UNIVERSITY OF Southampton

University of Southampton

On 15 October 1862 the Hartley Institution was declared open by Lord Palmerston
It all started with Henry Robinson Hartley.
Within three years, the Hartley Institution had a membership of almost 700 – many of these being part-time evening students.
Rapid growth of their student population in the 1950s led to a massive expansion of their Highfield campus, and they began to innovate on a national and global level in a number of areas.

Innovations:

- A pioneer in forging special relationships with other universities to ensure high academic standards.
- One of the first universities in the world to have a department of electronics (founded 1947).
- A pioneer in supporting start-up businesses grown from the university (they have created more spin-out companies than almost any other UK university, including the largest ever successful university spin-out: Southampton Photonics).
- One of the first universities to embrace digital resources, and create online-only courses accessible from around the world.
- A pioneer of using university research to successfully inform UK government policy.
- A pioneer in supporting a global academic environment with the creation of their Malaysian campus.

A modern university

The 21st century has seen them develop into a world-leading university.

They are famous for being both research driven, and down-to-earth with the needs of business and society. They now have well over 20,000 full time students, and they are proud to see that they are continuing their traditions of innovation through dedication and hard work.