

# RESILIENCE → ))))))) | NEED TO KNOW GUIDE

## Understanding College & University Risk Control Challenges

This document has been delivered to you via the Business and Property Protection Portal because risk control information is sought for Business Type 'College' or 'University'. This document simply outlines key challenges in this sector; solutions to these will be found in the supplied resource library.

Colleges and universities present a number of risk control challenges due to the laboratories and research facilities, high fire loads, layout of the campus, temporary accommodation and nature of the social facilities.

### General points for consideration

#### Challenges of laboratory and research facilities

- Graduate students working in laboratories with minimal supervision
- Post graduate students working with extremely expensive facilities
- Research involving novel processes or materials (chemical, biological or radioactive)
- The potential for personal injury as well as property damage and business interruption
- The handling, storage and use of hazardous materials
- The potential for explosions or mechanical failure
- Long term experiments or processes having to be allowed to continue unattended

#### Challenges of high fire loads

- Intellectual loss to the college or university of libraries and collections of items of monetary, scientific or philosophical value
- Loss to students of their art works, project materials, dissertations and examination papers
- Very rapid fire spread within a building and between adjacent buildings
- Serious damage or loss of heritage properties

#### Challenges of the layout of the campus

- The security management of college or university premises that are distributed amongst commercial properties over a large area
- Difficulties in monitoring staff and students who are on college property out of normal working hours
- Access and egress for staff and students of all ages and abilities

- Shared cooking facilities and toasters and leaving cooking unattended in halls of residence
- Inappropriate behaviour in the halls of residence (needlessly setting off fire extinguishers, covering smoke detectors etc)

#### Challenges of temporary accommodation

- Temporary use of commercial properties with unknown form of construction and thus potential for fire spread
- Lack of fire detectors or links to the automatic fire detection and alarm system in the main college buildings
- Lack of protection by any water sprinkler system installed in the main college buildings
- Isolation from the security provisions in other parts of the faculty
- Parts of the premises not required for educational purposes being ignored by college authorities and used for clandestine student social activities

#### Challenges of the nature of social facilities

- Slips, trips and falls associated with physical activities and gyms.
- Sports injuries from aggressively competitive events against rival colleges
- Combustible decorations and hot surfaces of sound and lighting equipment in bars and discos.
- Commercial catering kitchens serving food for large numbers of people in refectories

### Key relationships

- Department for Education (England), Department for Education and Skills (Wales), Scottish Education and Training, Department for Education Northern Ireland.
- Your insurer
- Health and Safety Executive
- Local Fire and Police Authorities

