

BUSINESS SCHOOL AND GROWTH HUB GLOUCESTERSHIRE



LOCATION: GLOUCESTER
CLIENT: UNIVERSITY OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE
COMPLETION: 2018
VALUE: £17M
SIZE: 5,500M²
SERVICE: ARCHITECTURE, INTERIOR DESIGN, LANDSCAPE
SECTOR: EDUCATION
CONTRACTOR: WILLMOTT DIXON
STRUCTURES: ARUP
SERVICES: ARUP

The new £17m flagship Business School and Growth Hub building for the University of Gloucestershire is a central part of the wider development of the University's Oxstalls Campus. It provides 5,500m² of purpose-built learning spaces to accommodate the expanding student population and academic offering, whilst consolidating the University's presence within Gloucester.

As the most significant element of the campus masterplan, the Business School forges links to the remodelled sports facility and new student accommodation, as well as including significant areas of meadowland, hard landscaping, car parking and making provision for a future phase of development of approximately 5,000m².



The Business School exhibits our creative yet pragmatic approach to design. It is an efficient, compact form of 3 storeys that has been developed to maximise its location, signalling its presence from the moment of arrival on the campus, and using a considered palette of building materials to showcase the key activity spaces to students and visitors alike. The design supports ambitious and forward-looking developments in the University's pedagogy, and includes an innovative collaborative lecture theatre, moot court, trading room, generous and varied breakout spaces, as well as seminar and office space.

A triple height atrium forms a central multi-functional gathering space, which is light filled and has a high degree of transparency, aiding inter-connectivity and communication. The atrium links the key spaces of the building including the reception, external terrace and cafe, and is given further activity and interest through the feature stair and Lynn Chadwick sculptures.

A significant proportion of the building accommodates the relocated and expanded

Growth Hub: a Local Enterprise Partnership funded facility that is seen as a national exemplar of business support. The synergies between the University and the Growth Hub have been promoted through the design: maximising interaction, collaboration and knowledge transfer between both parties.

Austin-Smith:Lord have successfully led the multi-disciplinary team on what has been an exciting yet demanding project. Key challenges experienced include building adjacent a flood zone, stringent planning conditions and a constricted, ecologically sensitive site. The project has been delivered on time, and on budget. It has been designed to BIM Level 2 and has achieved a BREEAM Excellent rating, through use of a number of pragmatic measures such as super-insulated envelope, natural ventilation and heat recovery. The project has been procured under a JCT Design + Build 2011 contract with the design team being novated at RIBA stage 4.

Austin-Smith:Lord consulted with over 100 stakeholders to garner as comprehensive an understanding as possible of ideas,

thoughts, and aspirations, whilst managing the often competing needs and requirements of diverse parties involved in the project. Regular meetings and feedback sessions with stakeholders took place throughout the design and construction of the building, and are seen as a primary reason for the success of the project.

