

Campus university

A **campus university** is a [British](#) term for a [university](#) situated on one site, with student accommodation, teaching and research facilities, and leisure activities all together. It is derived from the [Latin](#) term [campus](#), meaning "a flat expanse of land, plain, field".^[1]

The founding of these new institutions initiated a wave of far reaching expansion in [higher education](#) within the UK and helped open access to Higher Education to students who found access to the more traditional universities difficult or closed. The traditional universities tended to attract students from the exclusive private education sector in the UK and from privileged backgrounds whereas Campus Universities attracted students from all classes, backgrounds and schools (especially the state funded [Grammar](#) and then later [Comprehensive](#) schools).

These institutions also promoted "new" courses of study and so helped initiate not just a great expansion in numbers of students but in the range of subjects studied.

Therefore many students in the Campus Universities, particularly in the post war period 1950 to 1970 were the first member of their family ever to go to University and studying new and "exciting" topics, which lent a radical edge to the experience of Higher Education.

Campus universities are contrasted to [collegiate universities](#), based on a number of colleges (such as Oxford, Durham, London or Cambridge Universities) or a university consisting of a number of sites, or even individual buildings, spread throughout a town (such as Edinburgh University or the University of Sheffield). Confusingly, multi-site universities often call each separate site "a campus" and many original campus universities now have expanded to more than one site (or campus), for example the [University of Nottingham](#).

The classic **campus university** is often found on the edge of cities, such as the [University of Bath](#) which is just outside the city of [Bath](#), the [University of Sussex](#) which is a few miles from the city of Brighton, the [University of East Anglia](#) which is just on the edge of the city of [Norwich](#), the [University of Kent](#) which is just on the edge of the city of [Canterbury](#), the [University of Essex](#) near [Colchester](#), the [University of Warwick](#) near [Coventry](#), [Lancaster University](#) near the city of [Lancaster](#), [Keele University](#) near [Newcastle-under-Lyme](#), [Staffordshire](#) or [Stirling University](#) on the outskirts of [Stirling](#) and the [University of York](#) on the outskirts of [York](#). [Aston University](#) in Birmingham is a classic campus university, but located in the centre of the city.

References

Oxford Latin Dictionary, ed. P. G. W. Glare, Oxford University Press, Oxford (1982), p. 263

See also:

- [Robbins Report](#)
- [British universities](#)
- [New Universities](#)
- [Russell Group](#)
- [1994 Group](#)

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