



At Chatham Maritime, the South East England Development Agency's (SEEDA) flagship site in the heart of the Thames Gateway, the Universities at Medway has already seen student numbers rise to nearly 7,000.



The student population is adding an estimated £10m to the local economy per annum

Made up of a partnership of the University of Greenwich, University of Kent, Canterbury Christ Church University and Mid-Kent College, this multi-million pound scheme is supported by SEEDA, Communities and Local Government (CLG), Medway Council and the Higher Education Funding Council. They play a key role in providing the skills and learning opportunities needed to create sustainable communities in the Thames Gateway area.

Each institution offers a wide range of courses and welcomes applicants without traditional qualifications, as well as those entering from higher education through a more formal route.

The prestigious Medway School of Pharmacy, also has its home at the Chatham Maritime campus. It was started by the universities of Greenwich and Kent in 2004 and has been approved by the Royal Pharmaceutical School of Great Britain.

A number of listed former Naval buildings have been converted for the Universities, including the former Grade II listed Drill Hall which is now a £12m Learning Resource Centre with teaching facilities and is open to all students enrolled with the Universities at Medway.

Until the mid 1990s when the University of Greenwich first

decided to start up a campus at Chatham Maritime, Medway – with a population of 250,000 people – had no university provision at all. Such is the success of the Universities at Medway today that student numbers are now predicted to rise from 7,000 to more than 10,000 by 2012. Already the student population is adding an estimated £10m to the local economy per annum.

Meanwhile the new University Centre in Folkestone (UCF) opened to students in September 2007. The Centre draws together Canterbury Christ Church University and the University of Greenwich at a shared campus in the heart of Folkestone's Creative Quarter. The £10m project received funding and support from the Creative Foundation; SEEDA; the Higher Education Funding Council and the two Universities.

The UCF aims to increase Higher Education participation among residents in Folkestone through the provision of a range of courses at undergraduate and postgraduate level. The campus forms a key part of the education-led regeneration of Folkestone and the southern Kent economy, and is already increasing the social vibrancy of the town and its perception as a place to live, work and study.

For more information about both schemes please visit www.seeda.co.uk

