

Faculty of Arts

“The Faculty of Arts provides a stimulating and welcoming community where students can enjoy a high quality educational experience. Colleagues in the faculty have been recognised for their outstanding and inspirational teaching, both with awards and impressive National Student Survey results. Academic colleagues produce world-leading research and, following our strong REF 2014 results, we aim to continue to promote a thriving research environment. The faculty has a tremendous range of facilities to support learning including a theatre, museum, recital hall, galleries, libraries, Manuscripts and Special Collections, and digital resources with the latest graphics equipment and software. We look forward to welcoming you as part of the faculty's staff.”

Professor Jeremy Gregory
Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Faculty of Arts



Students of the brass orchestra in the University Park Rehearsal Hall.

The arts at Nottingham

The Faculty of Arts is a large and diverse faculty encompassing the School of Cultures, Languages and Area Studies (CLAS), School of English, and School of Humanities. The faculty is home to associated Centres and Institutes, and a member of the Midlands3Cities Doctoral Training Partnership. The Faculty of Arts is spread across both The University of Nottingham Ningbo China (UNNC) and The University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus (UNMC), meaning that studying the arts at Nottingham is a truly global undertaking.

University Park Campus

Schools on our award winning University Park Campus, set within 120 hectares of extensive parkland, are located in the iconic Trent Building, the Humanities Building, Lenton Grove and the Nottingham Lakeside Arts complex.

Jubilee Campus and Sutton Bonington Campus

Although most of the teaching within the three schools in the faculty will take place on University Park Campus, all University of Nottingham students and staff are able to use the study and leisure facilities on Jubilee and Sutton Bonington Campuses.

The University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus (UNMC)

Collectively, the schools of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences represent one of the most dynamic and innovative centres for teaching and learning in Southeast Asia.

All work closely with their sister schools in the UK and China, offering students a uniquely privileged education.

The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences is comprised of eight schools, including the School of Education; School of English; School of Modern Languages and Cultures; and School of Politics, History and International Relations. Although the faculty has a slightly different format on the international campuses, the teaching it offers is of the same high standard as on the UK campuses.

The University of Nottingham Ningbo China (UNNC)

The Faculty of Arts and Education on UNNC is made up of the Schools of English, Education, International Communications, and the Centre for English Language Education. Although, like UNMC, the faculty has a slightly different format in China, the teaching it offers is of the same high standard as on the UK campuses.

Vision

Our vision is to gain national and international recognition for our achievements, as measured by the quality of our teaching and research, and our broader contribution to and engagement with the communities in which we live and work. This ambition is set in a time of increasing public awareness and interest in our society, its history and culture, and its place within the global community.

We will achieve this via our:

- global reach – delivering arts programmes both in the UK and at The University of Nottingham Ningbo China and The University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus
- talented people – working and learning in a vibrant and supportive academic community
- commitment to inspirational teaching
- outstanding environment and facilities
- world-class centres delivering fundamental and applied research

Research

The research carried out through the faculty is of the highest standard, as reflected in the outcome of the most recent research assessment. In the Faculty of Arts at Nottingham, more than 97% of research is of international quality according to the 2014 Research Excellence Framework (REF), with 72% graded as 'world-leading' or 'internationally excellent'. Five of the 11 units submitted were in the top 10 by research power. This is testimony to the high impetus on research at the University and the dedication and application of our academic staff.

The faculty is home to 27 different centres and institutes, dedicated to particular areas of research. The breadth of research covered in the faculty is considerable, meaning that the faculty is at the cutting edge of new research in a broad range of disciplines. The knowledge gained through this research converts directly into teaching material, ensuring that students in the department are taught by the leading minds in their particular field.

The Centre for Advanced Studies (CAS) at Nottingham was established in 2010 to provide a centre for international excellence in the arts and social sciences. To this end, CAS champions key research clusters and partnerships within its annual programme of activities to help build research capacity, and support emerging research areas at Nottingham. Some current areas of research specialism include medieval studies, creative sector engagement, cultures and communications, health humanities and digital humanities.

Nottingham is the lead institution in the £14.6m Arts and Humanities Research Council funded Midlands3Cities Doctoral Training Partnership. This key partnership has served to strengthen academic relations with arts and humanities faculties from the universities of Birmingham, Birmingham City, De Montfort, Leicester and Nottingham Trent. The Doctoral Training Partnership supports the personal and professional development of the next generation of arts and humanities doctoral researchers.

