2017 Information Pack
About York Conferences

York Conferences is a subsidiary company of the University of York with over 40 years’ experience in conference management and venue hire, we are experts in our business. By providing a professional hospitality experience, in addition to an accessible and picturesque location, York Conferences offer the ideal location for all of your needs. Located in the beautiful grounds of the University of York, we are easy to reach, have excellent facilities and a team dedicated to bringing you an exceptional service.

Corporate Social Responsibility

As a subsidiary company of the University of York all our profits go back to the University, enabling us to support improved education, learning practices and research. York Conferences has a strong focus on providing eco-friendly and socially responsible services that work in harmony alongside our environment. This commitment has led us to a programme of sustainable development, whereby we use resources such as fuel and water efficiently, monitor the impact of any construction work, and work closely with our local community to ensure we add value where we can.

Location and Accessibility

York is easily accessible, wherever you are travelling from. By train we are just 2 hours from London and 2½ hours from Edinburgh. York Railway Station offers connections throughout the UK. If you are coming by air, Manchester Airport is a 2 hour drive from York whereas Leeds Bradford International Airport is only 45 minutes away. Flights arrive from hundreds of international destinations and there are frequent direct trains to York from Manchester airport. By road we are just 20 minutes from the A1 and have easy access to the M62, M18 and M1.
The City of York

York is a city famous for its shopping, restaurants, bars and boutiques. It provides the ideal location for a leisurely stroll for you and your delegates. The home of famous places such as the Shambles (Europe’s best-preserved Medieval Street) and York Minster, one of the oldest cathedrals in the UK. York has a plethora of places to shop, eat and drink. Whether you are looking to buy gifts and souvenirs, or indulge yourself with some quirky new purchases, York’s bustling shopping scene will offer you everything you need.

York’s History

The story of York begins in Roman times when York found its way onto the map. Since that time, York has blossomed into a thriving cultural capital with a charming atmosphere and attractive and varied tourist facilities.

Romans, Vikings, lost buildings or gunpowder plots – whatever your preference, when it comes to cultural entertainment York does not disappoint. The city is constantly buzzing with a thriving arts and music scene that keeps its visitors enthralled from the moment they step out into the vibrant city. Peppered with references to haunted houses, Guy Fawkes (who was born and raised here), Gothic histories and superb architecture, York is the perfect place to get together for a meeting or a relaxing weekend.

Coupled with the greatest Gothic Cathedral in Europe, York Minster, the city enjoys a well-deserved reputation as one of the UK’s cultural capitals. Rumoured to have a different public house to visit for every day of the year, the city is lively and welcoming, benefiting from the renowned warmth of Yorkshire hospitality. York is steeped in history but also at the forefront of contemporary theatre, music and the arts.
Central Hall

Central Hall is a landmark building at the heart of the University on Campus West.

This auditorium, ideal for the main plenary for larger events, is located in the centre of campus, on the lake, close to the other venues.

Central Hall offers not only a picturesque setting but the facilities are internationally acclaimed.

With enough seating to hold a maximum capacity of 1,190 delegates Central Hall is ideal for large AGMs.

The main seating area located in the centre at the front of Central Hall is large enough to house a full orchestra or theatrical company.

“All the team were fantastic, from catering teams, to tech support to the receptionists. Everyone was extremely helpful and friendly. Nothing was too much trouble and last minute, unexpected requests were dealt with. This was both in the run up to the event and during the weekend. Planning of the event was helped by patient, helpful account managers! Many delegates have said how great the venue staff were.”
April 2016
Exhibition Centre

York Conferences’ Exhibition Centre lies adjacent to Central Hall and provides a unique and modern venue just 2 miles out of the historical city of York.

The Centre includes 900m2 flat floored exhibition space along with 3 tiered lecture theatres and 6 flat floored breakout rooms.

The Exhibition Centre offers an ideal location for exhibitors and sponsors to meet with their target market.

With a variety of breakout rooms available, the Centre is an ideal venue to keep everything together.

Refreshments and buffet lunches can be served throughout the Exhibition Centre, however, for more formal dinners the Galleria Restaurant in the adjacent Roger Kirk Centre is perfect.

“Fantastic, the member of staff we dealt with couldn’t have been more helpful from the moment of enquiring right through to the end of the event. Excellent service, great spaces and amenities, friendly and approachable staff.”

March 2016
Ron Cooke Hub

Central to Campus East is the stunning Ron Cooke Hub. Officially opened in 2011 and named after the esteemed Professor Sir Ron Cooke, a previous Vice Chancellor of the University, the Hub is ideal for any meeting or conference of small to medium size.

The Atrium provides an impressive setting for exhibitions, catering and registration. With the vast amount of natural light and open space, the Atrium provides a welcoming setting for your delegates.

For product launches, look no further than the 360° demonstration space. A purpose built room offering 4 projectors for full surround sound and imagery. The 360° can cater for up to 50 standing delegates however if your event attracts more people then there is a breakout room next door, offering a smooth flow through to view the exhibiting work and have refreshments close by.

