

Briefing paper. Curriculum development at ARU Peterborough and plans for course delivery from September 2022.

Executive Summary.

A broad based curriculum will be delivered from September 2022 at ARU Peterborough encompassing undergraduate degrees and apprenticeship opportunities with ongoing developments around postgraduate taught provision and short course/micro-credentials leading to a diversification of the portfolio over the course of the next few years.

Portfolio development and application overview.

Peterborough is a “HE cold-spot”. The university project is seeking to address this gap and developed the ‘shadow curriculum’ with partners to launch ARU Peterborough by incorporating the existing provision at ARU’s Guild House with a significant expansion of the portfolio, housed together in the new campus. ARU Peterborough will launch in September 2022 with a suite of undergraduate programmes. These programmes cover a broad range of academic subjects and are broadly clustered under 4 Faculty headings.

Health, Education and Social Care:

Midwifery BSc

Nursing (adult) BSc

Nursing (child) Bsc

Nursing Associate DA

Public Health BSc

Social Work BSc

Primary Education.

Engineering, Agri Tech and the Environment

Biomedical Science BSc

Environmental Management BSc

Mechatronics BSc

Manufacturing Engineering BSc/DA

Building Surveying BSc

Quantity Surveying BSc

Construction Management BSc/DA

Business, Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Business and Management BSc

Marketing BSc

Accounting and Finance BSc

Supply Chain Management DA

Law LLB

Creative and Digital Arts and Sciences

Applied Computer Science BSc

Data and Analytical Sciences BSc

Digi Tech DA

Computer Science for Mobile Games Development BSc

Mobile Game Art Production BSc

Mobile Game Design and Development BSc

The above suite of degrees and degree apprenticeships are in most cases available with a number of different options including a foundation year, placement year opportunities and part time study mode. This ensures significant flexibility in the delivery to facilitate study by students from all backgrounds and with differing external commitments. Whilst some degree apprenticeships are specifically referred to in the above list there is ongoing development around a number of other DA offerings that should become available to students during the 2022/23 academic year. We recently launched a campaign around apprenticeship provision “The Peterborough Pledge” that brought together employers from across the region and from different sectors to create a forum to share good practice and experience and to encourage employers to pledge to develop and/or grow apprentice opportunities with ARU Peterborough. Additionally, several CPD and micro credential opportunities are currently being explored with a number also planned for launch in 2022/23. These include offers in sustainability, environmental management and import/export.

Since September 2021 we undertook a project to evaluate the market and employer demand for expanding the portfolio for period 2023-2026 that could consider and inform the development of a new teaching building due for completion in September 2024. The consultation has resulted in a phased plan for the development of ARU Peterborough and from September 2023 we are proposing to add an additional six new undergraduate titles to the portfolio, replace one existing course and make a major modification to another.

In brief : Health and Social Care Portfolio – add Integrated Health and Social Care with a design that will provide some synergy between programmes already being delivered in Phase 1 additionally develop an option in Mental Health Nursing. Business Portfolio – add Tourism Management, Event Management, Human Resource Management and Entrepreneurship the programmes will gain the benefit of a common first year and other shared modules meaning that they can be added efficiently and respond to local demand and needs. Computer Science Portfolio – replace the current offering of Applied Computer Science with Computing aligning that with a modified Data and Analytical Science and adding three new specialist titles in Cyber Security and Forensic Computing, Software Development, and Computer Networking. Overall, the new suite of programmes will be highly integrated with a common first year and other shared modules that would enhance efficiency whilst giving students a better experience and a choice to change pathway at level 5. In addition, this will align with the portfolio of degree apprenticeship courses either already approved or in development. Engineering, Agri Tech and the Environment will introduce courses in Electronics and Robotics and in Agri Technology.

In all cases the decision to move forward with the courses as described has been fully informed by local industry demand and with full consultation with the sector. The new provision outlined will in turn lead to further CPD. As the UG portfolio grows we will be in parallel developing a complimentary suite of PGT provision to provide progression opportunities for our students and opportunities for local graduates to upskill or change career direction. These will be offered in all of the faculty subject areas and will also facilitate CPD opportunities at a high level.

Applications across the Faculties for 2022/3 are encouraging with some areas showing potential for healthy recruitment in their launch year. Areas in health and related sciences are particularly strong. We expect interest in the courses to be maintained and a targeted marketing campaign is currently underway to support the application cycle. Clearing in August will be of key importance to ARU Peterborough and again a strategic approach to maximise our exposure is underway. The timing coincides with the opening of the new University House and this will be our first chance to afford applicants the opportunity to visit the new site at completion. We are in the planning stages for a community event to open the building up to the public and to all students both new and continuing to showcase the new building and create a buzz ready for the next application cycle that starts in October 2022 for September 2023 enrolments. Going forward the new building will be central to open day and taster activities for potential students and will help to drive increased year on applications for the developing portfolio.

Early analysis of the applications shows that approximately 50% are from applicants living in the Greater Peterborough area and that other areas with high interest include Greater London and towns with good transport links to Peterborough such as Grantham. Ongoing analysis will take place as the recruitment progresses to both support areas with high application rates but also to identify, specifically local, areas who are underrepresented in the data for targeted interventions.

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Prepared by Dr Lucy Jones on behalf of ARU-Peterborough.