Welcome to the University of York’s campus audio tour, a collaboration between the University’s Student Recruitment team and University Radio York, broadcasting 24/7 during term time. I’m George Lane and I’ll be your guide throughout the tour.

This tour will follow the route shown in our self-guided tour leaflet. You can pick up a copy at the University’s Information Centre, located next to Market Square. Alternatively, you can download a pdf copy from our website at www.york.ac.uk. Of course, feel free to visit the locations in any order you wish - simply select the corresponding audio clip when you get there.

We will start you off today on the Heslington West part of campus in Market Square, with an exploration of the central areas surrounding the lake. The tour will then take you further around Heslington West to our Students’ Union building and Sports Centre, before exploring the Heslington East part of campus. It’s definitely worth checking out Heslington East, which is home to some of our colleges, academic departments and the York Sport Village.

We hope that you enjoy your tour, and, if you have any questions or feedback, please don’t hesitate to contact the Student Recruitment team. Our contact details can be found on our website. Finally don’t forget to listen to the outro when you’re all done!

Market Square is one of the busiest places on campus and provides our students with all the essential services, meaning you rarely need to leave campus at all if you so wish. Facing the shops from the square you’ll see Nisa, the campus supermarket, alongside a salon and YourShop to the right.

YourShop is run by YUSU, the Students’ Union here at York and all profits from the shop are put straight back into student life. For example, purchases fund the 170 plus student societies we have here at York! In addition to merchandise and various everyday student essentials you can even pay your household bills and buy bus tickets here. Perhaps the most popular products however remain the great value meal deal and the pick and mix, particularly during exam season.

If you look up to the second level of Market Square, you’ll see a Santander bank, Adam Bennet (a local student letting agency), and Design and Print Solutions, the go-to print shop for many a society’s marketing campaign. Importantly, the Student Support Hub is also located on this second level. The Hub is your first point of call for a whole range of student support services from money matters and mental health to immigration and childcare advice. From the 2015/2016 academic year onwards, the disabilities services branch of student support will also be located at Market Square in the building to your right.
Beyond YourShop, further to the right you’ll see Grimston House, home of many award-winning university publications including York’s termly satirical magazine The Lemon Press and the two campus newspapers: Nouse and York Vision. Both newspapers achieve regular success at the Guardian Student Media Awards, Vision in particular, having won the prize for best publication six times since 2002.

Feel free to explore the shops here yourself before going up the stairs opposite the shops to continue our campus tour with a visit to the library. On your way over be sure to take a glance at the photos that were placed here as part of York’s 50th anniversary celebration. This selection includes Lord James, the first vice-chancellor of the University, and strong early advocate of the collegiate system here at York and the close-knit community feel it creates for students.

2 – JB Morrell Library

You’ve now arrived at the university Library, open a whopping 24 hours a day, 362 days of the year. As you walk in the main entrance you’ll find yourself in the JB Morrell Library, home to over a million books, 350 quiet study spaces and plenty of computers. Towards the back you’ll find the compact store where so many journals are available you’ll need a machine to move the shelves along to help you access them. To your right is the key texts section where the most popular books from your course can be found in one convenient place.

Further on down the corridor to your right you’ll find the Raymond Burton Library which houses specialist resources along with a silent study space and an additional quiet reading area.

To the left is the latest addition to the library - the Harry Fairhurst Building. This houses a further 500 study spaces (a few of which feature bean bags!) in what’s dubbed a “studious buzz zone” where students are basically free to make conversation. It’s the perfect place for group study with walls that act as whiteboards and various screens you can connect to in order to share work or presentations. The Harry Fairhurst also houses a lot more PCs, an audio-visual library (which means there are plenty of DVDs available to rent!) and the Writing Skills Centre and the Maths Skills Centre. The skills centres can help you with any writing or maths issues you come across during your course.

Last but certainly not least back near the library entrance we have the library café, just one of many places you can grab a bite to eat or a coffee on campus.

When you’re done looking around here we’ll continue our tour back the way we came, passing along the left hand side of Nisa in Market Square into Vanbrugh College.

3 – Vanbrugh College

As you walk down towards the lake through Vanbrugh College you’ll see some of Vanbrugh’s accommodation on your right Lla Paige court). A college is not just a place to live however. Vanbrugh has a particular reputation for music, with a jazz night every Monday in the college bar. It’s also right next door to the Sir Jack Lyons Concert Hall.
The college sits right in the heart of campus, overlooking the lake from the paved area which has hosted a variety of campus activities such as bungee jumping and ice skating. This is also where Woodstock, the University’s annual all day music festival takes place.

