The PLuS Alliance Engineering University

The PLuS Alliance is seeking to establish a new type of engineering university in London by September 2020

A range of analyses, including the *Working Futures 2012-2022* report, and forecasts on the number and type of engineering graduates in the UK by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA), show that the UK will not produce enough engineers to fill expected employment demands by 2022. This shortage in engineering skills is reflected in other major reports including one from Engineering UK, which concludes that the UK will experience annual shortfalls of at least 20,000 engineers. The Royal Academy of Engineering is strongly urging the UK to develop a digitally driven and data-enabled economy. About 8% of engineering undergraduates in the UK are women, and the UK has the lowest percentage of female engineering professionals in the EU.

The new university seeks to be a catalyst for positive change.

In direct response to the critical issues prioritised by the UK Government, the PLuS Alliance seeks to set up a joint-venture private university under the provisions of the UK Higher Education and Research Act 2017.

**The vision is:**

- To establish an engineering university in London that specialises in creating socially aware and globally focused engineers with a distinctively strong design and entrepreneurship skillset.
- To attract and empower a highly diverse body of students, giving them the skills to solve complex contemporary challenges, while providing employers with job-ready graduates through an accelerated learning program.

**The business goals include:**

- A curriculum co-designed and co-delivered by employers.
- A culture and pedagogy that puts the employability of students first.
- A location within a commercial and public sector eco-system in the centre of London.
- A student population with gender balance and a 50:50 domestic/international mix.

In essence, this will be a distinctive offering that responds to needs and produces graduates equipped to make immediate and significant contributions to society via their immersion in practical, industry-led projects throughout their time at the university.

The new university will be passionate about maximising the student experience, in terms of learning outcomes, the creativity of the digitally enhanced learning environment and the many touchpoints with industry and community partners.
The new university will:

- Champion accelerated, technology enhanced, project-based and student-directed learning.
- Produce work-ready graduates with technical and digital skills, creativity, entrepreneurialism, social awareness and global knowledge.
- Increase access to quality education for employees, mature-age entrants and school-leavers via an open enrolment process based on interviews and assessments for those students motivated by the idea of tackling real-world, people-centric and global problems.
- Provide STEM education pathways for under-represented groups.
- Solve industry challenges in collaborative maker spaces.

Student-recruitment activities will be tailored to identify and respond to the needs of at least six market segments:

- A-Level school students in the UK across multiple disciplines.
- BTEC students.
- Female school students in the UK.
- Students from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- Mature students in the UK.
- School students from other nations.

The new university will be registered with the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) and will be an in-market partner to King’s College London, working in an aligned way to support the aspirations and needs of both institutions.

Strategic relationships will be formed with industries in the UK and in target markets, as well as with the UK Government, education-pathway organisations, foreign governments and universities, and STEM advocacy groups.

About the PLuS Alliance

King’s College London, Arizona State University and UNSW Sydney - universities with global standing and reach - came together in 2016 to form the PLuS Alliance, a partnership that seeks to deliver solutions to global challenges and expand access to world-class learning. All three universities offer exceptional skills in engineering education.

Arizona State University has one of the biggest and most digitally focused engineering schools in the Western world with 21,000 students and access to many high-level industry partners. UNSW Sydney, with a comprehensive suite of degrees and 14,000 students, is a leading engineering university in Asia. King’s College London has a world-class biomedical engineering hub and globally acknowledged strengths in computer science, robotics and telecommunications.

The Alliance is committed to partnering with governments, industries and communities to develop skills, drive innovation and create sustainable growth.