

Thames Valley University



Thames Valley University (TVU) has over 140 years experience in delivering technical and vocational education designed to further the careers of our students. It achieved university status in 1992 and, in 2004, it merged with Reading College and School of Arts and Design, to form one of the largest institutions of its type in Europe. As a university, we believe that education should enable you to improve your knowledge, to develop your skills and to help you to achieve your aspirations; whether a more fulfilling job or a better quality of life.

We have four faculties at Thames Valley University, The Faculty of Health and Human Sciences, Faculty of Professional Studies, Faculty of the Arts and the Faculty of Technology. TVU's courses provide a broad general education that improves students' prospects on whichever career path they choose to follow. Many are also professionally related and provide an entry point into specific employment sectors. TVU's expertise in health management, music, media, culinary arts, hospitality and tourism management is recognised internationally.



Location

The Thames Valley region benefits from excellent transport links. Our principal campuses at Ealing, Slough and Reading are served by fast rail links between Reading and London's Paddington and good local bus services. Our Ealing campus also benefits from three London Underground stations within walking distance.

Support and resources

While you are at TVU, you can draw on the support of an extensive range of services, from academic, learning and library resources to counselling and personal support. We also offer an Accommodation Service to help you find somewhere suitable to live and if you are looking for part-time work to support yourself while you study, our Careers and Employment Service can help you.

The Faculty of Health and Human Sciences

The Faculty of Health and Human Sciences is the major provider of nursing and midwifery courses in the region, making it one of the largest providers of this specialist training in the country. The faculty has expanded its portfolio and we now offer an exciting and diverse provision in Complementary Medicine, Health Studies, Human Science, Psychology and Sociology. Science teaching is supported by several suites of recently refurbished laboratories equipped with modern instrumentation enabling the provision of a wide range of practical sessions in psychology, physiology, biochemistry, chemistry, biology, molecular sciences and sports science and medicine. The relevant professional bodies accredit our programmes where appropriate.

The Centre for Complementary Healthcare and Integrated Medicine (CCHIM)

The Centre for Complementary Healthcare and Integrated Medicine (CCHIM) was established in 2002 to develop a range of new complementary medicine programmes, specifically designed to meet the requirements of the relevant professional bodies and of the National Occupational Standards (NOS). The Centre provides the focus for the Complementary Medicine subject group, and is located within the Department of Human Sciences in the Faculty of Health and Human Sciences at Thames Valley University.

Along with its commitment to be at the forefront of new educational provision by taking on board the government recommendations for developing complementary medicine professionals, the CCHIM is dedicated to the development of research capacity in complementary medicine.

In July 2002, the Department of Health (DOH) recognised it as a centre to host research into complementary medicine. The CCHIM provides the opportunity to develop practitioner skills by working with the complementary medicine professional bodies to ensure the provision of professionally accredited programmes of high academic standing. It also aims to contribute to the development of the evidence base for complementary medicine by developing high quality research.

The Centre's mission is to:

- Take a leading role in the development of complementary medicine and its integration into modern healthcare through quality education, training, and research
- Facilitate the establishment of core academic and research skills within the complementary medicine professions
- Improve the recognition of qualifications in the complementary healthcare professions.

Career Opportunities

The complementary medicine programmes are developed to the highest of both academic and professional standards. This training equips graduates to work effectively as independent practitioners, or to play a vital role in a variety of healthcare environments.

What should attract students to study at TVU in this discipline?

The innovative programmes in complementary medicine were developed after the release of the House of Lords report on complementary medicine and have been specifically developed, taking the report's recommendations and government response into account and mapping them to the requirements of professional bodies and to national occupational standards. The subject arena offers a range of choice, from reflexology to nutritional medicine. All programmes have a strong underpin of anatomy, physiology and pathophysiology, and all provide access to membership to the appropriate professional body.

Appropriate training of practitioners is critically important given the move to statutory or voluntary regulation for complementary medicine. CCHIM and its staff are well qualified to facilitate students to develop the relevant skills for their future profession. Through our partners we provide specialist practice suites to support students in developing their practical skills along with an on site skills laboratory.

Our team

Dr Steven Jones FRSC

Dr Steven Jones is the Dean of Science for the Faculty and is a Chartered Chemist and Scientist, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry and sits on the UK Deans of Science Committee. He is responsible for the strategic development of all Sciences at Thames Valley University and the associated development of research and consultancy.

Debbie Sawyer MRSC

Debbie Sawyer is the Director of Studies – Science for the Faculty and is a Chartered Chemist, a member of The Royal Society of Chemistry, a Graduate of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development and, a university representative on the Southern England Education Consortium (SEEC) Foundation Degree Network. She is responsible for the continuing appeal, quality, standards and efficiency of the undergraduate and postgraduate science course portfolio in the context of academic and strategic plans.

Professor Nicola Robinson

PhD LicAc HonMFPHM

Professor of Complementary Medicine and Head of the Centre for Complementary Healthcare and Integrated Medicine (CCHIM) Professor Robinson graduated from Leicester University with a BSc (Hons) in Biological Sciences and Psychology. Her doctoral work at the Christie Hospital and Holt Radium Institute (Manchester University) was in the field of immunology. She obtained her Licentiate in Acupuncture from the British College of Acupuncture in 1982 and is currently chair of the British Acupuncture Council Research Committee and an Honorary Member of the Faculty of Public Health Medicine. Prior to joining TVU Nicola was Consultant Epidemiologist for Brent and Harrow Health Authority and Honorary Senior lecturer in Primary Healthcare, University College London.

Her recent appointment as Independent Chair of the General Naturopathic Council will facilitate the regulatory work carried out by the Prince of Wales's Foundation for Integrated Health, Honorary Visiting Professor at Staffordshire University and on the International Advisory Board for Complementary Therapies in Clinical Practice. In 2004, she was awarded a Winston Churchill Travelling Fellowship to visit China, to explore educational and research initiatives in Traditional Chinese Medicine.

Nicola has conducted a wide ranging research in epidemiology, health services research and complementary medicine, written many scientific articles in peer reviewed journals, and presented research at local, national and international conferences. She is currently supervising six PhD students. As an active researcher, she is keen to further develop the research focus for the Centre and encourage multidisciplinary collaboration both locally, nationally and internationally which will act to underpin the educational provision in the subject area.

A team of academics committed to enhance practice supports the programme provision.