Vanbrugh also houses a common room and the Warren, formerly the College Provost’s house. Downstairs in the Warren is a spacious lounge area with electronic piano and drum kit, and a kitchen. Upstairs is home to some of the college offices, including the music office with its instrument lending library. The Warren regularly plays host to college activities such as movie nights and jam sessions.

If you’re thinking of choosing Vanbrugh College, it’s worth noting it offers a mix of accommodation; both standard and ensuite are available, as well as self-catered and catered.

To continue the tour, proceed either through the sliding doors into Vanbrugh College or round the outside along the lake, and cross over the bridge on your left into James College, heading towards the Student Centre. Keep an eye out for York Student Television Studios on your right as you pass through James College. YSTV is the UK’s oldest student television station and produces a variety of shows throughout the year. If you have some spare time you can take a look at a lot of their productions on demand via their website at ystv.co.uk. This includes Union, their 5 episode office-style show set at the university’s Students’ Union.

4 – Student Centre

Welcome to the Student Centre, home to YUSU, the University’s Students’ Union. This is where the sabbatical officers (the YUSU President, the YorkSport President, the Welfare Officer, the Student Activities Officer and the Academic Officer) work along with YUSU’s staff. Sabbatical officers are elected students who take a year out of their studies (a sabbatical) or take office after their final year of study. Their role is to run the Students’ Union and represent the interests of York’s students.

The Student Centre houses YourSpace, where you can study or just hang out. Students can drop in to YUSU’s helpdesk any time for general enquiries or to purchase tickets for YUSU events.

Next up, continuing past the Student Centre, we’ll head towards the rest of James College in the direction of the York Sport Centre.

5 – James College

Being so close to the Sports Centre, James College has quite a reputation for sporting excellence. James students perform well in inter-college sports, and the college also runs a sports competition with Durham’s Collingwood College.

The college’s biggest event of the year is Quad Dash. Originally the Dash comprised races around the accommodation quads, but the event has expanded over the years to include large barbeques, bouncy castles, live music, 5-a-side football and even a ‘James’s Got Talent’ competition.
College events, organised by the Junior Common Room Committee, are held at James’s attractive cocktail bar in the Roger Kirk Centre.

The college houses both the Psychology and the Mathematics departments and, like all colleges, provides teaching facilities for students from a variety of departments. Around 600 students live in James College, and accommodation options include ensuite and catered rooms.

6 – York Sport Centre

The University is home to two sports centres: York Sport Centre here on the Heslington West part of campus, and the £9 million York Sport Village on the Heslington East part of campus.

York Sport Centre contains a gym, squash courts, hockey pitch, football pitch, and a sports hall for badminton, basketball, 5-a-side football and volleyball. There are also tennis and netball courts and 49 acres of grass playing fields which are used for rugby, football, cricket, lacrosse and hockey. Finally, a £2 million athletics track, opening in 2015 will offer a pavilion and covered seating for 500 spectators.

A lot of sports societies practice here, including college and university teams, so if you’re into sport and come to study at York, you’ll get to know the facilities well. A wide range of sports are played at York, including American football, hockey, lacrosse, basketball, volleyball and badminton. Students at any level can join any sports, and the existence of both college sports and university sports means that there are plenty of opportunities to get involved. In the Heslington East part of this tour, you can also visit our new York Sport Village which has many more additional facilities including a swimming pool.

If you’d like to check out the facilities, ask at reception, otherwise to continue the tour walki back towards the Student Centre, passing it on your left. You will now be approaching the Exhibition Centre.

7 – Exhibition Centre / Physics and Electronics

The Exhibition Centre houses both the Physics and Electronics Departments and includes one of the largest lecture theatre on campus (P/X/001), which you’ll see on your left as you walk in. PX001 also plays host to York Student Cinema, which provides affordable viewings of all the popular new releases, three evenings a week.

The building holds a variety of labs, including a specialist audio lab for students on our music technology degree programs. Physics research facilities include the York Plasma Institute, a £5m investment by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, and the York JEOL Nanocentre, a world-class research facility based at the University’s Science Park.

