

Merger between HCUC (Harrow College & Uxbridge College) and RuTC (Richmond upon Thames College) FAQs

1. Why we are merging

We are confident that by joining forces we will be able to do more for our students, and the delivery of a high-quality student experience is at the centre of our proposals. Both HCUC and RuTC are committed to ensuring that the benefits to students increase as a result of this merger, including a shared prioritising of students achieving more, progressing further and being more work ready.

Through the merger the colleges will be “Better Together – Stronger Together”.

2. What are the benefits of the merger?

- **Student Experience** - Current and new students can expect a new college partnership which recognises their individuality and provides a responsive and inspiring programme of study that enables them to progress on to new learning opportunities, university, apprenticeships or employment and supports them in achieving their ambitions. There will be an enhanced offer to students across all colleges, greater learning opportunities and more progression routes.
- **Quality** - Excellent teaching and learning that delivers outstanding outcomes for our students is at the heart of this merger proposal. By joining forces, we will have the combined strength, expertise and resources to accelerate the achievement of improved standards and we will be able to implement a programme of rapid quality improvement.
- **Partnerships** - We will work closely with regional and local employers to address skills gaps. We will be able to prioritise courses and qualifications that are valued by employers, that enable our students to secure great jobs, and will support our economy to compete with the world’s best. We will be able to work with organisations such as Chambers of Commerce to ensure we have a local skills improvement plan that ensures our offer is impactful and beneficial to students, employers and the distinct communities we serve.
- **A Strong Local Offer** - Each college within the partnership will retain its unique brand identity and trading name and will have the freedom to develop and deliver a high-quality education and training offer that responds to local needs.
- **Robust Financial Health** - A combined income of over £70m per annum provides a robust and sustainable financial base to maximise opportunities and resources to invest in an excellent experience for students and communities.

3. When do the colleges become one organisation?

The merger date is 4 January 2023.

4. Will each college keep its own name and brand identity?

Each college within the partnership will retain its unique brand identity and trading name. Each college will be member of the group and the name of the group is HRUC (Harrow, Richmond & Uxbridge Colleges).

5. I am a student at the college, how will the merger affect me?

The colleges deliver a commitment to continuity of provision ensuring that all students will be able to complete their course(s) without any changes to location. The colleges will also deliver a commitment to run programmes in 2023/24 as advertised. Student choice across all three colleges will be enhanced by enabling students to access high quality apprenticeship provision and progress to full and part-time higher education within the group.

HCUC's leadership of a range of high profile and leading-edge initiatives such as T Levels and the new West London Institute of Technology, and RuTC's expertise in the development of new, higher-level employment focused provision, will enable innovation across the whole college partnership. Richmond upon Thames College's new, sector-leading campus will provide the resources and facilities to deliver new learning in state-of-the-art facilities.

We will be providing many more opportunities for our students, across the three colleges, as we further expand our Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) provision through the West London Institute of Technology. This includes a brand-new STEM building with state-of-the-art facilities based at Richmond upon Thames College.

If you have any questions, please contact your Head of School.

6. Will students have to travel between different colleges for their classes?

No, students will not have to travel between colleges. All students will be timetabled for classes at their chosen college.

7. Can students access enrichment and extra-curricular activities at the other colleges?

Students could have the opportunity to enhance their student experience through enrichment activities, work experience, career-related activities, sport and intercollege competitions across all sites.

Students will continue to have their voice heard at each college and we hope students will share their experiences so that we can improve what we do.

8. I have made an application to study at the college next year, will the merger affect my application?

No, each college looks forward to welcoming you and supporting you to meet your potential.