELCHAIR ATHLETE

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In 2013 the University of Worcester Arena was opened by Sir Philip Craven, then President of the International Paralympic Committee.

The University of Worcester Arena is the first indoor sports arena in the UK purpose-designed to include the wheelchair athlete.

The Arena has helped the University become the UK's most successful educator in the UK of degree qualified Physical Education teachers, sports coaches and sports psychologists with specialist expertise in inclusive sport and practice. Worcester is the official partner with the World Academy of Sport and International Paralympic Committee Academy to develop inclusive physical education teaching around the world.

In 2012 Worcester was the first UK university to launch a degree specifically in disability sport and now educates hundreds of graduates to work all over Britain and beyond educating and coaching tens of thousands of young people with genuine inclusive sport and practice expertise.

The University is now working on a project to develop the world's first inclusive cricket centre catering for all forms of cricket, including blind cricket, next to the University of Worcester Arena.

The website below links to a short film made by Sophie Carrigill, who graduated in 2016 with a 1st Class Honours Degree in Sports Psychology. Sophie is co-captain of the GB Women's Wheelchair Basketball team.

See: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WuUrKWu9is>



*In 2015 the Arena hosted the European Wheelchair Basketball Championships (Men's and Women's) organised by GB Wheelchair Basketball. These championships were an outstanding success in terms of participation, spectators, viewing online, organisation and in every other way.*

## THE HIVE:

### EUROPE'S FIRST INTEGRATED UNIVERSITY AND PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Hive library was officially opened by HM The Queen in July 2012. It is a joint community and University facility, built in partnership with Worcestershire County Council, which sees higher education students and staff working alongside members of the public and benefiting from shared books and resources.

#### Since The Hive opened:

- Teenage readership is up by **356%**
- **New members** of the public library **increased by 600%** in the year after opening and has now settled down at a remarkable three times the previous rate
- The Hive has become one of the **top 10 most visited** libraries in Britain, which is impressive for a city with a population of only 100,000
- The Hive has been **shortlisted for 52 awards** of which it has **won 28**, including Best Contribution to the Local Community (The Guardian); Best University Library Team (Times Higher Education) and Best Large Library (Society of College, University, National Librarians)



Above: Her Majesty The Queen and HRH Prince Philip with Professor David Green, University of Worcester Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive, at the opening of The Hive library.

## RESEARCH & TEACHING:

### MAKING A CONTRIBUTION TO SOCIETY

Worcester was rated Silver in the first ever Teaching Excellence Framework in 2017 with assessors, who inspected the educational results for every university in England, finding that the University “delivers high quality teaching, learning and outcomes for its students” and “consistently exceeds rigorous national quality requirements for UK higher education.”

The University of Worcester was the UK's most improved university for research in the 2014 Research Excellence Framework (the national independent assessment carried out once every six years). This research has many dimensions and includes work in mental health as well as inclusive educational practice and inclusive sport amongst others.

The University has long been known for its outstanding work in educating midwives and early years educators as well as primary and secondary school teachers.



In 2018 the University launched a Diploma in Personal Social Education for the UK and India with alumna, Dr Swaroop Sampat-Rawal, a top 10 finalist for the Global Teacher Prize in 2019. The programme will be used in the education of some of the world's most deprived children.

## MENTAL HEALTH:

### A COMMITMENT TO INCLUSION



The University has a long-standing commitment to inclusion for those suffering from mental health problems. In 2004, the University became one of the very first universities in the UK to appoint specialist student mental health counsellors.

Worcester is one of the two principal university hosts of the Bi-Polar Disorder Research Network, which includes the largest network of individuals with bi-polar disorder and related mood disorders in the world. A particular focus of this exceptional research group is understanding the causes and identifying treatments for post-natal psychosis.

See: <http://bdrn.org/>

The University is playing a leading role in partnership with the National Union of Students and others on issues of making universities and cities 'suicide safer' through early intervention.

See: <http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/resources/suicide-safer-project-university-of-worcester>