The Physics Department also houses a courtyard garden in which there is a grafted cutting from an apple tree from Isaac Newton’s garden in Lincolnshire. The cutting was given to the University by Kew Gardens in 1976, and is believed to be from the tree which let loose the famous apple that inspired Newton’s theory of gravity.
When asked to sum up his experience of York as the Head of the Physics Department, Jim Mathews highlighted the following:

“Informality, I think, has been an important factor. A friend of mine was shortlisted for a Professorship here, with the candidates attending a buffet the night before the interviews. He didn’t get the job, but I [subsequently] asked him whether the process had been all right. “Oh,” he said, “It was amazing. You know, at the buffet last night, the Vice-Chancellor served the coffee!” Clearly that was something that was [would be] impossible in his institution.

After you’ve walked through the building you’ll see Central Hall on your left over the bridge and this will be our next stop.

8 – Central Hall

Central Hall, situated in the middle of the lake, is well known to generations of York students. The hall is used for exams, and also our graduation ceremonies. It can hold up to 1190 people, and in the past has played host bands such as Pink Floyd and the Boom Town Rats. Nowadays the hall also plays host to student events such as musicals and pantos.

If you wish, you can walk up the stairs around the outside of the hall to take in the view of campus across the lake. When you’re ready head back across the bridge you just crossed to continue the tour.

9 – Health Centre

Many of our students find having a Health Centre on campus really handy. The Centre offers a variety of services including an online booking system, travel vaccinations and drop-in mornings where there is no requirement to book in advance.

10 – The Quiet Place

The Quiet Place is a great place for relaxing and unwinding. The green areas here are filled with students during summer term, playing football and having barbeques in the sun. On summer evenings in recent years it has also played host to acoustic music and productions of Shakespeare by dramaSoc. The Quiet Place building has an alcove seat in which to shelter and has bookable rooms. There is also a walled garden that can also be used for peaceful and reflective activities.

Finally, the hollowed out bushes on the grass are also used by Derwent College students for hide and seek.

11 – Heslington Hall

Heslington Hall was built in Elizabethan times and originally formed part of the University’s accommodation. It now houses many of the administrative departments of the University including much of the senior management of the University and our Vice Chancellor, Professor Koen Lamberts.

The Deramore family, after which the nearby Deramore pub in Heslington takes its name, lived here in the early 1900s up until the time of the second world war where the hall was abandoned. The RAF
soon moved in and the Hall became headquarters of Bomber Command No. 4 Group throughout the war. After the war, the Deramores didn’t return and the Hall stood empty for several years. The site was then purchased by J B Morrell, twice Lord Mayor of York. His initial ambition was to use the area to create a folk park, but when the possibility of a university in York started to look more certain, Morrell saw other potential for Heslington Hall. The Hall, alongside King’s Manor in the city centre, came to house the University of York’s initial intake of 230 students in 1963.

12 – Derwent College

Derwent College was one of the two founding colleges of the University. As you walk through the college from Heslington Hall, you’ll be able to see the dining hall through the windows to your right. It’s also home to D-bar and Costa Coffee.

Derwent has a reputation for being a ‘party college’, with a great community feel and selection of popular social events throughout the year. In addition to a weekly pub quiz, several times a term the dining hall is turned into ‘Club-D’, an on campus club night. The college also plays host to Big D once a year, which is York’s biggest college event. Big D attracts various local and national acts. College life at Derwent is varied, and in addition to social events, Derwent hosts mindful meditation sessions in the junior common room.

As Derwent College houses various academic departments such as English, Education, Politics and the school of PEP, plus many study spaces and computer suite, Derwent College buildings are quite extensive. As you continue through the college, you’ll come across Hendrix Hall on your right, where Jimi Hendrix famously played back in 1966. Recalling the time he secured the booking, here is Phil Harding:

“So we started to bring what I considered trendier bands up to York and then roundabout Christmas ’66, I, and it think it was Pete Clark, yes definitely Pete Clark was involved in this, booked for Langwith a young American guitarist called Jimi Hendrix. And I and certainly Page 14 of 27 others had heard his record of ‘Hey Joe’ which had just started to break, and we booked Jimi Hendrix for, I think, one hundred and fifty quid, which was an amazingly small amount of money.”

Hendrix Hall is now used by day as a lecture theatre and in the evening for University dance societies’ sessions.

