THE 21 UNIVERSITIES IN THE SOUTH EAST...

PROVIDE

45,982
JOBS

CONTRIBUTE

£2.5bn
TO THE LOCAL ECONOMY

GENERATE

70,488
JOBS OUTSIDE THE UNIVERSITY

ATTRACT

181,305
STUDENTS FROM OTHER PARTS OF THE UK

GENERATE

£3.2bn
IN OTHER INDUSTRIES IN THE SOUTH EAST

1. UNIVERSITIES CREATE JOBS AND HIGH QUALITY EMPLOYMENT

Universities provide business support and help small and medium-sized enterprises to grow. For example, the Solent Growth Hub is delivered in partnership with the four local universities and has a branch located within Southampton Solent University, offering a wide range of support from Enterprise Vouchers to graduate student consultancy and placements.

Universities provide the higher level skills to meet the job requirements of the future. For instance, the University of Brighton has developed an industry-accredited MSc in applied computer science in partnership with international IT services provider FDM, designed specifically for preparing graduates for a career in IT consulting.

Since 2012–13, graduates from universities in the South East have created nearly 1,300 new start-ups or social enterprises, supporting over 2,700 full-time jobs in 2015–16 alone. In the same year, universities and their staff created 90 new businesses supporting nearly 3,300 full-time jobs.

2. UNIVERSITIES INVEST IN THE SOUTH EAST

The University of Southampton has led the regeneration of the city, investing £140 million in redeveloping its Boldrewood campus, including a new Southampton Marine and Maritime Institute building which will be shared with global engineering firm Lloyd’s Register. Universities in the South East have already contracted for future capital projects worth nearly £665 million, providing long-term investment in local economic priority sectors such as advanced manufacturing, life sciences, transport and logistics, the digital and creative industries, and maritime and environmental technologies.

Universities are long-term partners for the South East. Together, the universities in the South East have nearly 1,400 years of experience of working with the region, and are invested in its future.
3. UNIVERSITIES ATTRACT MONEY FROM CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

Universities are rooted locally, but they represent their region nationally. They perform 17% of the South East’s research and development, often using funds drawn from outside of the region. They provide the necessary match funding to unlock investment spending for local projects from European Structural and Investment Funds and the UK government’s Local Growth Fund.

Universities are deeply embedded in the South East’s local growth infrastructure that helps the region to prosper, while being nationally and internationally connected. They sit on Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) boards and second staff to work with LEPs, work with councils, and provide evidence and analysis to support the development of strategic economic plans.

With further devolution from central government to come, it is becoming increasingly important to have such capacity and expertise locally.

4. UNIVERSITIES REACH AREAS OTHER INSTITUTIONS CAN’T

Universities are working through local consortia such as the Sussex Learning Network (which includes the universities of Brighton, Sussex and Chichester) to improve higher education participation in disadvantaged areas and to drive social mobility. Through initiatives such as Oxford Brookes University’s Brookes Bridges project, which provides community-based courses to up-skill and re-skill adults who have previously left formal education and may struggle to find a job, they are central to addressing disparities at local level.

Universities also utilise international connections and expertise to benefit their local areas. Thanks to the leading research reputation of the University of Oxford, Oxford Sciences Innovation (OSI), the university’s spin out fund, has raised nearly £600 million in innovation capital from investors all over the world. This which will provide a real boost to local businesses in the Oxford technology cluster and enable them to create new jobs.

Finally, universities in the South East have stepped up to help communities hit by the Great Recession or the collapse of large local industries. For example, in 2009 the University of Surrey has partnered with the Tavistock Institute, the Open University, Royal Holloway University of London and the University of Greenwich to launch the Leadership Academy for Innovation, Leadership and Recovery, which helped hundreds of local companies at risk – particularly SMEs – to innovate during difficult economic conditions.

5. UNIVERSITIES ATTRACT SKILLED PEOPLE TO THE AREA

The universities in the South East attract 181,305 students from the rest of the UK, and 52,155 international students who spent £641 million in the local economy in 2014–15.

