

## Universities

North East England has five universities (Durham, Newcastle, Northumbria, Sunderland, Teesside) that contribute to healthcare & life science research. They discover and apply knowledge through research, teaching and transfer to the community – and interact extensively with the region's industrial base. To benefit companies and other organisations based in the region, there is a collective output of over 14,000 graduates each year, backed by a strong intelligence infrastructure.

The region also has the support of a network of 24 Further Education colleges offering vocational courses such as HNDs and HNCs, and a range of courses developed in conjunction with the region's major employers.

Our universities work closely with industry. The fifth annual Higher education-business and community interaction (HE-BCI) survey report (HEFCE 2006/25) published jointly by the Department of Trade & Industry (DTI) and the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), measured the number of hours spent by staff 'engaging with commercial partners' at all 160 universities and higher education colleagues in the UK. Newcastle University came out top, with the equivalent of 134 staff working full time with businesses at any one time.