Modernising your University's network

A robust campus network provides value for money, easier deployment of learning apps, and a better student experience.



What's the problem?

Declining revenues and increasing costs are causing significant financial challenges for higher education. UK universities must adapt to changing student expectations to fix declining enrollment rates and increasing drop-outs, especially as international competition grows. Digital capability is a differentiating factor here - providing hybrid modern learning, building greater cyber security around research, and preparing students for a digital workplace post-graduation. However, legacy infrastructure is currently hindering this potential by exposing severe vulnerabilities and producing a poor user experience.

The challenge for CIOs

Offer modern, digitised learning

Give students a highly-rated learning experience. Whether that be problem-free remote learning, access to AI tools to enhance findings in research and lab environments, or the ability to share and download learning material faster. Plus, add new applications as they develop, without the stress of a large hardware overhaul.

Enhance the student experience

Match optimised learning with an optimised living experience. Students living in halls can use multiple devices for a home-from-home experience. Meanwhile, those studying on campus can immediately connect to high-speed Wi-Fi from any location - something that's currently an issue for 55% of students, according to Jisc.

Implement secure-by-design

Prevent academic espionage from state-backed cyber attackers – and the time consuming repercussions they cause – by using cloud security embedded within modernised networks. This means you can limit the blast radius of a breach, move towards zero trust, and allow students to connect multiple devices to your network securely.

How Block helps

Block can partner with you to design and build a modern network service that:

Simplifies out-the-box deployment through software-based, central management.

Provides IT visibility of application performance on student and staff devices.

Co-manages out-of-hours support and alleviates the burden on your digital teams.

Delivers actionable insights and proactive fixes while building in AIOps, automation, and machine learning.

Allows you to deploy new services from the cloud or data centre via an API-ready platform.

Enables smarter procurement, only buying what aligns to your roadmap.

Proof it works

Queen Mary University of London updated their network in 2024, after facing connectivity frustrations. The university worked with Block to deploy Wi-Fi-6E and Juniper Mist AI™ across 65 buildings and 2,200 access points – with critical work compressed into eight weeks of the summer holidays and the remainder completed overnight. **Now completed, troubleshooting is twice as fast, the need for heatmap surveys has reduced, and 1000+ devices have been connected across high density lecture theatres.**

