



---

## Education

---

---

### Schools

---

The Education Service in Plymouth has been nationally assessed as high performing, with Plymouth City Council aiming to continue this success by providing high quality learning opportunities for all its residents.

Key Education objectives for the City Council over the next three years include improving the quality of school buildings, extending inclusive educational opportunities for pupils with special needs, raising pupil attainment and ensuring there are a range of formal and informal curriculum opportunities available to young people.

To achieve this, Plymouth City Council has started a £47m PFI (Private Finance Initiative) capital expenditure programme aimed at putting education at the heart of the city's regeneration. The programme involves the construction of seven new schools by 2010 and is designed to tackle the problems of outdated buildings and falling rolls in some areas.

Plymouth's secondary schools will also benefit from the Government's Building Schools for the Future programme, a large investment programme to replace every secondary school in the country. Currently, Plymouth is scheduled to receive the bulk of the funding awarded after 2016; however, meetings have taken place with the Department for Children, Schools and Families with a view to bringing the timetable forward.

Within Plymouth's boundary are 75 state primary school, with the majority of surrounding towns and villages also having their own primary schools.

There are 17 state secondary schools, all of which have specialist status making Plymouth one of only two Local Authorities to have this accolade. These specialisms are:

- Technology
- Science
- Mathematics and computing
- Engineering
- Sports
- Language
- Business and enterprise
- Humanities
- Arts vocational and arts performing



Three secondary schools in the city are selective grammar and there are also a number of Catholic and Church of England schools at both primary and secondary level.

Plymouth also has eight schools for children with disabilities and special needs.

There are six independent private primary and secondary schools (four offering places for 3 - 11 year olds and two for 11 - 18 year olds, the latter offering boarding facilities). Kelly College, located in nearby Tavistock, also offers independent education.

For the year 2006, the GCSE results for Plymouth showed 59.4% of pupils achieving the five A\*-C benchmark compared to the English average of 59.2%. Devonport High School for Boys and Devonport High School for Girls achieved 99% and 98% respectively.

The three grammar schools, Devonport High School for Boys and Devonport High School and Plymouth High School for Girls achieved some of the highest A-level average scores in the country, whilst Hele's School was also one of the top A-level performers with students achieving an average of 861.6 points compared to the English average of 721.5.

In addition there are two further education colleges in Plymouth – City College and Plymouth College of Art and Design.

---

## Higher Education

---

---

### University of Plymouth

---

[www.plymouth.ac.uk](http://www.plymouth.ac.uk)

The University of Plymouth has 26,000 full-time students with a further 6,000 at partner colleges, and comprises seven faculties located at Plymouth and Exeter, as well as teaching facilities at Truro and Taunton. The faculties are:

- Arts
- Education
- Health and Social Work
- Science
- Social Science and Business
- Technology
- University of Plymouth Colleges

Known for its innovative courses, the University covers subjects as diverse as Applied Marine Sports Science, Zoological Conservation Management, Contemporary Jazz and Naval Studies, and has been recognised by the Government as one of the country's top universities for teaching excellence, securing an extra £18 million in funding over the next five years. 15 of the University's subject areas have been ranked excellent or equivalent, and its portfolio of marine-based degrees is the most extensive in the UK.



The University of Plymouth has a long record of high quality innovative research which is organised into Research Centres (eg Centre for Theoretical and Computational Neuroscience and Centre for Coastal Dynamics and Engineering) and Groups. The outcome of the 2001 Research Assessment Exercise was extremely successful, with the following areas attaining levels of national and international excellence:

- Computer Science
- Civil Engineering
- Electrical and Electronic Engineering
- Environmental Sciences
- Geography
- History of Art, Architecture and Design
- Local Government Election Studies
- Mechanical, Aeronautical and Manufacturing Engineering
- Psychology
- Social Policy and Administration
- Sociology

The University of Plymouth can help business and public sector services thrive by combining its expertise and resources with an organisation's knowledge and skills to achieve extraordinary results through working together.

The University has recently undertaken a programme of major investment in facilities to take it further towards its stated mission of delivering teaching and research to world-class standards and being recognised as a university of excellence. Current and future investments include:

- £30 million building to provide state-of-the-art teaching accommodation and a new home for the Faculty of Arts
- £30 million building for the Peninsula Medical School, Faculty of Health and Social Work, Faculty of Science and departments in Technology
- £36 million in new research and teaching facilities for health and medicine
- £8.3 million refurbishment of science and engineering buildings
- £8 million to enhance and expand library facilities
- £2 million refurbishment to provide a general open-access computing facility, new teaching space and Graduate School
- £1 million nursery facilities for children of students and staff
- £850,000 fitness complex
- £500,000 food technology and dietetics laboratory
- £110,000 on new boats for sailing and diving activities



The University is a partner, along with the University of Exeter and the National Health Service in Devon and Cornwall, of the Peninsula Medical School.

