Opened originally in 1901 as an agricultural college after Thomas Harper Adams, a wealthy Shropshire gentleman farmer, bequeathed his estate to the education of agriculture, the university has grown to become an award-winning university, but still holds the sense of community and support close to its heart with its student population of only around 5,000.

The university campus is set on a 635 hectare farm, which features all the facilities to educate student about crops, dairy, beef, sheep, pigs and poultry. It’s a scenic and safe space for students to study and live.

More than £40 million has been invested into the university campus over the past ten years. This includes an expansion of the laboratory facilities, incorporating new specialist laboratories for anatomy and microbiology research; a robotic dairy; modern glasshouse facilities; and a new energy project aimed to meet a large proportion of the campus’s energy demands from low carbon sources. In addition the Innovation Centre for national dairy products company Dairy Crest and the Agri-EPI Centre Midlands Hub have been built on the university campus, and they both bring industry expertise onsite; a clear example of the strong links that Harper Adams has with industry, which helps lead to a consistently impressive undergraduate employment rate. Currently this is at 97.2 per cent*.

In addition to excellent teaching zones, there are outstanding sporting facilities too; including a well-equipped gym, dance and fitness studio, grass rugby and football pitches, squash courts, table tennis tables, an outdoor swimming pool which is open for the summer months and two Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs) which can be used for tennis, 5-a-side football and basketball.

The Students’ Union runs a host of clubs and societies for all students to join; including football, rugby, shooting, rowing, netball, music, dance, equestrian, motorsports, conservation, and many more. In addition, if a student believes there is a club or society missing that they’d like to participate in, they are supported to set it up.

One important society for international students is Planet Harper, a well-established society which provides the opportunity for international and home students to meet and share their cultures, while taking part in a range of activities and trips. Previously, the society has visited the Lake District, Bath, Oxford and the Birmingham Christmas Markets.

Many of the awards presented to Harper Adams University are thanks to the excellent student experience and teaching quality on offer, along with graduate prospects. It was named University of the Year at the Whatuni Student Choice Awards in 2016 and 2017. In 2016 it was named The Times and Sunday Times Complete University Guide Modern University of the Year and for 2017 and 2018 it has maintained its position as highest ranked modern university. It has been awarded Gold twice in the government’s Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF).

Harper Adams is located in the beautiful English county of Shropshire, close to the market town of Newport which has all the essentials for student life. The nearest large town is Telford which is 10 miles (16km) away and has a modern shopping centre with a number of restaurants, skating rink and two cinemas. The Staffordshire county town of Stafford is only 16 miles (26km) away from the university, and provides a direct train service to London which takes only one hour and 20 minutes. Birmingham is 40 miles (64 km) away and Manchester 65 miles (105 km).

Her Royal Highness Princess Anne is the current Chancellor of Harper Adams University. She was installed in 2013 and is the first person to hold the position.

* DHLE 2016/17