

FURTHER and HIGHER EDUCATION

Further Education

There are six main further education colleges in Tyne and Wear.

The colleges operate from multiple campuses giving easy access to educational courses no matter where you are.

The colleges operate part-time, full time, work-based and college based courses as well as seminars, short courses, consultancy and business services for local companies.

The G6 Partnership, which was formed in 2000, is an organisation working to improve and raise the profile of education in Tyne and Wear.

The G6 partnership consists of the colleges of Sunderland, Gateshead, Newcastle, North Tyneside, South Tyneside and Tynemouth.

The partnership works with key figures in education, business and government to promote Tyne and Wear as a centre of excellence, which shares best practice and works to introduce education innovation.

	No of Students	No of Courses
Gateshead College	23,900	2,300
Newcastle College	35,000	1,500
North Tyneside College	18,800	800
South Tyneside College	17,000	2,500
Sunderland College	19,534	1,000
Tynemouth College	1,200	118

Higher Education

Tyne and Wear has three large universities, which are committed to working with businesses and agencies to provide post graduates with the skills for tomorrow.

Graduate retention is a major strategic goal for the region. This process has been accelerated as other activities across Tyne and Wear stimulate the business climate and create more opportunities for graduates.

The region has 5 universities Newcastle, Northumbria, Sunderland, Durham and Teesside, each having its own characteristics and strengths and all providing support to businesses.

	Full and Part Time Students		Graduates
	Home or UK	Overseas	
Newcastle	16,350	1,457	4,146
Northumbria	21,236	2,676	3,823
Sunderland	14,500	1,500	2,450
Durham	23,677	3,900	4,800
Teesside	15,100	1,000	1,800
TOTAL	90,863	10,533	17,019

Source: University websites for 2003-2004 Academic Year.

More students than ever before are now attending these universities and a rising number are joining and remaining within the local workforce.

Knowledge House is a collaborative service offered by the five universities and the Open University in the North.

Their services are available to all companies, organisations and individuals to gain access to expert solutions for developing ideas and solving problems through collaboration, consultation, training and research.

Services include:

- Graduate placement programmes
- Free initial diagnosis of problems
- Rapid and confidential response service
- Appropriate local expertise
- Introductions to academics
- Advice on grant options
- Delivery monitoring
- Support and guidance throughout the project

Key Points

- Gateshead Council is committed to raising educational standards and achievement
- Gateshead school results are above national average
- Local colleges provide a full range of further education programmes
- Regional Universities work in partnership to provide expert skills, knowledge, facilities and support to businesses
- The regions universities produce over 15,000 graduates each year
- More graduates are remaining in the region