In many cases, they are also among the largest employers in the region. For example, the University of Oxford and Oxford Brookes University are two of only 50 businesses with over 250 employees located in Oxford, and together provide jobs for nearly 15,100 people (around 13% of all jobs in the city).

Businesses looking for skilled workers or access to research and business support often set up close to universities, or in incubation centres managed by universities. One example is the University of Sussex’s Innovation Centre (SINC), which provides space and support for 160 high-growth companies in the South East which employ many hundreds of people locally. 85% of SINC members become sustainable businesses (compared to an average 15%), and one in six of these grow to achieve turnover in the millions.

A skilled local population is also vital for attracting inward investment. The University of Surrey’s 5G Innovation Centre, set up in 2014 to define and develop a global 5G network, has attracted £70 million worth of funding from Huawei, Fujitsu and the UK’s four leading mobile operators. These companies have invested in the area because they want to reap the benefits from the spin off companies, collaborations and skilled academic and industry leaders that will emerge from the centre.
YOUR LOCAL UNIVERSITIES HELP...

LOCAL BUSINESSES
Universities in the South East work with thousands of – mostly small – businesses. Last year they signed nearly 9,700 research, consultancy or facility contracts with businesses and charities. Forms of collaboration include co-owned apprenticeships, development of curricula, internships and placements for students, and innovation and business support to help firms grow. 17 out of 18 universities in the South East also offer bespoke company training. For example, the University of the Creative Arts’ Centre for Sustainable Design works with local companies to develop innovative, low-carbon solutions to their business problems.

BIG BUSINESSES
The Institute for Environmental Analytics, a joint initiative by the universities of Oxford, Reading and Surrey and major businesses such as Microsoft and Sainsbury’s, is developing the technologies, knowledge and skills that are urgently required to translate environmental research into commercially-relevant solutions for managing weather hazards in a range of sectors including agriculture, energy, construction, insurance and logistics.

COMMUNITIES
The University of Kent’s Law Clinic provides free legal advice and representation for local people who cannot afford to pay for it. The clinic has handled nearly 15,000 queries on a range of matters including housing, benefits, immigration and asylum, employment, contract and public law. As of June 2014 it had obtained over £2.5 million in compensation for members of the public.

SCHOOL-LEAVERS
Universities in the South East are planning to provide nearly 1,400 degree apprenticeship places in 2017–18 (up from fewer than 30 in 2015–16), giving students the benefit of industry experience with a leading company and a globally recognised degree.

LOCAL SERVICES
The jobs that the South East’s communities rely on – the teachers, doctors and nurses – are trained at university. Universities in the South East are currently training nearly 7,000 nurses, over 4,310 doctors and dentists and 9,205 teachers.

Universities in the South East are also at the forefront of transforming health and social care for local residents, though initiatives such as the Brighton Partnership. This initiative brings the University of Brighton and University of Sussex together with Brighton and Hove City council to improve health and wellbeing in Brighton by further integrating health and social care in the city.

All universities in the region work closely with local schools to raise attainment and aspiration among children and young people. For example, the Kent and Medway Progression Federation, a partnership between Canterbury Christ Church University, the University for the Creative Arts, the University of Kent, East Kent College and local authorities, works with 40 schools to raise the attainment and aspirations of local young people who may not otherwise consider higher education as a route to success.
‘Universities across the [South East] LEP represent the powerhouse for new knowledge creation, innovation and, along with business, are a driving force behind major economic growth across the LEP. To help boost growth, the universities have set aside their own funds... Each university has carefully crafted their individual projects linked to the specific needs of their locality, the wider [South East] economy and builds on their own research strengths.’

SOUTH EAST LEP STRATEGIC ECONOMIC PLAN

HIGHER EDUCATION PROVIDERS IN THE SOUTH EAST

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FURTHER INFORMATION

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