Another fantastic feature of the Hub are the ‘Pods’. Three meeting rooms floating on top of the largest plastic bottom lake in Europe, the Pods offer idyllic settings from 1:1 interviews to small meetings (maximum capacity 18).

Full mobility access is available throughout the Ron Cooke Hub and there is onsite parking available.

With the location of the Ron Cooke Hub just 2 minutes’ drive from the York bypass and with the vast array of services on offer, the Hub is an ideal location for your event.
King’s Manor

King’s Manor is one of York’s most historic and stunning venues, attracting visitors from all over the world. Following the dissolution of the monasteries, the Manor was used as the headquarters of the Council of the North. It was subsequently used by the Royalists during the English Civil War and played host to Henry VIII, Charles I and James I.

It displays architectural features dating back to the Elizabethan period. King’s Manor is a breathtaking reminder of our cultural heritage. York Conferences is proud to have King’s Manor included within its portfolio.

A beautiful venue for conferences up to 120 delegates in the main Rahtz Lecture Theatre. The Huntingdon Room provides a stunning backdrop for meetings for up to 90 delegates or can comfortably accommodate smaller groups for board meetings. The adjoining Ante Room provides the ideal space for registration, networking and refreshments from our award winning caterers.

“Thanks so much for all your help with our launch event. It went really well and there were a lot of compliments on the venue and organisation.”

January 2017
Roger Kirk Centre

The Roger Kirk Centre is the largest catering facility York Conferences has to offer. Situated between the Exhibition Centre and James College, this facility is an ideal place to have your breakfast, lunch and evening meal.

The venue contains the main restaurant, bar and Essentials Café, serving Costa coffee, that can be used separately or in combination to provide an outstanding dining experience.

The Galleria restaurant with its raised balcony and raised stage features a large open area for dining for up to 450 or 700 as a standing reception. The Lounge Bar offers the perfect spot for delegates and organisers to relax and enjoy a cup of coffee or a pre-dinner drink.

“"The food was, as always, brilliant. Great sized portions, lots of variety, lovely food.""

APRIL 2016
Vanbrugh and Derwent Colleges

Opened in the late 1960s, Vanbrugh and Derwent are located on Campus West and are a part of the original campus.

Derwent College was named after the nearby River Derwent. The original design of the college aimed to create an integrated academic community of staff and students. Staff flats and student bedrooms were located together in large residential blocks around a nucleus of social and academic spaces.

Vanbrugh was named after the late Sir John Vanbrugh (1664 – 1726), the celebrated architect and dramatist, whose most significant achievement was Castle Howard, 16 miles to the north of York.

Both venues are located on Campus West and with easy access to car parking are ideal for short meetings or can be used in combination for larger conferences.

“Thank you so much for making our event go so wonderfully well. The venue was perfect for us.”

DECEMBER 2016
Spring Lane Building

After £13.8 million investment, the Spring Lane Building opened its doors to delegates in October 2016. The inspiring building provides modern meeting spaces, including a 350 seat lecture theatre, 26 seminar rooms, and versatile meeting areas. The new facility offers state of the art audio-visual opportunities and comes with an expert technical support team, as well as dedicated conference co-ordinators. Situated in the centre of the University of York Campus West, the Spring Lane Building is easily accessible by public transport and is a short walk from the city centre.

“I cannot praise the staff highly enough, every single request was met with ‘yes we can do that for you’.”

APRIL 2016
Catering

York Conferences’ award winning catering team are renowned for providing high quality food and drink to all of our guests. If you simply want coffee and biscuits to keep minds limber during a work meeting, that’s fine, but if you would rather hold a formal dinner, we can supply a bespoke menu designed around your exact requirements.

Our chefs have won numerous awards that recognise how much care and dedication they put into providing the best refreshments, as well as the fantastic local and seasonable produce they source.

Bed and Breakfast

Bed and Breakfast accommodation in York is extremely popular among holidaymakers and business people alike. Many visitors opt to extend their stay further and make their conference or event just one of the many highlights of their trip.

If you want to spend more time enjoying the sights and attractions of York, why not take advantage of York Conferences’ Bed and Breakfast accommodation? Situated just two miles from the city centre in the peaceful setting of the University of York campus, our facilities are both affordable and good quality. During the summer we can offer Bed and Breakfast and Self Catering in various locations across campus.

York Conferences are able to offer Bed and Breakfast facilities throughout the year in Franklin House.

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Thank you very much for all the hard work, enthusiasm and commitment you put in to helping us deliver our event. I realise you worked tirelessly to ensure every last detail was sorted out, including many things we would not have even thought about! We were delighted with how the event turned out, resulting in many happy guests and 1,200 delighted members, from whom we have had some wonderful feedback. This was an historic moment for us and to be able to celebrate it in the wonderful setting of the university seemed just perfect.

June 2016
York Conferences

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