Just a bit further through the college you’ll find The Courtyard, one of three bars run by the Students’ Union. The Courtyard is a great location for a pub lunch between lectures, or for watching football in the evening with friends. Just like the other campus bars, The Courtyard hosts a variety of events throughout term time and all profits go straight back into improving the student experience. When you’ve finished exploring Derwent College, we’ll follow the path back towards Central Hall and the Berrick Saul Building.

13 – Berrick Saul Building
The Berrick Saul Building, completed in 2009, was at the time the largest investment in the humanities by any UK university. It houses the Centre for Modern Studies, the Centre for Renaissance and Early Modern Studies, Centre for Global Health Histories and the Institute for the Public Understanding of the Past.

The Humanities Research Centre is the main hub for arts and humanities activities on campus and regularly hosts seminars, conferences and public lectures.

Other facilities in the building include study spaces for postgraduate students, seminar rooms equipped for remote conferencing, and the Bowland Auditorium, which can seat 150 people.

Do explore the path that runs along the rear of the building. There you’ll see the campus Buddha, donated to the University by the daughter of J B Morrell. Morrell was one of the leading figures in establishing a university in York.

Further away towards University Road you’ll find the Careers Service, a really helpful source of advice that’s available to you for life, should you study at York.

This brings the first section of our tour to an end, but do continue to explore our university if you have the time with the rest of our audio guide. There’s loads more to see of campus and a lot of it is brand new!

14 - Goodricke College

Goodricke College opened in 1968 on the Heslington West part of campus. In 2009, the college moved to the Heslington East part of campus, and it now houses some of the most modern accommodation on offer at York.

The college provides a mixture of standard and en-suite rooms and a central ‘nucleus’, with large communal common rooms and laundry room. The common rooms contain a plasma screen, sky tv, video games and piano and all are open to college members.

When Goodricke College moved site, it doubled in size and now it houses 600 students. The college offers a huge range of activities to its members, including bar crawls, movie nights and trips abroad. GoodFest is a free all day music festival boasting a huge variety of student and local acts. The Junior Common Room Committee, an elected group from within the college organises all these events, and all members of the college have the opportunity to get involved.

From here make your way through or around Oliver Sheldon Court towards the Ron Cooke Hub.

15 - Ron Cooke Hub

The Ron Cooke Hub is a great place in which to chill out or study. The Hub overlooks the lake and as you enter the building you’ll find yourself in the Atrium which contains a cafe.
Upper floors of the Hub are kitted out with state-of-the-art study areas, meeting rooms, a lecture theatre and the 3sixty demonstration space, a black box with 360 degree projection and sound. These facilities regularly play host to all sorts of lectures and events for students. One example is GameJam - a yearly event that encourages students to get together and make a video game in just 48 hours with no prior experience of code necessary!

At the very top of the building is the ‘island of interaction’ a space filled with bean bags and comfortable chairs. Look out over the Lake, and you’ll also see study pods that are available for students to book. It has to be said that the Hub definitely holds some of the quirkier places for group study on campus!

16 - Computer Science

The Computer Science Department is housed in a brand new and purpose built building, which is home to several research, software and hardware labs. It’s a leading department for Computer Science in the UK both in terms of rankings and in employability rate.

The research labs include the Interactive Home Laboratory, which is where the Human-Computer Interaction research group undertakes a lot of its research. Through their work here the group is trying to extend the scope of interaction beyond keyboards and mice in part to assist those who do not have the capacity to use current technology, be that because of age or disability.

17 – TFTV

The Department of Theatre, Film and Television has one of the best professional production facilities of any UK university. The Department is home to two theatres, two television studios, a large sound stage, production labs, extensive post-production facilities and a digital cinema. There are also rehearsal rooms, changing rooms and workshops. The Department is equipped with theatre lighting and has Red Digital Cinema production camera kits, Final Cut Pro Studio and other leading industry packages. Teaching is led by a unique mix of academics and industry professionals.

The Department has excellent contacts with the theatre, film and TV industries, and runs an ongoing programme of visiting lectures, masterclasses and public events. Greg Dyke, ex-director general of the BBC and chair of the British Film Institute is a great supporter of the Department and talks about his involvement at York:

“I've had all the BBC people up here, I got all the BBC... a lot of BBC people have come to look at what the facilities are - and the facilities are remarkable - so I've got a lot of BBC people, I've had a lot of friends come up to lecture and things like that. I got [Laurence] Marks and [Maurice] Gran who wrote Birds Of A Feather and all that, I got them to give their papers to the University and now they come up and regularly talk, so I've been doing things like that…”

To continue the tour, walk to the Law and Management Building which is our next destination.

