



'Making a Mark'

Gold Mark Holder Social Impact Declaration

The University of Northampton

The University of Northampton offers more than just a degree. Our unique approach to social enterprise and our global reputation for producing graduates with exceptional employability reflects our commitment to this. We want to break the mould of what Higher Education can be.



As one of the few universities to be ranked Gold in the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF), we know that sharing knowledge, supporting creativity and striving to make a positive difference will change the future. What motivates us is the drive to help people make the changes that will transform their lives.

We were awarded the Social Enterprise Gold Mark in June 2017, joining a growing network of 'gold standard' social enterprises. The Gold Mark criteria includes a requirement for all applicants and renewing Mark Holders to provide 'social impact statements', which illustrate how they are striving to meet their social/ environmental objectives.

Below are examples of how **The University of Northampton** is Making a Mark, striving to create a lasting positive impact on people and planet.

Transforming lives and inspiring change

Our mission is to 'transform lives and inspire change'. We do this by putting our students at the heart of our strategic plan 'Transforming Lives + Inspiring Change'.

Website: www.northampton.ac.uk/
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As a member of the international Ashoka U group of universities (a designated Changemaker campus), we are committed to Changemaker values, which focus on higher education to achieve a positive social impact. These values underpin all our teaching, learning, employability, research and enterprise.

Embedding social value across the institution

The University is committed to a holistic approach to delivering an exceptional student experience for all which has Changemaker and social impact at its heart. Our Changemaker designation recognises our systemic approach to delivering social impact through social innovation and enterprise. Social innovation is a core competence of the University, which runs through everything we do.

We invest in activities that create social value and enhance the student experience in ways that contribute to our Changemaker Challenges. For example:

- embedding change making within the curriculum
- redesigning our learning outcomes to embed Changemaker and employability within learning and teaching
- curriculum engagement with communities through placements and assignments that lead to new ventures and social enterprise activities that improve peoples' lives

Delivering social value through procurement

We are committed to delivering greater social value and social impact through our procurement processes. One of the ways in which we are delivering social impact and social value is through the construction of our new £330m Waterside Campus.

We embedded social impact in the tendering processes from the very beginning with robust and measured KPIs for construction, and developed a Social Impact Action Plan, which was distributed to all interested contractors.



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