Teaching

In the Faculty of Arts we place a high value on research-led teaching and learning. Our mission is to promote scholarship, provide students with opportunities to develop skills that help them with the transition from higher education study to employment and encourage a lifelong approach to learning.

A degree from Nottingham is a statement of skill, innovation and quality. A key part of this is the value we place on research-led teaching that enables students to engage creatively with new and exciting ideas. Our students are taught by academics who are leaders in their fields of research, a unique advantage for our students who are respected and valued by employers. With excellent local and international links, Nottingham graduates receive the best education and are amongst the most sought-after in the world.

The faculty provides a wide variety of courses at undergraduate, postgraduate and research level in single and interdisciplinary subjects, with a complementary language programme accessible to all staff and students.

At undergraduate level, the aim of our teaching strategy is to develop graduates who have a thorough grounding in their subject of study, are aware of research, have a critical approach to knowledge, can study independently, and have the skills and attributes to be successful in employment. We are particularly keen to ensure our students have a well-balanced programme of lectures, tutorials and seminars.

We are committed to giving our students the 'Nottingham Edge' – an unrivalled combination of quality and excellence, strength and pragmatism, enabled learning, boldness and innovation, respect and tolerance. Our success in this is confirmed by our status as one of the most popular universities in the UK among graduate employers (High Fliers Research 2013, 2014 and 2015).

The teaching quality for the subjects provided by all three schools in the faculty has been assessed by the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA). The results across the board were highly impressive. 90% of all research done at the University was found to be of an 'international standard', with 60% classified as 'world leading' or 'internationally excellent'. The faculty also scored highly in this assessment. Several departments ranked 1st in the country for research power, while in some schools, 100% of research was of an 'international standard'.

Knowledge exchange

We work with a variety of organisations across the creative industries in order to fuel innovative research and collaboration between the arts and commercial enterprises. Our interest is not only ground-breaking research, but the communication of our findings into a wider sphere. We understand that in interacting with the business world, our research findings maintain their relevance as they have impact on day to day life.

The faculty has strong links with other educational institutions, as well as community projects and charitable organisations. These links are forged not only through our academics, but our students as well. Students from our three schools are encouraged to participate in community engagement schemes which include working with local school children. Their passion for their subject and their eagerness to share it with others is evidence of our success.

Facts

- More than 428 academic and support staff in the faculty plus The University of Nottingham Ningbo China and The University of Malaysia Campus
- Over 4,900 undergraduates and postgraduates in three schools plus The University of Nottingham Ningbo China and The University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus
- The faculty attracted £2m for new research awards in 2013/14
- Outstanding local, national and international links with external organisations

New investment

Significant investment in teaching and research facilities has enabled the faculty to broaden its areas of expertise and continue to deliver a world-class education to all arts students at Nottingham.

The extended and refurbished grade II listed Highfield House Building located on the University Park Campus was opened in September 2012. It is home to the Centre for Advanced Studies in Arts and Social Sciences, the Graduate School and the Arts and Social Science Graduate Centre, which provides dedicated postgraduate facilities to Arts and Social Science Students.

The Humanities Building, opened in 2011, and the adjacent recently extended Lenton Grove, is home to the departments of Archaeology, Classics, History, History of Art, Philosophy and Theology and Religious Studies, and the Digital Humanities Centre. The multi-million pound investment provides a fully equipped space for modern learning, teaching and research, and facilitates inter-disciplinary activity. The Department of Music occupies purpose-built facilities in the Nottingham Lakeside Arts complex, with investments in the field of music technology.

The Schools of CLAS and English, and the Language Centre, are in the iconic Trent Building and continue to invest in spaces and equipment to facilitate changing student and staff requirements.

We continually invest in our facilities, adapting and improving them to ensure that we maintain the highest standards.

New/future developments

The faculty has ambitious plans to grow its research and teaching and learning portfolios, not just in size, but also in quality and excellence. The faculty will continue to develop and extend existing inter-faculty and inter-campus and creative industry collaborations, on a local, national and international scale. Schools in the faculty will continue to deliver and develop excellent provision through innovative teaching and learning techniques within their current courses, and the opportunity for inter-disciplinary study and research will increase. In addition, work on developing new and exciting degree programmes will also take place, including the introduction of an Arts and Humanities with Foundation Year.

Key to all new and future developments are our academic colleagues, and we are committed to nurturing ambition and talent in our drive to be the best national and international arts faculty.