18 – Law and Management Building
This building is shared between the Law and Management Schools here at the University and has a wide range of facilities including a mock court room. The York Law School also runs a professionally supervised Law Clinic, where members of the public can receive free legal advice from York Law students.

The Management School offers a wide range of modules, ranging from the very practical to exploration of key issues through philosophy, economics and psychology. The School is engaged with a variety of local business networks and international business organisations, with many graduates successfully starting their own small business or going on to international career destinations.

From here we'll head back through Goodricke College where we started the tour and walk beyond it to Langwith College.

19 – Langwith College

Langwith College was one of the two founding colleges of the University and moved to this, its new location in 2012. Accommodation is divided into four courts, housing blocks of six or twelve flats. The college also contains a gallery space which holds different exhibitions every term.

The college is also very close to the Students’ Union bar, the Glasshouse.

The Glasshouse serves hot and cold food, and has two pool tables, a piano, two large LCD screens and a projector screen for major sporting events. This bar is also the location of MARMITE, a student night with cheesy pop music and free prawn crackers all night.

From here we'll take a look at the 3rd and final college this side of campus: Constantine.

20 – Constantine College

Constantine College opened in 2014 and is York’s newest college. The college takes its name from Emperor Constantine the Great whose leadership was proclaimed in York following his father’s death.

Students at Constantine have the unique chance to forge a whole new college identity and reputation for the years to come. As well as the newest accommodation on all of campus, the College contains The Forum. This building contains laundry facilities and offices on the ground floor, and upstairs features two common rooms. The loft is the main social hub of the college with sofas, a 50 inch TV and gaming equipment. The studio which provides students with a comfy study space, including a printer.

The final point on our tour of Heslington East is now just a short walk away through Constantine College to York Sport Village.

21 - York Sport Village

York Sport Village is a £9 million sports development that features modern facilities such as state of the art Gym equipment, a café, 3 fitness studios, Olympic size swimming pool, 18 metre learner pool,
sauna and steam room. And that’s just what’s inside. Also a part of the village is the 3G AstroTurf pitch, 3 further 5 a side pitches, a floodlit 1 km cycling track and a 250 metre outdoor Velodrome.

The air-conditioned fitness studios play host to a range of activities from yoga to spinning and membership of all the facilities is offered to students at a reduced rate.

22 – Sir Jack Lyons Concert Hall

If you play music or simply love listening to it, you’ll get to know the Sir Jack Lyons Concert Hall very well if you choose to study at York. There are lunchtime and evening concerts nearly every week during term time and many are held here. Professor Ian Wand here fondly remembers the musical importance of York: Professor Ian Wand (around 30 minute mark)

“I – and I haven’t said this – one of my reasons for coming to York was I’d heard there was a good musical life at the University. And I had read quite a lot in the press about what happened in York musically and that there was an enormous connection between the music department and distinguished modern composers like Benjamin Britten. I wanted to go to a place when I could listen to good music. I’m not a good practising musician myself – I just listened to it in those day. I wanted to go somewhere where I could listen to good music, so I spent a lot of time at concerts – going to concerts. And one of the joys and benefits of being in York was there being a wonderful musical life.”

A variety of student societies perform in Jack Lyons, including the Baroque Ensemble, the Jazz Orchestra, the Chamber Choir, the Concert Band and the Gospel Choir. Also nearby is the Drama Barn, the building with purple doors on the path across from Market Square. This building provides an intimate space for performances by DramaSoc, the most active student Drama Society in the country. Playing host to at least 16 shows a term, the society is a great platform for students interested in drama.

23 – Biology Buildings

The Department of Biology has been situated in this spot since 1968, but has undergone massive expansion in the years since. 2003 saw a major expansion in the form of the £21.6 million Biosciences building, part of which houses the University’s Innovative Technology Facility together with the York Structural Biology Laboratory. Recent further extensions have been the Centre for Immunology and Infection and a new teaching block to house the Biomedical Sciences Degree and the School of Natural Sciences. Such a huge selection of facilities results in great range of choice for those that come here to study a biology related degree. The teaching in the department is consistently ranked in the top 5 of the UK in league table results and in the latest Research Excellence Framework the Department was 1st in the country for impact outside academia, as the work that goes on here having a major impact on policy decisions.

