Kent Science Park

A new training centre run via the International Institute of Biotechnology and based at the Kent Science Park is playing its part in improving the graduate skills base in Swale and helping to bridge the important gap between academia and the science business community in the South East.

Kent Science Resource Centre (KSRC) now enables students to study for a degree in Swale for the first time ever after the new learning and training facility opened its doors in September 2007.

The KSRC, has been established with the collaboration of stakeholders from the Life Science industry sector and is designed to significantly improve the skills and training opportunities for students eager to enter the world of bioscience, research and technology and has welcomed its first cohort of students on a modern Foundation Degree in Life Science Laboratory Technology and Bio-Manufacturing. The course is aimed precisely at the practical skills needed by the Life Science industries in the UK.

The Foundation Degree, which is being delivered by Mid-Kent College and Canterbury Christ Church University, is validated by the University of Kent and with further support from the University of Greenwich at Medway.

A combined investment of approx. £1.6m from the government department – Communities and Local Government – and the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) with additional support from Kent Science Park, has made it possible for the KSRC to offer teaching laboratories with state-of-the-art scientific equipment, as well as lecture rooms.

As well as offering degree-level educational opportunities, the KSRC will also work with leading pharmaceutical companies to offer additional vocational training courses and it has been recognised as important in developing the region's skills base by SEEDA.

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Improving opportunities for students in bioscience, research and technology