---

**Peninsula College of Medicine and Dentistry**

[www.pms.ac.uk](http://www.pms.ac.uk)

---

The Peninsula Medical School, founded on a unique partnership between the Universities of Exeter and Plymouth and the National Health Service within Devon and Cornwall, was established in August 2000 and commenced delivery of its Undergraduate Programme in Autumn 2002. The School has seven sites, with three in Plymouth, three in Exeter and one in Cornwall, and its head office is located at the Tamar Science Park in Plymouth.

In addition to undergraduate teaching, the School delivers Postgraduate Education, including a new Masters programme, and has a strong research base focused in the Institute of Biomedical and Clinical Science, Institute of Health and Social Care and the Institute of Clinical Education.

Having established a highly successful undergraduate programme, the School was subsequently selected from an intense national competition to create the Peninsula Dental School which trains 62 dentists a year and offers a joint Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) degree through the Universities of Exeter and Plymouth. The four-year undergraduate programme, designed for science graduates or healthcare professional entry, started in September 2007.

---

**Peninsula Radiology Academy**

[www.penra.org.uk](http://www.penra.org.uk)

---

The Department of Health chose Plymouth as one of only three places in the country for a new Radiology Academy (the other two being in Norwich and Leeds). The Peninsula Radiology Academy is both a specific educational environment for radiology trainees and a more general meeting and conferencing facility for other healthcare professionals, and contains a full complement of modern multimedia facilities, clinical simulations, library resources, and areas for peer-group work.

---

**The University College Plymouth St Mark and St John**

[www.marjon.ac.uk](http://www.marjon.ac.uk)

---

The University College Plymouth St Mark and St John (Marjon) has an academic community of approximately 5,000 people. Its educational activities have continued to evolve in response to local, regional, national and international needs, and it is about to undertake an impressive multi-million pound capital investment project which will see further development and refurbishment across the site.



In 2007, Marjon received Taught Degree Awarding Powers which provided it with university college status and the ability to accredit its own degrees (previously awarded by the University of Exeter). With this new status, the college was once again re-titled as it is now known, University College Plymouth St Mark and St John.

The following subject areas are offered by Marjon:

- Children, Youth and Community
- Computing and Information Technology
- Creative Writing
- Drama
- Education and Teacher Training
- English Language Teaching
- English, Language and Literature
- Outdoor, Environment and Geography
- Management
- Media, Public Relations and Culture
- Philosophy
- Applied Psychology
- Sociology
- Speech and Language Therapy
- Sport, Health, Coaching and PE

---

### **City College Plymouth**

---

City College Plymouth (formerly known as Plymouth College of Further Education) provides a wide range of opportunities for obtaining further academic qualifications or undertaking vocational training in a variety of subjects. In particular, the College is strong in the fields of electronics, catering and business studies and there is a Centre of Vocational Excellence (CoVE) in both high technology engineering and hospitality. In March 2004 there were 3,500 students aged 16 to 18 and nearly 14,800 adults students studying through the College.

City College Plymouth can assist companies and organisations of any size (both in the private and public sectors) with the development of their workforce through its range of training and support services. The College offers local businesses a complete training service and can provide training needs analysis, advice about on-site training and tailored training courses.



---

## **Plymouth College of Art and Design**

---

Plymouth College of Art and Design is one of the few remaining specialist art colleges in the country providing both further and higher education, and is one of the main providers of vocational art and design in Devon and Cornwall.

The College offers courses in the following subject areas:

- 3D Design
- Motor Vehicle
- Living Fashion
- Media and Photography
- Design Communications
- Fine Art, Diagnostic Drawing and Painting

The Viewpoint Gallery at the College exhibits work by students and local artists.

---

## **The University of Plymouth Colleges (UPC)**

---

The University of Plymouth Colleges (UPC) network links local colleges and their communities to the University of Plymouth. The network provides higher education courses across Devon, Cornwall, Somerset and Dorset and includes colleges from Penzance to Bristol.

Full UPC members have more than 80% of their education provision linked to the University of Plymouth. Associated membership applies to those colleges that do not meet this threshold and include, amongst many, the community colleges in Plymouth, Weymouth College and Highlands College in Jersey.