The Department was also the first Biology Department in the UK to achieve the rare Athena Swan Gold award that recognises success in supporting the careers of women in science.

24 – Environment Building
The new Environment Building was completed in 2015. This new development comprises a whole wing dedicated to state-of-the-art laboratory facilities to complement both research and teaching.

The Department specialises in environmental analytic chemistry, biochemistry, bioarcheology, environmental fate of pesticides and pharmaceuticals in the environment and environmental geography.

The research in ecology and environmental science at this department was ranked 2nd in the UK for impact meaning the teaching here is consistently informed by the latest developments. The department has links to many global policy makers including UNEP and the World Health Organisation and plays an important role in their work.

Students are regularly involved in extensive fieldwork programmes alongside staff, and undergraduate residential field trip destinations include Iceland and Tenerife.

25 – Wentworth Graduate College

Wentworth College is equipped with 2 graduate common rooms - a quieter one for study overlooking the lake and another that functions as a social space, and is equipped with a television and games. This space and the college dining hall / bar area are often put to good use by the active college committee that runs weekly movie nights and other events for the college.

Location wise it is on the very edge of campus and is close to the city, with a convenient cycle path that leads from right next to the college down towards the river paths into the city centre.

The college also boasts its own prayer room and is the base for Active Arts. Active Arts supports both student and staff in the creation of art work, providing 3 different types of studios with equipment and materials that are available 24/7. The studios are made use of by absolute beginners and professionals alike. The space also plays hosts to various art demonstrations and workshops. In addition to free art classes in this space, the college also offers free yoga and dance lessons throughout the term.

26 – Playing Fields

The playing fields, known as 22 acres, are where most sports matches are held. They are situated between Halifax College and James College, and major sports tournaments, such as Roses and Varsity take place here. The Roses tournament takes its name from the 15th century Wars of the Roses between the House of Lancaster and the House of York and is held every summer, hosted alternately by the University of York and Lancaster University.

Speaking here about Roses is Peter Glanville who was Head of the Sports Centre:

“...I thought it was great. The event goes on for three days and it’s great because, for example, in football the four teams we had - and each team plays their counterpart and so it’s not like there’s one
football team or one netball team or whatever - every team plays and I think that’s brilliant. And overall, I think, there’s something like three thousand people involved in it...”

The event has continued to increase in size since its foundation in 1965 and is now the largest inter-university sports tournament in the whole of Europe.

Halifax College’s annual live music festival, Faxival, also takes place here, and we’ll be heading to this college next.

27 – Halifax College

Halifax College is closest to the village of Heslington high street. It’s the second youngest college at York and is also the biggest with almost 1000 rooms accommodating around 1/5th of all first year undergraduates.

As you walk into Halifax from Garrowby Way, you will see Ainsty and Hickleton Courts on your right. These are blocks of flats with ensuite bedrooms for both undergraduates and postgraduates. If you keep walking, on your left you will see the porters’ lodge, which is open 24 hours, and JJ’s, Halifax’s common room.

JJ’s is the social hub of the college and features Sky TV services, including Sky Sports. It also has a games console, DVDs, sofas, a ping pong table, a vending machine and a coffee machine. Halifax events, including casino nights and film nights, are usually held in JJ’s.

Behind the porter’s lodge is Halifax’s own mini Nisa store, selling basic groceries, toiletries and household items. If you keep walking past Nisa and turn left into St. Lawrence Court, you will see the Halifax computer room, which has several computers and a printer.

Whilst there isn’t a bar in Halifax College, there is bar service available at the biggest college events and the popular Heslington village pubs are only 5 minutes away.

28 – Heslington Village

Heslington Village is well worth exploring. Along Main Street, you will find two pubs that are popular with students, particularly those living in Halifax College – the Charles and The Deramore Arms. The are several cashpoints, banks, a post office, a letting agent and a village shop, Brown’s, which claims to sell the best sandwiches in the world!

29 – Chemistry Buildings

The Department of Chemistry at York is one of the UK’s leading Chemistry departments and is recognised internationally for both its teaching and research. In recent years it has invested £29 million into its research and undergraduate facilities.

