



University of Nottingham

Policy on provision of hopper bus service

Introduction

The growth of the University of Nottingham has, by its very nature, led to greater diversity, distance and demands of intercampus travel. Coupled with greater emphasis on a personalised student experience and increasing expectations, the University offers choices and opportunities for students that require intercampus travel.

This policy aims to clarify the role of the hopper bus service in enabling travel between the University's UK campuses.

Purpose of the service

The University of Nottingham provides a hopper bus service for the primary purpose of enabling safe, low-carbon and affordable travel between the University's UK campuses: for students in support of their study commitments and for staff business travel, where there is no alternative means of transport.

Acknowledging the importance of intercampus travel in promoting inclusivity and enabling students to take part in wider university life, including accessing a range of extra-curricular activities, welfare services and sports facilities, the hopper bus service also operates outside of formal teaching hours.

Eligibility

The hopper bus service is available for use by students, staff, employees of tenant organisations, visitors to the University and local residents in Sutton Bonington and Kingston-on-Soar. The service is offered on a first come first served basis.

In line with the University's [Travel and Expense Policy](#) for staff, where a hopper bus service is provided, business mileage can only be claimed if the distance between campuses is greater than three miles.

Scope of the service

The hopper bus service is a limited stop service and will not stop at locations off campus unless part of a commercially or collaboratively delivered model.

With the exception of the King's Meadow route, all routes will operate a reduced frequency outside of term-time, reflecting the reduced need for intercampus travel. Term-time provision will follow the standard University terms, as published on [University calendar dates](#), commencing with the International Student Welcome in September.

The hopper bus service will not operate on University closure days or Bank Holidays. The exception to this is the Sutton Bonington route, which operates on Bank Holidays during term-time.

For clarity, the following activities shall not be explicitly considered in the design of the hopper bus service:

- Travel to/from placements off campus
- Travel to/from accommodation off campus
- Travel to/from exams (as additional demand for intercampus travel is assessed and arranged separately each semester)

Design principles

The following principles shall be observed in the design of the hopper bus service from 2018/19:

1. The service should be accessible to all staff and students and be wheelchair accessible, operated by low floor buses with a bay for at least one wheelchair;
2. The service should be easy to access and simple to use;
3. University Park campus should continue to operate as a transport interchange;
4. Provision should reflect the greatest need i.e. intercampus journeys where there is no realistic alternative means of making the journey – either due to distance or lack of an alternative public transport offer – have greater priority;
5. The University should not compete with, or stifle competition from, a commercial bus operator;
6. The service should reduce the need for staff and students to travel by car between campuses, thereby minimising demand on University parking provision and any negative impacts on the communities in which the University is located;
7. Provision of the hopper bus service should not detract from the University's commitment to encouraging walking and cycling as active forms of low-carbon travel;
8. The University should seek support opportunities to integrate the service with Nottingham's wider public transport network.

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