

## Case study

# Coventry University creates industry-class learning environment



## HP Z230 Workstations deliver performance upgrade to enhance student experience

### Industry

Education and Engineering

### Objective

Refresh engineering department workstations to keep pace with software demands

### Approach

Match industry-standard computing performance

### IT matters

- Ensures computing performance will accommodate software requirements
- Establishes technology roadmap for future hardware upgrades

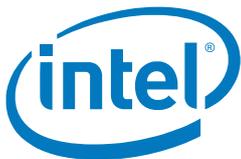
### Business matters

- Delivers three-year hardware refresh, confirming University's reputation as a technology leader
- Enables seamless experience between University and industry



**“The HP Z230 Workstations are not status acquisitions. They’re workhorses. The speed in which software requirements accelerate, particularly with CAD CAM design software, means we need to upgrade. The HP Z Workstations match our requirements and the Intel® Processor is great quality.”**

– Neil Shorthouse, head of local delivery, ITS, Coventry University



### Enhancing the student experience

Coventry University keeps pace with software demands whilst creating an industry-class learning environment with HP Z230 Workstations.



## Challenge

### Establishing global recognition for the ever-modern university

Coventry University is a mid-sized UK university with big ambitions. Since being granted University status in 1992 Coventry University has expanded student numbers from 20,000 to 37,000. It plans to reach 80,000 within five years; it will achieve this with the expansion of its London Campus and the opening of a new campus in Scarborough, along with expansion in China, India and Turkey. Part of its growth strategy is to attract fee-paying international students.

It has four faculties: Arts & Humanities; Engineering, Environmental & Computing; Business & Law; Health & Life Sciences. The university aims to build a reputation for excellence in each of these faculties.

Coventry University prides itself on being a thoroughly modern university. The Coventry campus is currently undergoing £160m of investment; Coventry University was the first of the post-war universities to break into the top 30 of the UK's university rankings. In November 2015 it was awarded the prestigious title of 'University of the Year' in the annual Times Higher Education (THE) Awards.

The judges praised Coventry University's focus on its student-centred approach to learning, its efforts to make higher education more affordable and accessible; and the transformation in its research strategy.

"We have a policy to refresh all student-facing computers within three years," says Neil Shorthouse, head of local delivery, ITS, Coventry University. "It means, at some point in their three-year degree course, students will see our investment in the latest equipment. That is important in two ways: it ensures we maintain appropriate performance levels, and it confirms our reputation among students as being a university which invests in technology."

The Engineering faculty, housed in a £55m state-of-the-art building, opened in 2012. It was due a technology refresh for the start of the 2015 academic year. "When we moved to the new building we wanted suitably high-level, statement workstations," says Shorthouse. "We'd gone for HP Z200 Workstations throughout. The refresh would need to build on these performance levels."

## Solution

### Delivering the processing power to absorb increasing software demands

The HP solution is for 1,000 HP Z230 Workstations, along with 15 HP ZBook 15 Mobile Workstations. The HP Z Workstations are powered by Intel® Xeon® processors.

Built for heavy 24x7x365 workloads, with flexible storage and I/O capabilities, the HP Z230 Workstation efficiently handles all the processes of today's demanding business applications. In addition, the latest Intel® Xeon® processor E3-1200 v3 family and the 4th generation Intel® Core™ processors, as well as rich graphics are designed to keep up with increasing workloads.

## Customer solution at a glance

### Hardware

- HP Z230 Workstations
- HP ZBook 15 Mobile Workstations

“To be clear, the HP Z230 Workstations are not status acquisitions. They’re workhorses. The speed in which software requirements accelerate, particularly with CAD CAM design software, means we need to upgrade. The HP Workstations match our requirements and is great quality,” comments Shorthouse.

## Benefits

### Ensuring students enjoy industry-standard performance

Coventry University has forged strong links with local manufacturers, the Engineering Faculty’s Employability and Placement team was judged the Best University Placement Service (UK 2015) at the National Undergraduate Employability Awards, with an enviable employability record for graduates. To maintain this reputation, it must ensure students are taught to industry standards.

“Our courses require that we work very closely with industry – Jaguar, Land Rover, Unipart are all local to us, and students need industry-standard performance,” says Shorthouse. “We need the transition between university and industry to be as smooth as possible. Our machines need to perform just as well as those in industry.”

The HP Z230 Workstations provide the confidence that Coventry University’s engineering students will be able to absorb industry-standard software upgrades, today and into the future. Shorthouse says the same long-term thinking applies to the relationship with HP.

“We’re an increasingly HP house,” continues Shorthouse. “We’ve built steadily over the past five years.”

The relationship, he says, is built on trust and vision: “The HP workstations perform, and, judging by the rarity of any issues, they are reliable. Our staff now uses HP laptops. It is good quality equipment.

“Equally important, though, is the HP technology roadmap. The closer we are, the more we see of HP future plans, and that helps us map out future needs. Also, HP gets us great access to industry. As mentioned, we want the university-to-workplace experience to be seamless. HP makes sure we’re covered,” concludes Shorthouse.

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