The Chemistry Department at York was the first of its kind to receive the rare Athena Swan Gold award, demonstrating the achievements and progress the department has made and is making towards gender equality in the sciences. In addition to a variety of prizes won by its staff for research,
three members of the Chemistry team have been recognised for ‘excellence in teaching’ by the Royal Society of Chemistry. Alongside a multitude of technology throughout the labs there is also a large lecture theatre and seminar rooms.

30 – Seebohm Rowntree Building

In between Chemistry and the Library is the Seebohm Rowntree Building, which is home to the Department of Health Sciences and the Department of Social Policy and Social Work. It takes its name from the local social pioneer Seebohm Rowntree, who used scientific methods to determine the poverty line in York and showed how many fell beneath it. The University has strong links with the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and Charity Trust, and Seebohm Rowntree’s original work on poverty forms the cornerstone of much of their teaching and research.

The building also houses The Kitchen at Alcuin College. You’ll find The Kitchen round the other side of the building, just across the bridge from the library. It serves up fair-trade coffees, loose-leaf teas, freshly baked baguettes and cakes in quirky, cozy surroundings.

31 – Alcuin College

Alcuin College sits above campus on a hill and offers a huge number of ensuite rooms, with 48 even including a bathtub! Situated very close to the library, Alcuin prides itself on creating a caring and supportive environment.

Being one of the smaller colleges, Alcuin is a comfortable environment in which to get to know everyone around you well and with such close proximity to the library, books or DVD hire are never very far away.

The college offers a huge variety of social events so students are never lacking in something to do. Events include shopping trips to Leeds, visits to the seaside at Scarborough and even trips abroad, as well as block parties and seasonal balls.

The college offers two places to eat. Alcuin Bistro is a great place for breakfast or lunch right near the heart of the college and the Kitchen at Alcuin is just across the bridge from the library.

Joining Alcuin early on in its formation, John Randall, who was also the University’s first full-time Student Union President, recalls what it was like to be a one of the first members of this new college:

“It had a very real sense of community, which I think all the colleges did. The fact that we were the first people in meant that we inherited no traditions. If there were going to be any traditions it would be those that we made for ourselves, and there was something quite nice about that. There was also the mix of undergraduate, postgraduate, and young members of staff all living in a single community...”

To make it to the very last stop of our tour take a walk through Alcuin towards the National Science Learning Centre and Hull York Medical School located behind the university library.
32 – Hull York Medical School

The final point on our tour is HYMS, the Hull York Medical School, a partnership between the University of Hull and York. Its facilities are spread between the two university campuses with only medical students using the building here in York.

HYMS prides itself on its strong reputation. At undergraduate level, the School is known for incorporating problem based learning techniques and places a strong emphasis on the clinical component of its degree, half of which is made up of primary care. Speaking here about the schools’ unique adoption of Problem Based Learning is Dr. Giles Davidson, head of administration for the school.

“Essentially, the PBL has split medical education into two tribes almost. So there was the PBL tribe and the non-PBL tribe, and the PBL tribe were reasonably fundamentalist about not providing additional information to your medical students. You give them their problem and its then up to them to go and research it. You can give them a little bit of resources, you can give them some resources to research that problem with, but it’s up to them. The HYMS approach was less hard-line than that, it was a little bit more of a mixed economy, so we built around our two problem-based learning sessions in the week, we built around those sessions that we called resource sessions. So some of those were lectures, some of those were anatomy practicals, and so our implementation of problem-based learning was actually quite radical because it bridged the gap between the two medical education philosophies, I guess, really. In addition we delivered problem-based learning using facilitators who were mostly general practitioners”

At a postgraduate level the school also offers a wide range of accredited qualifications and professional development opportunities.

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Thanks a lot for taking our campus tour, we hope it was helpful! If you haven’t done so already, be sure to take a trip into the city. With a huge array of tourist attractions such as the Minster, the Shambles and the Jorvik Viking Centre not to mention the large number of local cafes and restaurants to choose from there’s plenty to do. Alternatively a walk around the city walls is always a great way of getting a feel for the city. You can get to town via the number 44 or number 4 bus that stops off at both parts of campus, with the specific stops all marked upon the self-guided tour brochure. For any more information you’d like regarding the city feel free to pop in and ask our friendly staff down at the information centre and wherever you go from here, enjoy the rest of your day!